

# WAKAKIRRI

## AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST PERFORMING ARTS EVENT FOR SCHOOLS

### LIVE SHOW SCRIPT (Master Host Notes)

(KEY: *Stage Manager, lighting, sound cues* and *Host instructions*, and *Ambassador instructions*)

#### Stage Manager Cues

##### Stage and auditorium preset.

- House Lights at full. Attractive Lx on stage and on Wakakirri banners
- AV: Preshow slideshow playing ('Slideshow')
- Audio: Play show music ('House Music')

##### Show opening (7pm or 7.15pm)

- AV: Fade out pre show slide show and show music
- Lx: House Lights to half
- AV: Play show opening video ('Show Intro') run time: 2 min 49 sec
- House lights fade to full black when show opening video voice over says 'please turn off your mobile phones and cameras'
- When the voice over says "please welcome to the stage your host for the evening"
  - Host microphone on
  - Followspot on host
  - Fade video audio and video and close stage curtain
  - Wakakirri banners Lx

#### INTRODUCTION

- Good evening everyone. My name is [insert name] and welcome to the 2025 Wakakirri National Story-Dance Festival Performance Night!

##### If a student is present:

- To begin this evening's proceedings please welcome to the stage [student name] from [school] who will be presenting our Acknowledgement of Country.

##### If there is no student present:

- May we begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of this land, [insert traditional owners]. We pay respect to their elders past and present.

#### WELCOMES

- I would also like to give a warm welcome to our special guests for this evening [insert names]
- And an equally warm welcome to you our audience for being here to support all of our wonderful students here tonight.

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### ABOUT

- Does Your school have a story to tell? Great Stories can open hearts and minds and inspire change. Wakakirri is a performing arts festival where schools aim to do just that! Over the last 32 years, 5000 schools and half a million students have participated in Wakakirri, an achievement we are incredibly proud of!
- Tonight we are here to celebrate and acknowledge the latest efforts from schools in 2024.
- Wakakirri is not a competition but does have awards that acknowledge schools who exemplify the Wakakirri ethos 'Great Stories Inspire Change' including raising awareness, community building and excellence in performing arts.
- We want every student to go home tonight feeling positive about their experience and proud of their achievement on stage so we won't be announcing major awards tonight. However, there are 2 special awards that will be presented tonight at the Presentation Ceremony at the conclusion of the show. The Spirit of Wakakirri Award, and the Best public speaking Award.
- Once every school in this region has performed, selected schools who exemplified the Wakakirri ethos will be invited back to perform a second time at a special Wakakirri Awards night. **OR**
- Once every school in this region has performed, selected schools who exemplified the Wakakirri ethos receive a State Award with the results announced and celebrated on the Wakakirri website

### AMBASSADOR INTERVIEW

- To help select those schools, I would like to welcome onto stage tonight's Wakakirri Ambassador [insert name]

*Read the Ambassadors bio*

### Stage Manager Cue

- Ambassador microphone turned on as they enter stage
  - Additional stage lighting as required
1. You've been here watching rehearsals throughout the day, what kind of stories can we expect tonight?
  2. What is a story-dance and what makes a good one?
  3. Every year Wakakirri has a different theme that Schools are invited to incorporate into their story for an extra challenge. Wakakirri has chosen "**Mind Over Matter: Tales of Inner Strength**" for 2025. How have schools incorporated this theme into their stories today?
  4. How important are events like Wakakirri for students and the performing arts? Do you wish you could have done Wakakirri when you were young?
- Thank you. I will let you head back to your chair and I'll look forward to chatting with you after each performance!

### Stage Manager Cues

- When ambassador/s exit stage, ASM or SDC to escort them to the light & sound desk
- School is set up on stage (behind curtain or in darkness) ready for host to announce them

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### SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Wakakirri wouldn't exist without partners who really believe in arts education and are prepared to support it. Our esteemed list of major partners include;
  - Kids Helpline
  - Amplify
  - Open Parachute
  - The Sebastian Foundation
- You can find out more about all our partners on the Wakakirri website.

