

Young People and the Arts Australia presents:

# The Power of Theatre in the Lives of Young Children

Lecture by Tony Mack, Consultant

Over the last decade a new form of theatre has developed in Europe designed for very young children – even babies as young as six months old. Prominent in major festivals, it poses new questions about the nature of theatre and being human, and with young children active in its creative development it can be argued that Theatre for the Very Young democratizes culture for very young children.

## This presentation addresses key questions:

- What is Theatre for the Very Young?
- Why make Theatre for the Very Young?
- What are the origins and context of contemporary European Theatre for the Very Young? What are some of the dominant strands of current practice and practitioners?
- How do we know it works?

**When:** Tuesday 8 June 2010  
**Where:** 11.30 am to 1.00pm, Auditorium 2, level 2, State Library of Queensland  
**RSVP:** [info@ypaa.net](mailto:info@ypaa.net)  
**Cost:** ATTENDANCE IS FREE

## Who is Tony Mack?

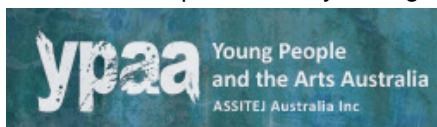
Tony Mack is an Australia Council Fellow researching theatre for the very young and international youth arts activity. After graduating NIDA and working professionally as an actor throughout Australia with companies such as Sydney Theatre Company and State Theatre in SA, Tony branched out to work as a playwright, director, arts journalist, magazine editor, actor trainer and university lecturer. He founded Boulevard Theatre and, as its Artistic Director, wrote and directed acclaimed shows such as 'Try Again Red Riding Hood' and 'Next Door'. He lectured in Drama at Adelaide University in the 1990s and was Editor of Lowdown, Australia's youth performing arts magazine, from 1999–2007.

From 2002–2008 he served as Vice-President of ASSITEJ International, the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People, and was the Australian international representative of Young People and the Arts Australia (YPAA) during that time.

As Chair of the Congress Working Group he was responsible for the delivery of 16th ASSITEJ World Congress in Adelaide, Australia in May 2008. He continues to work in corporate videos, television, radio and in feature films such as 'Esther Blueberger' and 'Oranges and Sunshine'. Currently as Director, TM Performance & Communications, he acts as a consultant for TYP companies and festivals in Australia and overseas. He is developing a new Theatre for Young People performance called 'I Love Flying', and is also assisting the development of the 2011 ASSITEJ World Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark and Malmo, Sweden as a member of its Congress Advisory Board.



This lecture is presented by Young People and the Arts Australia (YPAA). YPAA is the national peak body for practitioners and arts organisations engaging children and young people in the arts. YPAA activates, promotes and sustainably develops the youth arts sector nationally, and advocates for the development and increase of arts experiences for children and young people.



This lecture is companion project to YPAA's national youth arts symposium; *Changing Habitats, are children and young people*, 8-10 June 2010. More information is available from [www.ypaa.net](http://www.ypaa.net) or call YPAA on 3254-0553. Tickets available now through QTIIX [www.qtix.com.au](http://www.qtix.com.au) or 136246.