

Wednesday 9 July, 2008

CASE STUDY

MALTHOUSE THEATRE

Malthouse Theatre Company Arts Immersion

Arts Immersion – Starting Points is a unique cross-arts access program for Government secondary and regional school students in Years 9 to 11. Students attend a whole day program set inside the Contemporary Arts Precinct known as Njargee where they can explore a central theme through visual arts, dance and performance making. This precinct includes the home of Malthouse Theatre (The CUB Malthouse), the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) and Chunky Move, Melbourne's premiere contemporary dance company. With generous support from the Ian Potter Foundation, *Arts Immersion – Starting Points* is free to all students who attend, and includes transport to and from the precinct.

Exploration and Creation:

Students explore contemporary visual arts, dance and theatre making. They work with practising professional artists and explore how these art forms both integrate and differ. The main focus of the day is on *making art*, using a common theme for developing and producing work that can draw from three different artistic disciplines.

Evaluation and Celebration:

Students share their work with others through performance and discussion, acknowledging the very different approaches that individuals can have to one experience. They extend upon their knowledge of what it means to be an audience.

"Recently a teenage Sudanese boy came to one of the arts immersion sessions. According to his teacher he has been, since his arrival here, withdrawn, uncommunicative and sad. You can guess the reasons why. During the workshop session he slipped back into the exhibition. Our education leader went in search of him to find that he was dancing between four video works. She asked him, "Do you like dancing?" "Yes," he said. She organised for him to do a workshop with Chunky Move's hip-hop group. He loved it. During the visual-arts session, led by artist Laresa Kosloff, he created an entire film storyboard and animatedly talked about the life he had come from. He had created his new Australian story. He found tools to communicate that day. The teacher cried. We all cried. Need I say more?" Juliana Engberg in The Age, March 1 2008

