

THE LOST BALLOON

A lonely character.

A big bustling city.

A shiny yellow balloon.

The Lost Balloon invites audiences into a whimsical world where a lonely, yet loveable character's discovery of a shiny yellow balloon sparks an unforgettable adventure. This moment of chance — a glint of yellow in a sea of grey — is filled with innocence and wonder, a tiny spark that lights up the heart of our hero. The balloon, glimmering and dancing in the sunlight, quickly becomes more than an object; it is a companion, a guide, and a symbol of hope. But when the balloon slips away, teasingly floating higher and drifting through the crowded skyline, a delightful and chaotic chase through the city begins! The pursuit takes us past the rumble of trams, the swirl of pedestrians, and the towering buildings that seem to echo the heartbeat of the adventure.

Along the way, our Hero encounters an array of delightfully eccentric masked characters — the mischievous Golden Oldies, brimming with cheeky charm and full of unexpected pranks; the fabulously flamboyant Lollipop Ladies, transforming the simple act of street-crossing into a colourful, choreographed spectacle; and the ever-so-delightful Tourists, whose wide-eyed awe and playful confusion mirror the joy and curiosity of the audience. Each encounter is like turning a new page in a living storybook, bringing unexpected moments of humour, tenderness, and joy, and revealing that connection often arrives in the most surprising forms.

Blending world-class mask theatre with captivating visual storytelling, The Lost Balloon is a heartwarming exploration of human connection. The precision of the physical performances, the expressive masks, and the detailed visual world combine to create a production that speaks directly to the emotions without a single spoken word. Through humour and wonder, it reminds us that even the smallest acts of kindness — offering a hand, sharing a smile, showing patience — can create ripples of change, shaping the lives of others in ways we might never imagine.

Accompanied by an original, soul-stirring musical score, the production draws the audience deeper into the emotional journey. The music swells with moments of joy, slows for gentle reflection, and pulses with energy during the chase, carrying us forward alongside our hero. This enchanting production transcends language and cultural boundaries — captivating audiences of all ages and walks of life, inviting each person to see themselves in the journey.

Be among the first to experience the world premiere of The Lost Balloon — a theatrical adventure that will leave hearts lighter and imaginations soaring.

Curriculum Links and Key Questions for Educators

Age guidance:

The Lost Balloon is a performance for all students to explore through a non-verbal, visual, physical theatre style a way to find your way and ponders how to navigate the world. The absence of dialogue encourages audiences to interpret meaning through movement, gesture, rhythm, and visual metaphor, creating a deeply personal connection to the story. Whilst certainly suitable for early childhood, we highly recommend it to students studying The Arts and Philosophy and Reason in Years 11 & 12, where they can analyse its themes through creative, reflective, and philosophical lenses. The Curriculum links align with early childhood but also some links for older students. We encourage you to think widely about how this performance can be used — from inspiring creative writing, drama improvisations, and visual art projects, to sparking deep discussions around resilience, identity, and kindness.

Explore The Arts, English, Philosophy and Reason, and Well-Being (Health and PE)

Guiding Questions:

- Why do we need to go on journeys? Are these journeys always physical, or can they be emotional, intellectual, or spiritual?
 - How do we survive the inevitable challenges life throws our way, both expected and unexpected?
 - What is loneliness? How does it shape the way we see the world and ourselves?
 - What conditions help us to grow and thrive? Who or what provides those conditions?
 - How can art — theatre, music, movement — help us understand difficult moments and questions that may be hard to put into words?
 - What is kindness? Why does it matter, and how can it transform a moment, a day, or even a life?
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Curriculum connections

Links to General Capabilities may include:

- **Personal and Social Capability** – building empathy, understanding emotions, and exploring how relationships influence our lives.
 - **Critical and Creative Thinking** – interpreting non-verbal storytelling, finding meaning in symbolism, and imagining alternative story outcomes.
 - **Ethical Understanding** – considering moral choices, consequences, and what it means to act with kindness and integrity.
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Viewpoints:

How can The Lost Balloon inspire our creativity, storytelling and an understanding or resilience? What can we learn from a hero who is determined, vulnerable, and open to the kindness of strangers?

Key Words: creativity, loneliness, problem-solving, imagination, journey, artist, narrative, kindness, identity, vulnerable.

Key Questions:

How does this performance explore a young person's journey?

What is driving the journey?

How is the story told?

What helps our hero survive?

THE ARTS

Drama: F–2

- Explore where, why and how people across cultures, communities and/or other contexts experience drama (AC9ADR2E01).
- Explore how and why the arts are important for people and communities (AC9ADRFE01).

English: F–2

- Explore the contribution of images and words to meaning in stories and informative texts (AC9EFLA07).
- Respond to stories and share feelings and thoughts about their events and characters (AC9EFLA07).
- Recognise different types of literary texts and identify features including events, characters, and beginnings and endings (AC9EFLE02).
- Identify features of literary texts, such as characters and settings, and give reasons for personal preferences. (AC9EFLE03).
- Discuss the characters and settings of a range of texts and identify how language is used to present these features in different ways (AC9E2LE02).

Health and Physical Education: F–2

- Experiment with different ways of moving their body safely and manipulating objects and space (AC9HPFM02).
- Investigate who they are and the people in their world (AC9HPFP01).
- Experiment with different ways of moving their body safely and manipulating objects and space (AC9HPFM02).

- Describe their personal qualities and those of others and explain how they contribute to developing identities (AC9HP2P01).
 - Identify how different situations influence emotional responses (AC9HP2P03).
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For older students – Philosophy and Reason Curriculum Links QCAA

Subject matter Topic 1: Moral philosophy

In this topic, students study philosophical theories in an attempt to understand and discuss how we should live our lives. The Lost Balloon provides an accessible, visual case study for exploring these ideas — allowing students to examine concepts of virtue, happiness, suffering, and moral choice through the lens of an engaging theatrical narrative.

Analysis of philosophical concepts such as rightness, duty, freedom, and virtue is vital if such a discussion is to be informed, rational, and convincing. Students can use the performance to identify moral dilemmas, analyse character actions, and reflect on their own values.

- Define and use terminology relating to moral philosophy, including morality, ethics, good, evil, happiness, suffering, flourishing, duty, right, virtue, value, absolutism, relativism.
- What is the hero's journey to happiness? How does he arrive there?
- What is happiness? Is it found in possession, in people, or in purpose?
- What is the suffering at the start? How is it transformed through the journey?
- How can you flourish, even in difficult circumstances?
- What and who is a good person? What qualities do you need?
- Who are the good people in this story, and how do their actions ripple out to others?