

# WAKAKIRRI

## AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST PERFORMING ARTS EVENT FOR SCHOOLS

### STUDENT FUNCTION SCRIPT - "Pre-show Pump-up"

(KEY: **Stage Manager, lighting, sound cues** | **Host's instructions**)

#### Overview:

Our "Pre-show Pump-up" is led by the host, with the Ambassador, Waka Crew, 3 student reps and 1 teacher from each school on stage. All other students and teachers are in the audience dancing and learning along!

The "Pre-show Pump-up" is a fun time where the crew, teachers, and student reps celebrate on the main stage from 5pm to 5:30pm inside the auditorium. (*Perth & Wollongong: 4:45pm to 5:15pm*). 15 mins prior, you'll rehearse with your host, ambassador, crew, and student reps on how to enter the stage, stand, and interact during the presentation ceremony.

#### During the rehearsals:

- Crew to instruct schools to be in the auditorium in time for the function with their student reps side stage.

#### 4.45pm: After the last rehearsal (*Perth & Wollongong: 4.30pm*)

- The Host, Ambassador, and Wakakirri Crew help coordinate and rehearse what will be the opening of the presentation ceremony later in the evening at the close of the live show.
- Spend 5 - 10 minutes rehearsing how the student reps, Host, and Ambassador will dance onto the stage and line up once the voiceover announces them.
- Host and ambassador to remember to guide the kids on stage. This ensures the presentation ceremony looks polished and professional, as it's the last thing the audience remembers.
- As this is happening, School groups should be entering the theatre and taking their seats.

#### Stage Manager Cues

1. Ensure the stage is well-lit with a 'party vibe'!

#### 5pm: Pre-show Pump-up commences (*Perth & Wollongong: 4.45pm*)

##### 1: Video Introduction

- As just rehearsed, the Host, Ambassador, Wakakirri crew, and student reps open the "Pre-show Pump-up".

#### Stage Manager Cues

1. Cue 'Pre-show Pump-up Opening' video.
2. Video commences with 2 videos from sponsors Kids Helpline & The Sebastian Foundation with Open Parachute.
3. After the sponsor videos conclude, the voice over invites the host and student reps onto the stage. This is the cue for the host, Ambassador, Wakakirri Crew, and student reps to enter stage (as rehearsed).  
Teachers remain OFF stage.
4. The Wakakiri logo appears.
5. When everyone has their position on stage, fade out music and pause the video to leave the logo on screen.
6. Host kicks off the Pre-show Pump-up.

# WAKAKIRRI

## AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST PERFORMING ARTS EVENT FOR SCHOOLS

### 2: Welcomes

#### Host starts the Pre-show Pump-up.

"Hi everyone and welcome to Wakakirri! My name is..... Are you excited for tonight's show! You should be. Tonight is a culmination of a lot of hard work and you should be very proud of what you have achieved already. For the next half an hour we are going to have a bit of fun, play a few games and then relax before we get ready for tonight's show. Also on stage with me I have ....." (Ambassadors, Special Guests etc.)

"Now, before we get into it, can I get a giant round of applause please as we welcome to the stage, the legends who got you all here today... Your teachers!!!" (Teachers enter stage to join their student reps)

### 3: Chookas Theatre Story

"Who wants to hear a funny theatre story? OK, you may have heard alot of people saying 'chookas' today and you might be thinking 'that's so weird! Why do we say chookas? In Australian theatrical circles saying "good luck" is avoided, but the replacement is often "chookas!" This is due to the belief among some performers that saying "break a leg" may actually result in broken bones. So why do we say 'chookas'? According to early Australian theatre history, before a show began one of the performers would check audience numbers. If there were not many in the seats, the performers would have bread to eat following the performance. If the theatre was full they could then have "chook" —Australian slang for chicken— for dinner. Therefore, if it was a full house, the performer would call out "Chook it is!", which became abbreviated to "Chookas! It is now used by performers prior to a show regardless of the number of patrons; to wish for a successful show.

Who feels like chicken tonight? Can I get a chookas from everyone! Now let's get everyone warmed up"

### 4: Audience Warm Up

- The wave: Coordinate your audience for a flow of raised arms that spreads from one side of the audience to the other.
- The Stomp: Sometimes clapping isn't loud enough.
- Left vs Right: Volume challenge between audience right and left.

### 5: Workshop Tutorial - "Waka Groove"

"Okay everyone, let's all turn upstage and face the cyc, we have a super special video tutorial from our friend Sisqo! We're all going to learn and dance the 'Waka Groove' together. [Insert Stage manager's name]...Let's go!"

#### Stage Manager Cues

1. The host will ask everyone to turn and face the cyc/upstage and verbally cue you to play the 'Waka Groove' video.
2. When the video ends, pause the video to leave the Wakakirri logo on screen.
3. Host asks everyone to give it one more shot!
4. Stage manager to cue the 'Waka groove' music file.

# WAKAKIRRI

## AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST PERFORMING ARTS EVENT FOR SCHOOLS

### 6: Dance Game “Characters”

“Now it’s time to show off your best dancing & story-telling skills! When the music changes, I’ll call out different characters for everyone to dance and act out. Are you ready? [Insert Stage manager’s name] we’re ready to DANCE.”

#### Stage Manager Cues

1. The host will verbally cue you to play the ‘Dance Game’ video.
2. When the video ends, present the Waka logo in its place.

Line up:

- Kung Fu Fighters
- Dinos and Neanderthals
- Robots
- Space Adventurers
- Sea Creatures
- Zombies
- Tree of Wisdom

### 7: Running Orders

**Host announces tonight’s running order.**

“It’s time to announce tonight’s running order. When I call out the school name everyone yells chookas!”

### 8: Pre-Show Ritual / End of “Pre-show Pump-up”

**Host invites the Show Day Coordinator to remind students of the Spirit of Wakakirri Award.**

- “This award goes to schools that embody respect and encouragement – not just in performances, but throughout rehearsals and interactions. We are looking for schools that exemplify the spirit of Wakakirri through their uplifting camaraderie, and their genuine encouragement of one another.”

**Host invites the Ambassador to close the function by sharing their methods to calm nerves in anticipation of showtime.**

- Ambassador facilitates the Open Parachute Pre-Show Ritual.
- Ambassador congratulates the students and reminds them to exit the theatre silently and respectfully.

#### Stage Manager Cues

1. Wait for everyone to exit the auditorium, set up the slideshow and house music, ready for ‘doors’.