

Bernard Mangakahia

Mana - The Spirit of Polynesia



*"An **outstanding** performance....the **BEST show ever**"* Princes Hill PS

*"Sensational! The **package of culture, personal story and dance** was the best thing we have seen."* Lumen Christi PS

*"An hour isn't long enough! Bernard's message and performance were **spellbinding!**"* Lalor East PS

*"The most **powerful and inspirational** show we have had."* Kingswood College

*"Absolutely the best performance we have seen. **FANTASTIC!** Had all students enthralled from Kinder to Year 12."* Lavers Hill P-12 College

*"Students absolutely **spellbound**, enjoyed every second and would have sat for more. Very interactive, **absolutely relevant to curriculum and student interests. FANTASTIC – will book you again!**"* Sacred Heart Booval

Bernard traces his family history and the culture of the Pacific Island region through story and dance.

Travelling through Polynesian cultures including Native American Indian, New Zealand Maori, Hawaiian and Samoan, Bernard discovers with each the idea of family, challenges and pride. Each culture is celebrated through breathtaking dance, music and full audience participation. Bernard ends the performance with funky modern Australian hip hop.

Mana The Spirit of Polynesia embodies dance, music, multicultural themes, history, geography, the importance of learning about heritage and the power of self belief and respect.

MANA is the inner strength and confidence that comes from a sense of identity. Bernard Mangakahia inspires everyone to discover their own MANA.

If your students are studying *Whale Rider* Bernard can include a discussion on the film following his performance. Bernard also offers dance workshops.

Suitability: Kinder – Year 12 **Minimum audience:** 120 students
Cost: \$6.00 + GST per head **Workshops** also available

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ARTS

Bookings & Enquiries:
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Follow this link to get a
YouTube sneak peek:

<https://youtu.be/n3azS9h152k>



Mana Feedback

- Primary -

I have been inspired to email you after our performance this morning by Bernard Mangakahia.

What a powerful presence he has! His passion for sharing his culture through dance, song and action was truly spiritual. The students and staff were entirely captivated by his generosity and talent. Some staff were moved to tears, including me. **Bernard has left me with a long lasting impression that anything and everything is still possible.**

What an amazing man - one that all people should meet. I am indebted to you Sue, for discovering his talent and nurturing him to remain with Nexus. Sincerely, thank you. **St Bernard's PS, Coburg, VIC**

"I liked the way he believed in us!" Student from **Mole Creek Primary, TAS**

Bernard was outstanding! Both students and teachers **loved every minute** of his performance. The underlying messages of **connection with family stories and roots; accepting life's challenges; following your passion** are all very important to us at Carey Donvale. The dancing was "wonderful", exciting and inspiring as well. Students were highly entertained, and he engaged youngest to oldest for the entire time. Very positive, wonderful variety: "The best we've ever had!" **We couldn't be any more pleased if we tried!** Thank you for the recommendation.

Carey Baptist Grammar (Donvale), VIC

What a great man! What a great show! The kids were totally captivated and will remember it forever.

How great it is for a man of his standing to show the boys in particular **what it is to be a real man in a real culture.**

And the examples set by he and his sons will no doubt resonate with many for years into the future.

I would have sat through more than 100 such performances at schools over the years and his is the best by far.

A huge thankyou to Bernard...and to you guys for promoting such an inspiring visit. **Donnybrook DHS, WA**

The best incursion/performance ever! The whole school watched – **enthralled!** There were times when they were listening so intently **you could have heard a pin drop!** He was awesome! Everyone was engaged! Reports came in **BEST SHOW EVER!!** Everyone was talking about the show afterwards – they all loved it! (staff and the children!!)

Newtown Primary School, VIC

Your advertising material doesn't even come close to conveying what a wonderful, uplifting, encouraging, challenging, inspiring performance *Mana* is. Bernard continued to inspire long after he left the stage.

