

# VALANGA KHOZA



*A WARD-WINNING  
MUSICIAN*

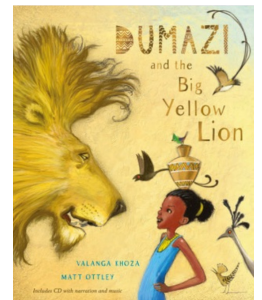
*STORYTELLER*

*REFUGEE*

*AUTHOR*

VALANGA KHOZA is a consummate storyteller and musician, shaping tales of his life into captivating presentations. Valanga was born in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. He grew up in a traditional setting surrounded by lively singing, drumming and dancing. The Limpopo area is rich in traditional healers, orators and storytellers, highly respected throughout Africa. These were his neighbours. Their nightly ceremonies carried songs and rhythms passed down through thousands of years. Valanga carries these influences through his songs and storytelling. He is also influenced by his travels throughout the world which were driven by his struggle against racism and his fight for freedom of the black people in South Africa.

LOWER PRIMARY (ELG – 3) Valanga tells stories of his childhood in rural South Africa, magically weaving traditional South African instruments into his performances whilst singing in English, Zulu, Shangaan and Xhosa. The instruments include drums, kalimba, marimba, shijororo (jaw harp) plus many others that are home made. Valanga is the author of the newly released book "Dumazi and the Yellow Lion" published by Scholastic in 2019, which is gaining international acclaim.



UPPER PRIMARY (4 – 6) Valanga uses humour and wit to tell stories of depth, of growing up and surviving under the racist system of apartheid. Through his storytelling and music, Valanga educates students about the human side of refugees and their plight, the humanity that we all share and the resilience needed to overcome struggles. Educational notes and suggested reading and viewing for this presentation are available.

SECONDARY As a young student in South Africa, Valanga protested and joined marches across the country against apartheid, which led to his exile. He became a refugee in the camps of Swaziland and later, Mozambique. His activism continued with the ANC underground, who provided his path to the USA and eventually Australia. Valanga educates students about the human side of refugees and their plight, the resilience needed to overcome struggles and the humanity that we all share. Educational notes and suggested reading and viewing for this presentation are available.

SINGING WORKSHOP – PRIMARY OR SECONDARY Valanga will work with your school choir or group of students, introducing them to the joyous music of South Africa. The songs will be both original songs by Valanga and traditional songs and chants in up to 3 or 4 part harmony (ability dependent). Valanga will present the workshop with many stories that will give students an insight into the meaning and culture of the songs. He will have the students singing, moving and grooving!

DRUMMING / PERCUSSION WORKSHOP *VICTORIA ONLY, OR BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT*

(UP TO 25 STUDENTS) Valanga will teach students the traditional rhythms of South Africa using the djembe, dun duns and other hand percussion. He will take them on a rhythmic journey, exploring the different cultures of South Africa with simple vocal chants to accompany the drumming.

View a sneak peek: <https://youtu.be/DvaV5BQO11k>

## COMMENTS FROM SCHOOLS

"Valanga is terrific with the kids. He had them completely spellbound!" Springvale North PS

"They loved his music, but on top of that we had many comments from students about his really having given them an insight into what it was like growing up as a black person in South Africa. We were impressed by the way he adapted to the different Year levels ... extremely personable and a sparkling entertainer". St John's College, Dandenong

"As a music specialist ... I cannot speak highly enough of the quality of his work. Valanga established a high level of rapport with the children who responded enthusiastically to him" Kangaroo Flat Primary School



**Cost per student:** \$6.00 + GST

**Minimum:** 120 students per session

**Bookings & Enquiries:** Nexus Arts [www.nexusarts.com.au](http://www.nexusarts.com.au)

PHONE: (03) 9528 3416 FAX: (03) 9523 6877 FREECALL: 1800 675 897

EMAIL: [nexusarts@netspace.net.au](mailto:nexusarts@netspace.net.au)

**Suitability:** Grades K – 12



# Valanga Khoza

## - Feedback from Primary Schools



**He's fantastic. Excellent crowd control, great dynamics, colours, action, drama, music, movement, fabulous stories...A wonderful performance.**

Moonee Ponds Central School, VIC

**We loved every minute of it...kids were totally absorbed...no-one tells a story like he does...wonderful, polished performance.**

St Peters Rochedale QLD

**Well, Valanga was everything you said he would be. He held the infants school of about 150 children entranced.**

St Judes The Apostle, VIC

**Mesmerised...very dynamic, upbeat and affirming. Valanga grabbed the children's attention straight away with his EYES.**

St Dymnys, QLD

**Without exception, all staff commented on Valanga's great ability to engage students. It was wonderful to see the smiles and hear this diverse group of children all joining in the singing.**

Belmore Specialist School, VIC

**Overwhelmingly joyful....enthusiastically enjoyed every word, every movement...COME AGAIN!**

St Hilda's School, QLD

**Looking around the auditorium, all you could see were smiling faces and students hanging off Valanga's every word.**

Canterbury College, VIC

**The room was a-buzz with excitement and enthusiasm.**

Caloundra Christian College, QLD

**Fantastic! Particularly his stories of racism...Wonderful! Wonderful!**

Tarwin Lower/Fish Creek Primary School, VIC

**One pre-schooler laughed so much he cried! We loved every minute of it.**

St Peters Catholic Primary School, QLD

**Fantastic! Grateful to have had the opportunity. The students were so engaged. They didn't take their eyes off Valanga or the whole hour. They were so impressed by Valanga's music, stories and charisma, they would have stayed chatting to Valanga all day.**

Banksia Beach State School, QLD

**Very funny and matched beautifully with our school values and Harmony Day.**

Driver PS, WA





# ★ Valanga Khoza - Feedback from Secondary Schools



**Fantastic: Our Year 9 & 10s have never stayed so focused!! Fantastic, Amazing, Enthralling. Come again!**  
St Stephen's College, QLD

**Valanga captured a group of tired Year 12 students who had just returned from camp. From the very beginning they were enthralled...A fantastic morning!**  
Mackillop College, VIC

**His message, his music and his wonderful rapport with both staff and students will be remembered for many years to come. We feel privileged to have been able to see him perform.**  
Broome SHS, WA

**A great cultural experience. Fantastic, entertaining and very special to hear from one who has so much warmth with the audience. We wanted to hear more!**  
St Mary's DHS, TAS

**The students were mesmerised. The staff too were captured and entertained by his dynamic personality and delivery. What a great storyteller.**  
Haileybury College, VIC

**Superlative storyteller. The weaving of racist events into the stories to illustrate the apartheid regime was masterful.**  
Redeemer Lutheran College, QLD

**A most enjoyable experience performed by a man with an exuberant and likeable personality. You should not miss it!**  
Derby DHS, WA

**Fantastic – the students were the best I've seen them. Valanga held 300 students spellbound; the warmth he exudes is magic. Teachers were over the moon.**  
Kingston HS, TAS

**Valanga has that ability to increase cultural understanding without boring students. It is a challenge to keep them interested on a hot afternoon in a hall – Valanga did this *superbly*.**  
Kyneton Secondary College, VIC

**Overwhelmingly joyful. All audiences enthusiastically enjoyed every word, every movement. Sessions could have been twice as long!**  
St Hilda's School, QLD

**Valanga was compelling. His story and the way he presented it led the audience on a wild roller-coaster of emotions...**  
St Michael's Collegiate School, TAS

