

AUTHOR

OLIVER PHOMMAVANH



Oliver Phommavanh is a fresh and positive voice for multiculturalism. He's Aussie born and bred, but comes from a Thai/Laotian background.

His first book *Thai-Riffic!* was published by Penguin in 2010 (with sequel *Thai-No-Mite* following in 2012). His second book, *Con-Nerd*, was released in June 2011, and *Punchlines* in 2012. *Stuff Happens: Ethan* was published 2015, and newest book *The Other Christy* came out in June 2016.



Oliver has been shortlisted for the 'Frances Lincoln Diverse Voices' book award. He has presented at the School Library Association Conference, Brisbane Writers' Festival, Sydney Children's Festival amongst many others.

Oliver is also a casual primary school teacher (or 'chaos' teacher!) and loves to make people laugh as a stand up comedian. If kids are into Morris Gleitzman and Andy Griffiths, there's an awesome chance they'll love Oliver's wacky humour too!

Thai-Riffic!

Albert (Lengy) Lengviriyakul, is fed up with being Thai. His parents own a Thai restaurant with the cheesy name of *Thai-riffic!* and Lengy is sick of being his father's curry guinea pig, longing to just eat pizza! At school he is a bit of a troublemaker, going to any lengths to hide his background. But when his best friend decides to become Thai for a day for a school project, Lengy stubbornly comes to the realisation that there may just be some pretty cool things about his culture.



Presentations and Workshops:

Oliver uses his stand up comic and teacher skills to deliver engaging talks with a zany edge. He uses humour and drama to communicate ideas about narrative and content, getting students to help him come up with characters which he then uses soft toys to dramatize.

Topics include – writing humour (it's not that ha ha hard!), how to become an author in 2342 easy steps, the inspiration behind *Thai-riffic!*, bringing Thailand over to your school (like a Getaway segment without the fancy price tag) and Asian-Australian/Multiculturalism – how he became comfortable with the cultural cringe.

Oliver can also run creative writing workshops, specialising in humour, narrative and the 'whole story' process. His workshops are focussed on helping students come up with interesting story ideas so they can leave with interesting idea starters to work on.



Bookings & Enquiries:

Nexus Arts www.nexusarts.com.au
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Feedback for Oliver Phommavanh

"What a hit Oliver was... it was hilarious and one child almost didn't stop laughing to breathe!"

- Whitehorse Manningham Library Blackburn, VIC.

"On the way to class this morning I was thanked by a year 7 student for organising the wonderful presentation of our guest author. This spontaneous, unsolicited remark by a student I don't teach and haven't met before is really telling. So from this response alone and gauging from the laughs and live feedback to Oliver's presentation I believe students were captivated and impressed by Oliver's performance.

The Teen Library Advisors said the year 7 classes had the privilege of meeting him as well as the Teen Library Advisors. Mr Phommavanh talked about the origins of his books, some interesting stories and also taught us how to write a story. Mr Phommavanh was humorous and we were delighted to meet him in person.

The teachers were very impressed with the level of engagement. The visit was deemed successful by all the teachers who were able to view Oliver's presentation. Oliver was organised and on time and really easy to get along with. He has a wacky sense of humour but he never crossed the line. Students can often be the harshest and most honest critics but they were fully engaged the whole time by his dynamic and interactive presentation. We had no discipline issues with even the most difficult kids so this tells you how absorbed they were. Students really just enjoyed his presentation so much. Oliver had the reluctant readers involved and asking for autographs at the end. Oliver fitted in well with our Asia Studies Focus and International Week Focus but you didn't have to be Asian to relate to his humour and stories. Our community is very multicultural and so it was a very affirming presentation without having students patronised. There is really nothing we would have changed."

- Maria Papazoglou, Dandenong High School, VIC.

"What a ball of energy! The students and staff all loved him. They are all very keen to borrow his books."

- Trinity College, WA.

"Oliver was terrific! He had the boys laughing and working on their writing with great enthusiasm. He got the students writing some really creative pieces with such simple writing starters. Thanks for recommending him to me."

- St Kevin's College, VIC.

"Oliver has just left us and I wanted to let you know how fantastic the day has been. I would be happy to promote him for author visits because he made the day just so special for the boys at the College."

- Mary-Jane Fox, St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace, QLD.

"We really enjoyed Oliver Phommavanh. Thank you"

- Mel Maria CPS - St Joseph Pignatelli, WA.