

# Shadow Puppetry Workshops

## Little Wing Puppets

### Playing with Light

*Watch as their drawings leap to life, off the page and onto the stage!*

The aim of this workshop is to explore the artform of shadow puppetry. It will introduce children to an expressive hands-on story-telling medium that is highly accessible to young people. In this workshop students are led through the process of imagining and designing their own unique puppet characters. Then they are guided through the steps of realizing their designs, cutting and crafting their own individual puppets. After that, students work together in small groups to write their own shows. With an experienced shadow puppeteer to reveal a few tricks of the trade, they then have the opportunity to perform their shows to the group on a portable shadow puppet screen.

Jenny Ellis has been a puppeteer for over fifteen years. She has a Post-Graduate Diploma in Puppetry from the Victorian College of the Arts. Jenny was mentored by Richard Bradshaw as part of the Jump mentoring Program, an internationally regarded shadow puppeteer who has received an Order of Australia for Service to the Arts. Jenny was a Researcher for the NSW Minister for Education from 2003-2005. Jenny has been "Puppeteer-in-Residence" at many primary schools, independently and as part of the Victorian Government's *Artists-in-Schools program*. These involve directing large-scale puppetry events involving hundreds of students at Willowmavin Primary, Officer Primary, Ringwood Heights Primary and St Bedes Primary. Jenny has also directed two workshop series at City of Melbourne's *ArtPlay*; *Shadowy Figures: Playing with Light* (2008) and *Stand Up Puppets: Getting the Giggles* (2010) where the children created puppetry short films, which were shown on the big screen for *Puppets @ Fed Square*.

Recommended age: Prep – Year 6  
Duration: 60 mins or 90 mins  
Maximum participants: 30  
Set up and Pack up time: 30 mins  
Venue needs to be dark or semi-dark.



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