Dion Drummond in front of his portrait at the Grafton Regional Gallery - Photo by Adam Hourigan

DION DRUMMOND

Dion Drummond's Aboriginal name is "Moogera", meaning storm. He is of Torres Strait Islander descent on his mother Cindy's side, and Aboriginal from his late father's side (Cape York Peninsula). Dion was born in Mossman (Kuku-Yalangi Tribal area) 80km north of Cairns, Queensland.

Dion is one of Australia's most experienced Indigenous performers, covering both Mainland and Islander cultures as a dancer, singer and storyteller.

In his dynamic, high energy performances, Dion shares tales, language and artefacts from both of his cultures, teaching students about the different traditions of his Torres Strait Island and Aboriginal Indigenous heritage. Students participate in learning actions of songs and dances, and Dion highlights some important values, such as respect, with humour and energy. A lively, interactive show which has enthralled audiences all around Australia and overseas.

"Students absolutely enthralled. Captivated. Engaged throughout. Excellent insight into the culture. Thrilled with the learning opportunity provided. Students loved it! We would definitely have him back." - Sally Rule, Lockwood PS, VIC

"Students absolutely LOVED it! They loved the dance, songs and demonstrations of tools and musical instruments plus costumes. Fantastic show! Educational, informative, engaging and humorous. Students were constantly engaged through sound, movement and humour. He also taught values and life skills – we couldn't recommend him highly enough! Thank you!" - Tregeagle PS, NSW

"One of the best indigenous shows I've seen in years. A beautiful storyteller with humour and spirit. Dances illustrating 'who we are and where we come from', representing Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders, sharing tradition and culture. Highly recommend." - Tracey Jacob, Haileybury College, VIC

NEXUS ARTS

Price: $7.00 per student +GST Minimum audience: 120 students
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Feedback for Dion Drummond

Dion Drummond was the best indigenous performer I've ever seen!
- *Principal, Springwood Public School, NSW*

Wow, how engaging! Students wrote descriptive words about Dion including "fascinating", "breathtaking", and "passionate". Students were enthralled! We loved this performance by Dion. There were a **great variety of dances, stories and artefacts**. Dion involved our students cleverly and even our staff, who danced magnificently, if I may say so!
- *Warragul North PS, VIC*

An **exciting and dynamic** presentation. **High energy and very professional**. We <u>really</u> valued Dion sharing his culture with us.
- *Meg Denman, Fahan School, TAS*

Dion's performance this morning was **INCREDIBLE!!** All year levels loved it and it was so engaging. Dion is **remarkable** and I would highly recommend the performance to any school.
- *Breanna Thewlis, Wangaratta West Primary School, VIC*

Dion was **absolutely fabulous**. In fact we would be interested in having him here again for future performances. Thank you again for all your time and effort in making this performance happen, we really enjoyed it and look forward to working with you and Nexus Arts in the future.
- *Tania Shearer, Aboriginal Community Education Officer, Reynella East College, SA*

One of the best shows we've ever had – I'd HIGHLY recommend him to any school.
- *Kerang South PS, VIC*

Overall the performance was **terrific**! Entertaining, amusing, informative. It was a pleasure having Dion and his performance was excellent for our school community. I loved that it was educational with languages, flags, dance, explanations – the students remained engaged the entire performance, really responded to the music and loved the interactive parts which allowed them to dance. Dion is a very warm presenter whose pride in his culture is obvious.
- *5 Teachers from Good Shepherd PS, Amaroo, ACT*

Students absolutely enthralled. Captivated. Engaged throughout. While Dion was signing a student's boomerang, our 165 students were silent.
Excellent insight into the culture. *Thrilled* with the learning opportunity provided. Students loved it! We would definitely have him back.
- *Sally Rule, Lockwood Primary School, VIC*

Dion was absolutely amazing. **He opened my class's eyes to a beautiful culture**. I haven't seen my students so engaged for a long time
- *Risdon Park PS, SA*

