

Australia's Performing Arts

WE ALL PLAY A PART

Wednesday 9 July, 2008

CASE STUDY

mtc MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY

Melbourne Theatre Company Youth Scholarship Course

The MTC Youth Scholarship Course is held annually during one week of the September/October school holidays. Students aged 14-16 are nominated from each Victorian secondary school to participate in a free week long drama course. Teachers are requested to nominate students who, through for geographic, economic or social reasons would be unlikely to be able to participate in an intensive drama course but who most likely would benefit from such a course. The course aims to provide 24 students with an intensive experience that will help them to develop confidence and self-esteem through developmental drama activities.

During the five-day course, students are guided through a process of performance-making, and encouraged to extend their expressive skills, both physical and vocal, learning how to operate effectively as a valued member of a group. A theme is chosen for the week and a variety of written and visual stimuli are used to provoke the development of the week's work. The course concludes with an informal presentation, which parents and nominating teachers are encouraged to attend. A group e-mail is set up so that students can continue to be in touch with one another after the course concludes.

The evaluation responses from both teachers and students regarding the impact of this program are extraordinarily positive. In one case, a student who participated in the inaugural course, is now a tertiary student and offers his services as a volunteer to help ensure such opportunities continue for others.

MTC has been presenting this course since 2003. In some years we have obtained direct Foundation funding for the project. Sometimes people have made individual donations to support the project. But in other years, we have just paid for it ourselves because all of us at MTC are passionate about the power of drama to tell stories, connect people and change lives, particularly young lives.

Nurturing Talent • Participation & Enjoyment • Building Stronger Communities • National Pride



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