Calvary Christian College, QLD

Brilliant, maximum student participation, programme is pitched at the students level of understanding through song, dance and storytelling. I thought Bernard had a great energy and message. I loved his expression and crowd involvement with his show. He pretty much had the kids spellbound and has to be commended for getting even the most reluctant movers up and participating in his hip hop routine at the end. The children all wanted to be part of what he did and sing along with the songs and do the actions. Students have not stopped talking about it. They came back very excited and said it was the best show ever!!! I was bowled over by people raving about his performance. It was great!

Thanks

Several teachers & DP, **Caralee Community School, WA**

Thoroughly captivating and engaging – the students were spellbound from start to finish! Excellent! Informative and absorbing; as we learned about his story we were challenged to think about creating and reflecting upon our own story! Outstanding! **West Beechboro PS, WA**

Just a quick note to thank you for your Mana show on Tuesday. Both the staff and the children have been raving about you! I have been booking incursions for several years and your show is without a doubt the best show I have ever booked. The fact that the children were entertained and educated but also inspired was just sensational.

Thank you so very much for your passion and commitment. **St Michaels School. Bassendean, WA**

Thank you for coming to BPPS. You were amazing. The whole incursion was professionally conducted and both teachers and staff got so much out of it. I really enjoyed how positive and inspirational you were. Every single teacher and student who I spoke to today said it was the "best incursion" I had organised. They had learned so much about Polynesian culture from you. I would not hesitate in recommending your incursion to any school.

Bletchley Park Primary School, WA

Just to let you know - again, The MANA show and Bernard, was wonderful! It was just amazing!

St Augustine's Parish School, QLD

Wow! Students were absolutely entranced. They loved the presentation and were able to discuss the lessons shared. Their reflections are fantastic. **Milgate PS, VIC**

Just wanted to say that I thought Mana was one of the best things that we have done at MPS. He was amazing. The best thing was seeing how much the older children loved the experience and what they got out of it. No awkward faces, bodies - just pure enjoyment from all the kids! **Moreland PS, VIC**

Students were overwhelmingly delighted. Bernard's message of love dignity and tolerance was warmly and playfully relayed to them. They had a great time. **Bulimba SS, QLD**

The students were awestruck...He is inspiring to the children and his message to take on life's challenges and retain our heritage is so important. He is unique. **Our Lady of the Assumption, Cheltenham, VIC**

Even 4 year old pre-schoolers sat for an hour. This man has a beautiful soul. Fabulous **Sacred Heart PS, Booval, QLD**

The most powerful and inspirational show we have had. The children were enthralled and his performance was a catalyst for much discussion of challenges, customs and respect. **Kingswood College, VIC**

Children were enthralled and spellbound. A powerful message was left!! They danced back to class. Wonderful. **Mt Nelson PS, TAS**

Absolutely the best performance we have seen. FANTASTIC! Had all students enthralled from Kinder through to Year 12. Participation was 100%. **Lavers Hill P-12 College, VIC**

EXCELLENT!! Bernard's presentation was awesome! He educated, entertained, involved and had the children's and teachers' attention for the whole hour. This performance was the best I've experienced in 10 years. **Holy Rosary School, Derby, WA**

The children want him back! We had children volunteering who have never done so before. There was not a sound or movement from any child during the entire performance. **Gympie West SS, QLD**

One of the best shows we have had. Not only was it great as a cultural show, Bernard's whole philosophy on the importance of meeting challenges and learning from many experiences tied in beautifully with our "You Can Do It" program. **Benalla East PS, VIC**

You could have heard a pin drop in our hall. The boys were transfixed from the first moment. Bernard was outstanding both in his repertoire of skills and also in the positive messages which he delivered. Thank you. **St Joseph's College Nudgee, QLD**

FANTASTIC! This was the most energetic show I've ever witnessed. **Maiden Gully PS, VIC**

Magical. Brilliant. Great for self esteem. A great show for all ages and genders. **Campbell PS, ACT**

In one word, they were "Mesmerised"!! They loved the participation and inclusion of the audience. The messages he included were so relevant and inspiring to all ages. **Lock Area School, SA**

