

Camp Culture



LEARNING PACK

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Camp Culture acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the many lands on which this show is performed and experienced. We pay our deepest respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and to all First Nations peoples whose cultures, stories and knowledge continue to inspire and sustain us.

Dale Woodbridge-Brown is a proud Kamilaroi man from Mugindi. The stories he tells on stage carry the weight and warmth of his culture, his Country, and his community. We honour that connection in every performance.

**CAN THE KUMBAYAS,
throw on Queen B
And SPARK
more than
JUST THE FIRE!**

CULTURAL NOTE

Camp Culture is created and performed by a First Nations artist. The themes of identity, belonging, and cultural pride explored in this show are drawn from Dale's lived experience. We ask all audiences and educators to approach these themes with curiosity, respect, and an open heart.

INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Camp Culture, a call to be yourself.

This show draws on the lived experience of Dale Woodbridge-Brown, a Kamilaroi circus artist who grew up in the regions and found his way to the world stage through skill, courage, and a whole lot of laughter. Camp Culture is not your average performance. It is a joyful, high-energy invitation to every young person in the room to show up exactly as they are.

As the show unfolds through acrobatics, comedy and everything in between, audiences are taken on a journey that is both wildly entertaining and deeply moving. Dale uses humour and heart to hold space for conversations that matter: about identity, about belonging, about what it means to earn your badge for being your most authentic self.

USING THIS RESOURCE

This learning pack provides background information about the cultural, social and artistic themes within Camp Culture. It is designed to support teachers, parents and guardians in preparing young people (ages 6–13) for the performance, and in extending the learning afterwards.

The themes explored are relevant across the Australian Curriculum in the arts, humanities, health and personal development.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LINKS – STAGES 1, 2 AND 3

Across the curriculum priority:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
- Personal and social capability

GENERAL CAPABILITIES:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding
- Personal and social capability

LEARNING / SUBJECT AREAS:

- The Arts: Drama, Dance, Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities and Social Studies
- English: Speaking and Listening, Creative Writing

ABOUT DALE WOODBRIDGE-BROWN



Dale Woodbridge-Brown is a Kamilaroi man from Mungindi, in north-western New South Wales. His journey into circus began in childhood, performing as a clown and acrobat with Circus West, the first sign of a talent and passion that would take him around the world.

As a young person, Dale went on to become a state gymnast, training and coaching at the Dubbo PCYC. Eventually, tired of being the only gymnast over five feet tall, he turned to something he had loved since he was small: dancing. He attended the Aboriginal Centre for the Arts where he completed a Diploma in Performing Arts majoring in Dance.

From there, Dale's career blossomed in multiple directions at once. He taught hip-hop workshops along the East Coast of Australia and choreographed for the television show *Move It Mob Style*, bringing First Nations youth culture to screens across the country.

Dale then spent five years as a performer with Circus Oz, one of Australia's most celebrated circus companies, where he performed flying trapeze, Chinese pole, acrobatics, juggling, and clowning, and served as the show's Ring Master. He was also an ensemble member for the internationally acclaimed *Briefs Factory* and is currently touring with hit sensation *Swamplesque 2*.

AWARDS

NAIDOC PERFORMER OF THE YEAR 2019

INDIGENOUS CIRCUS PERFORMER OF
THE YEAR 2021

AUSTRALIAN CIRCUS FESTIVAL

CIRCUS SKILLS

- FLYING TRAPEZE
- CHINESE POLE
- ACROBATICS
- JUGGLING
- CLOWNING
- SWORD SWALLOWING

FROM MUNGINDI TO THE WORLD STAGE

Dale's story is one of the most compelling in Australian performance. From a kid clowning around in the bush to Ring Master of a world-class circus, his path is proof that where you come from does not limit where you can go.

In *Camp Culture*, he brings all of that history, skill and heart into the room and invites every young person watching to start writing their own story.

The Power of First Nations Storytelling

As young people experience Camp Culture, they are taking part in a living tradition of First Nations storytelling, one that has existed on this continent for tens of thousands of years. Dale's performance is not simply entertainment. It is culture in action.

Circus, comedy, physical theatre and movement have always been part of how communities gather, share knowledge, celebrate identity, and pass stories from one generation to the next. In Camp Culture, these art forms come together in a way that is unmistakably contemporary and unmistakably grounded in who Dale is and where he comes from.

For First Nations young people in the audience, seeing Dale on stage can be a profound and affirming experience: a mirror that reflects possibilities. For non-Indigenous young people, the show offers a window into a rich and living culture, delivered with wit and warmth.

Key Themes to Explore

Identity & Authenticity

What does it mean to be truly yourself? Camp Culture invites every young person to think about the masks we wear, the labels others give us, and the courage it takes to show up as who we really are. Dale models this with joy and humour and earns his badge for it every single night.

First Nations Pride

Dale is a proud Kamilaroi man, and his cultural identity is woven through every moment of the show. Camp Culture celebrates the richness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and asks young people to consider what their own roots and heritage mean to them.

Circus as Empowerment

Circus demands discipline, risk-taking, resilience, and joy. In Camp Culture, these qualities become a metaphor for growing up and becoming yourself. Dale's extraordinary physical skills are not just impressive; they are a love letter to what the human body and spirit can achieve.