We had the amazing Dion Drummond perform on Tuesday. All students and staff really enjoyed the show. A lot of students (from kinder all the way to year 6) stated that they were going home to ask their parents if they could go to the rainforest, Cairns and the Torres Strait! There wasn't a single student who didn't want to participate in the dancing and all enjoyed the adult dance. We all loved that the performance **truly engaged all age groups**. Thanks again for having and organising such a talented perfomer. All teachers have asked when the next performance can be organised and now we are in discussions about who to book in a four year rotation!
- *Kathrine Gardoll, Black Hill PS, NSW*

Students were engaged from the beginning of the performance and involved in various activities on stage and in the audience. Teachers, too!!
The audience participated in the show, responding well due to a **fantastic combination of humour, movement (rhythm), dance, culture and ethics (moral education).** Encompassed many **curriculum areas: - history, - geography, - dance, - drama, - music, and more**!
- *Hay PS, VIC*

Feedback for Dion Drummond

Students thoroughly enjoyed Dion. All participated, all laughed, all have taken the time to thank teachers for bringing him. When Dion performed, **everyone was smiling and engaged**. Many teachers have said how wonderful Dion was.
- *Glenden State School, QLD (Prep – Year 12)*

Fantastic show, great student involvement. The students loved it
- *Kurri Kurri PS, NSW*

Our Preps absolutely loved it! It is rare that they sit for very long and I was amazed that they sat so willingly for the hour performance!
- *Merrimac SS, QLD*

Grade 2-5 students were **spellbound throughout the whole performance**. Listened intently. Great informative introduction, demonstrating **pride in nationality & tradition**. He involved students in **language exploration and discovery**. Student involvement was fantastic. Loved the activities, loved learning and performing the language and dance.
Dion has an excellent manner with the students and formed a great rapport. His encouraging and **positive interaction** allowed the children to participate enthusiastically with **respect and joy**. All students were super keen to be called up onstage. Dion made the dances so easy to learn and had a lovely fun way of involving many on stage.
I love that Dion educated the students in **culture, custom, language, song and dance**.
I am **impressed by his authenticity**. Fabulous to have students repeating language and the explanation of culture and geography.
A beautiful storyteller with **humour and spirit**. Dances illustrating "**who we are and where we come from**." Representing Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders. Sharing tradition and culture. **Highly recommend. One of the best indigenous shows I've seen in years.**
- *Tracey Jacob / Fran Davey / Megan Laing, Haileybury College Brighton (Castlefield), VIC*

Excellent rapport with children, they liked interacting with him. They thought Dion was funny and cool, and liked the boomerangs. **Loved the songs and the dancing moves**, and Year 6 will use some for their 'Wake and Shake' sessions! They loved that everyone (even the teachers) got up to dance. Educational – fitted well with our theme for the term. There was a good balance of student participation and solo presentation. **Catered for all ages**. Teachers and students both **loved the storytelling** – students liked the interaction and teachers the explanation of background.
- *Boort District School (P–7), VIC*

Amazing, impressive, fantastic! The students loved the show and were captivated by Dion Drummond. A wonderful performance. Engaged the audience with participation and enthusiasm. Across all **Key Learning Areas**, tied it in nicely with NAIDOC.
- *Tacking Point PS, NSW*

Students absolutely LOVED it! The loved the dance, songs and demonstrations of tools and musical instruments plus costumes. Fantastic show! **Educational, informative, engaging** and **humorous**. Students were constantly engaged through sound, movement and humour.
Even though they were seated, they were very active! He also taught **values and life skills** – **we couldn't recommend him high enough**! Thank you!
- *Tregeagle PS, NSW*

Students were actively engaged throughout the performance. Many shared comments afterwards like "That was lots of fun. I really enjoyed the dancing." The presenter was very **enthusiastic** and gave explicit directions that all could follow. He taught students about the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island cultures on a level they could comprehend while having fun.
- *Mount Brown PS, NSW*