Can we keep him? Seriously, the performer could have gone on all day. How we would love to have Bernard in our school for a week! His ability to connect with the children was fantastic and the values he shared were wonderful. **Parramatta SS, QLD**

Loved it – blown away – total engagement from tiny tots to teens. **Melbourne Girls Grammar, VIC**

Awesome, cool, magic! The boys were enthralled and so were their teachers! **The Southport School, QLD**



Mana Feedback

- Secondary -

What began quite conventionally soon became extraordinary, and the students were feeling it. Bernard delivered cultural information and personal challenges that left us all feeling positive, with an enlightened mixture of emotion, and the thought that you had just been in the presence of a beautiful human being. He was able to disarm everyone in the theatre within minutes – calmly and skilfully sharing a powerful story. Through family histories, personal challenges and demonstrations of skill and cultural meaning, Bernard's charming, no frills approach made it easy for students to want to pay attention and participate when required. With confidence I would say,

'Book him if you can, you'll be so glad you did'. **Alec Cimera, Daylesford Secondary College, VIC**

Just a short note to let you know how totally awesome Bernard was today. Our students were totally captivated by his stories and dances...they will be talking about him for some time to come. **Sheffield School, TAS**

Many teachers expressed their praise for this performance. "The best I've seen" was a common phrase used and many were surprised at the wonderful follow up lessons that came from Bernard's presentation. **St Eugene School, QLD**

Incredible! Engaging. Entertaining. A brilliant experience for students and adults alike. **Sacred Heart College, TAS**

Students raved about the show back in the classrooms. We got so much positive feedback from the secondary students. Absolutely the best performance we have seen. FANTASTIC! **Lavers Hill P -12 College, VIC**

Students were so impressed and excited. They were so engaged with the performance.
Catholic Regional College, Melton, VIC

Utterly enthralled! Bernard had the students eating out of his hand. Boy/girl interaction was excellent. Just one of the best I have ever seen. **Williamstown HS, VIC**

Students were captivated and very receptive to Bernard's "words of wisdom" and activities. I was impressed with the emphasis on personal heritage. **Haileybury College VIC (Year 9 boys!)**

The whole show was spellbinding. Bernard engaged with the students at all levels.
Erinbank Secondary College, VIC

Loved the personal qualities he brought to the show. **Hounville HS, TAS**

Student response was terrific – very involved and interested. Bernard was outstanding. His energy and enthusiasm in conjunction with his knowledge made the session a true success. FANTASTIC! **Woodleigh School, VIC**

The boys in my class were particularly inspired by Bernard's strong message and skill. I had parents absolutely amazed because their boys had come home after the show wanting to learn to dance! A brilliant show. Thank you Bernard. **Cornerstone Christian Community School, QLD**

Never before have I had so many supervising teachers tell me how much they had enjoyed a performance. He was fantastic. **Lalor Secondary College, VIC**

All staff were delighted with the performance. I just got a note from an English teacher who said that a group of students raved about the show and have decided to write a report on it – the first time they have initiated a writing task.
St Francis Xavier College, Goodna, QLD

Students were captivated, engaged, enthusiastic. The Study of other cultures through story-telling, dance and music was enthralling. The students didn't care that the recess bell had rung and Bernard was till entertaining them. We went back and wrote about what we know about our parents/grandparents history and what we would like to find out. The thread of 'courage' and creativity running through the performance was fantastic. Inclusion of children in performances was sensitive and much anticipated. Bernard' rapport and information about his own family really appealed to the whole audience. Respect for family traditions was beautifully reinforced. The discussions about culture and how other children live around the world "the value and importance of education" The difficult life of some children around the world was presented in a beautiful but realistic manner. **St Timothy's School, VIC**

How brilliantly we were educated in the cultural ways of North American Indians, New Zealand Maoris and Fijians by Bernard Mangakahia who taught us the meanings of familiar dances such as the Haka and their powerful expressions of identity and belonging. **Annemarie Jones - Our Lady of Sion College, Box Hill VIC**