Humour as Connection

Dale uses comedy not to deflect from hard truths, but to invite people in. Laughter is the doorway through which deeper conversations become possible. This theme invites reflection on how we use humour in our own lives, whether it brings people together or keeps them apart.

Belonging

Growing up feeling different, whether because of your culture, your identity, where you live, or how you move through the world, is an experience many young people share. Camp Culture speaks directly to that feeling and offers something powerful in return: the knowledge that you are not alone, and that who you are is worth celebrating.

FOR EDUCATORS

We encourage you to treat this performance as a starting point for deeper learning. The themes Dale explores: identity, belonging, courage, and cultural pride are universal. But they are also specifically and beautifully his. Please take time before and after the show to create space for young people to reflect on what they have witnessed.



Before the Show

Use these activities and prompts to get young people thinking and feeling ready before Camp Culture begins.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Have you ever had to be a different version of yourself in different places – at home, at school, with friends? What does that feel like?
- If you could earn a badge for something you are – not something you do, what would it be?
- What do you know about circus as an art form? What do you think it takes to become a circus artist?
- What does the word 'authentic' mean to you?



FOR TEACHERS & EDUCATORS

Before the show, consider introducing the following contexts:

- **Country and connection:** Briefly acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which you are gathered, and note that today's performer is a proud Kamilaroi man whose Country is in north-western NSW.
- **Intersecting identities:** Dale's experience growing up in a regional area shapes everything about this show. Encourage students to listen with curiosity and openness.
- **Content awareness:** The show is recommended for all ages. Themes include identity, cultural pride, queerness and belonging. If any participants may find these themes personally activating, consider checking in with them beforehand.

ACTIVITIES

Further Resources

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- [QLife Australia](#) — free LGBTQ+ peer support and referral
- [BeyondBlue](#) — mental health support
- [Headspace](#) — youth mental health resources
- [AIATSIS](#) — resources on First Nations Australian culture
- [Reconciliation Australia](#) — reconciliation resources

FOR EDUCATORS

- [Narragunnawali \(Reconciliation Australia\)](#) : professional learning for educators
- [ACARA](#) : Australian Curriculum resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
- [Circus Arts Australia](#) : professional body for Australian circus artists
- [Cool.org](#) : teaching resources for critical social and environmental issues

BOOKS

- *Welcome to My Country* — L. Burarrwanga, Dr S. Wright, Dr Sandi Suchet-Pearson, Dr Kate Lloyd (Allen & Unwin, 2013)
- *Proud: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Heroes* — Juno Dawson (ed.), Stripes Publishing, 2019

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ON COUNTRY LEARNING

Take learning outside. Before or after the show, spend time with your group on the Country where you are located.

Encourage students to look closely at the natural environment around them, including plants, animals, sky, and soil, and think about how First Nations people have understood and cared for this Country for thousands of years.

2

A VOICE FOR YOURSELF

Ask students to write a short statement, poem, or letter to their younger self, or to a young person who might be feeling like they do not belong.

The statement could be a promise, an affirmation, or simply a truth they have discovered about themselves. It could be written, drawn, spoken, or performed.

As a starting point, share this prompt: 'What do you wish someone had told you when you were smaller?'



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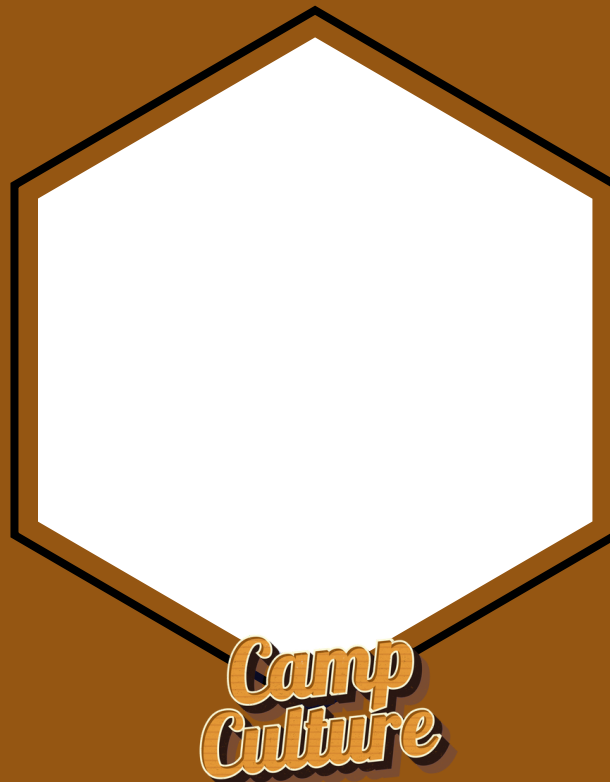
MY BADGE OF AUTHENTICITY

Inspired by the show's central idea, earning your badge for being your most authentic self, invite students to design their own personal badge. Inside the badge, they write, draw, or collage something that represents who they truly are: a value, a feeling, or a part of their identity they are proud of. Not an achievement, but who they are.

Materials: paper cut into a circle or shield shape, coloured pencils, markers, or collage materials.

Optional: share in pairs, small groups, or as a whole-group gallery walk.

Debrief question: 'What does it feel like to show this part of yourself to others?'



**No matter where you come from, there is
always a way to earn your badge.**

Camp Culture



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