

Wakakirri "In the Dark of the Night"

Wakakirri Story Dance is a primary school dance festival that promotes health and wellbeing. The festival is based around our dance curriculum and is a great way for children to build their skills and self esteem. The students have been rehearsing each week since the beginning of last term. 'Wakakirri' is a word from the Aboriginal Wangaaypuwan people meaning "to dance". The students performed their piece, "In the Dark of the Night", at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, along with performances from other schools.



From a Performance Perspective

I wanted to be in the performance and had to audition for a part. I was a 'bully'. During rehearsals Ms Bekk started the choreography and then Ms Miller took over. We practised in the hall most Thursdays, but sometimes Ms Miller just had the main characters so they could work on their individual personalities. Rehearsals were tough because we had to work hard to develop our characters. We eventually had full day rehearsals and the high school students came to watch one of them which was very nerve wracking, because most of them had already been involved in Wakakirri!

On the morning of our performance we had our make-up and hair done and once we were at the theatre we had another check. We were allocated a space behind the stage area where we had to try to be as quiet as possible. We had a few games to play and we also had time to go outside to a grassed area to run around for a bit.

We had a special time for our rehearsal on the stage and we went through it twice. It felt so good to be on that stage! That evening we were the second to last school to perform, so we were allowed to watch the first few performances before we went backstage again to get ready. I was so energised - I was ready to go! As soon as we started the audience got involved especially when Josh did his backflip! The audience loved our performance! We won the **Best Teamwork Award** from the judge.

We would like to thank all the teachers who helped us to perform to our best and the senior staff for giving us this opportunity. We would also like to thank the families and staff members who came to watch us perform.

Tristian Room 31



Backstage Reflection

A few of the Year 7 students chose not to be in the actual performance, so we helped out by making props. We used large pieces of foam to make into the shape of tombstones and painted them grey and Ms Sobey helped us to make backpacks for the ghost buster zappers by attaching recycled 2 litre plastic Coke bottles together onto backpacks. We also made skirts for the witches out of plastic garbage bags. The costume for the zombies was fun to make. We painted t-shirts and also stained them with coffee and then put rips in them.

The backstage crew watched u-tube tutorials to learn how to do the makeup for our zombies, witches and ghosts, then we practised designing them on paper before we actually painted their faces. On the day we had a checklist of people's names and designs of their makeup and hair and just touched it up at the theatre.

When our group was ready to go onto the stage we waited for the curtain to be closed so that we could set up the props. We had to wear black and we also had to be very quiet. After the performance we then had to remove our props ready for the next school. I really enjoyed the whole experience, but if I had my time again I would choose to be one of the performers.

Emily Room 31



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