

# CLIENT NEWS

Autumn 2008

MELBOURNE  
PLAYBACK  
THEATRE COMPANY

## Autumn Greetings to you from Melbourne Playback Theatre

### News and update

*It's been a month of diverse work for the company; working with senior managers from Bluescope Steel at Mt Eliza Business School, the Victorian Conference of Anglicare hosted by Julie McCrossin (ex Radio National ABC), to Year 11 and 12 High School Students from Perth involved in a Theatre in Education Program at the Melbourne Theatre Company. Our audience sizes have ranged from 15 in a small dining room to around 400 in a conventional theatre space.*

### Partnerships

*We have recently submitted a promising partnership proposal with Schools Focused Youth Services, which will lead to a series of performances in an outer suburbs secondary school. Another exciting partnership in discussion is a project with Western Edge (a migrant youth arts organisation based in Footscray) who approached us in relation to workshops and performances addressing issues of conflict between migrant youth communities and the police.*

*The company is currently interviewing business consultants to find the right person to work with us to develop and refine our current business practice models.*

### Shows

*Our next public shows are scheduled to take place at **Dancehouse** in Carlton. We anticipate that working in an alternative venue to our usual home at Gasworks will be a great opportunity to connect with new audiences. Of course our most exciting news is the **Playback Gala** performance, which we are really looking forward to.*

*We hope your working worlds are productive and running well and look forward to working with you in the future.*

**Glynis Angell**  
Co- Artistic Director



## **PLAYBACK GALA**

Melbourne Playback warmly invites you to a special industry only gala event.

We would like to offer you complimentary tickets to join us at the Playback Gala. This is a way for us to say thank-you for using us over the past few years. It is also an opportunity for you to have a night out, let us buy you a drink, and to sit back and enjoy Playback Theatre without the responsibility of organising the event! It is also a chance to introduce Playback to your colleagues.

For those of you who haven't seen us before, it's a wonderful opportunity to watch Playback in action and decide for yourself whether it is something you could use within your organisation.

Either way, it's a fun night out.

**When:** May 28th, 6:30 drinks for a 7pm start.

**Where:** Malthouse Theatre, 113 Sturt Street Southbank.

We have been busy trying to contact everyone on our client list to invite you. If by some chance we have missed you, please forgive us. To find out more or to RSVP call 9690 9253 or email [info@melbourneplayback.com.au](mailto:info@melbourneplayback.com.au)

## **Recent Testimonial Using Melbourne Playback Theatre for Team Development**

I have used Melbourne Playback Theatre many times in my work with teams struggling to reach the next level of their potential, and in some cases, high performance. To me, playback theatre speaks to many facets of group and team behaviour in the many corporate clients I work with.

Melbourne Playback Theatre is a company of performers who first and foremost are creative, uplifting and fun to work with and are a constant joy to experience. Their subtle, respectful and skilful portrayal of team issues is a “must-see”!

On the face of it, using playback theatre with my corporate clients one can be seduced into thinking that it is art and entertainment. That it is a celebration of great acting, a celebration or a re-enactment of many of life’s issues, that it is touching or moving because of the human connection we all feel. It is all of these things, but it is more.

First and foremost I use MPT because they provide a shared connection for the teams I work with. Sometimes this connection maybe a celebration of a difficult year the team has come through, sometimes I might use it to label and talk about some of the undercurrents in the team, and smiling and applauding at how the performers have portrayed these issues, before having to deal with them the next day in the workshop setting. I find the performers of MPT provide very safe and respectful environments for team members to see how certain issues are ‘played out’ in the team culture.

I also use playback theatre to help me transition a team to the next level of its own development. Often, I may be working with a team for five or six months and feel that Melbourne Playback Theatre would be a good vehicle for the team seeing and acting out their vision of what a high performance team might look like. Particularly also, what would they have to do (and stop doing) in order to achieve this end point?

Finally, I have also used MPT to help coach a senior executive whose career needed to move in line with potential. He understood what was holding him back at an intellectual level, but I had

an intuition that more progress would be achieved more quickly if he saw his blockages played out on stage. So we had a situation of four actors ‘on stage’ and an audience of one!! It was a very different use of Melbourne Playback Theatre for me. It was a very powerful, moving experience for him and one that proved to be truly transformative and sustainable. Any doubts I may have had about the executive’s courage or sensitivity were dispelled in the 90-minute session. It was a privilege to have worked with Melbourne Playback Theatre and the senior executive in such an intimate and touching setting.

I always feel my intuitions are safe with Melbourne Playback Theatre!

**John Urbano**  
**Director and Consultant Psychologist**  
**Fulton Consulting Group**

### **Upcoming Shows**

#### **PLAYBACK GALA**

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR PAST AND FUTURE CLIENTS

#### **The Malthouse**

**Wednesday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm**

**Bookings essential**

RSVP to [info@melbourneplayback.com.au](mailto:info@melbourneplayback.com.au)  
or 9690 9253

### **Public Show at Dancehouse**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 8pm**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 6pm**

**Bookings recommended 9690 9253**

**Dancehouse**

**150 Princes St, North Carlton**

### **Public Show at Gasworks Theatre**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 8pm**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, 6pm**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, 8pm**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 6pm**

**Gasworks Theatre**

**Graham St, Albert Park**

**Tickets at door, or bookings 9690 9253**