### SCHOOL INTRODUCTIONS

- It's now time to read out the list of tonight's schools. Can you please make every school feel welcomed with your enthusiastic applause. *[insert list of school names]*

*Proceed to introducing first school*

#### Stage Manager Cues

#### **School performances (repeat for each school)**

- Stage and host follow spot fade to blackout
- Host microphone off
- Stage curtain open
- Go AV and LX for school as per rehearsal

#### **School interviews**

- And the end of each school's performance: fade AV and Lx to blackout. Close stage curtain.
- Host followspot and microphone on. Wakakirri banner lx .
- Add additional stage lighting as student reps enter the stage. Student reps microphone on.
- Standby for host to introduce the next school after interviews

### INTERVIEWING SCHOOLS

#### Introducing each school

1. *School name*
2. *Item title and Item description*
3. *Then begin each performance with: "Please welcome (school name) to the stage"*

#### Interviewing each school

- *Walk onto stage and say congratulations to .... (insert schools name)*
- *Say something you liked about their performance: "How great were those dancing mice!" etc*
- *Read out their item title again*
- *Read student rep names and invite them to come on stage*
- *Say hello and compliment their performance*
- *Ask each student their designated question.*
- *Cross to the Panel rep for their comment - do NOT forget to cross to the Ambassador!*
- *Thank students and direct them off stage*

*Then continue by introducing the next school.*

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### AFTER THE LAST SCHOOL HAS PERFORMED

- It's been a wonderful night sharing stories with you this evening and to conclude, in just a few moments we will have the Presentation Ceremony.
- Now I know all of you will be eager to collect your stars (make sure they're the right ones under that makeup and costume) straight after the presentation. We have designated meeting points allocated to schools. Please be patient – schools will get to their areas as soon as they can. Also, please tell your teachers before taking students with you.

### *Announce the pick up points and any housekeeping notes*

- Now as we prepare for the Presentation Ceremony I would like to show you a short video from the National Wakakirri Ambassador, Simon Pryce. Simon will tell you about the Inspiration fund, which was established to encourage and assist disadvantaged schools around Australia to participate in Wakakirri. After it you will get a chance to donate, followed by this evening's Presentation Ceremony. Thank you!

### PRESENTATION CEREMONY

#### Stage Manager Cues

- Open stage curtain
- Play presentation video (Presentation Intro Video) Note: This video has approx 3 minutes of content and ends with a Wakakirri Logo which holds for a further 3 minutes. The 3 minutes of content consists of :
  - Introduction by the National Ambassador Simon Pryce.
  - Inspiration Fund Ad.
  - QR Code on screen with a voice over prompting the audience to donate.
  - Wakakirri Logo with a voice over prompting the start of the Presentation Ceremony.
- When the voiceover says "Please welcome back our host and our student representatives"
  - Followspot and mic on for host
  - Fun lighting for students to dance onto the stage
  - When the host and students have their position on stage, fade out music and pause the video to leave the Wakakirri logo on screen until the end of the ceremony.
  - Appropriate stage lighting for presentation ceremony

### *Host begins the presentation ceremony by inviting the Ambassador and Special Guests onto the stage.*

- Wow, what an incredible night it has been! Let's give a huge round of applause to our amazing student representatives who are here on stage with us tonight!
- And now, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our esteemed guests this evening. Please join me in welcoming to the stage our National Wakakirri Ambassador, [insert names], and our special guests, [insert names]

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### SPEECHES AND AWARDS

- To begin our ceremony I would like to invite [insert Special guest's name] to say a few words.

### SCHOOL CERTIFICATES: presented by the Ambassador

- Thank you [insert Special guest's name]. Now please put your hands together for our Wakakirri Ambassador [insert name] who will present the schools with their Awards.

*"In our role as Wakakirri Ambassadors, our aim is to recognise schools that truly embody excellence in the performing arts and align with the Wakakirri ethos: 'Great Stories Inspire Change.' It is our privilege to identify these outstanding schools and celebrate their dedication to storytelling and performance.*

*Tonight, however, is all about celebrating the incredible hard work and dedication that have gone into creating these story dances. Each performance is the culmination of countless hours of rehearsals, creative set design, and meticulous costume making. We want to take a moment to acknowledge everyone involved, especially the unsung heroes behind the scenes and the extraordinary teachers who guide and inspire their students throughout this journey. Their passion and commitment are what make nights like this possible.*

*Rather than announcing any results tonight, we want to focus on the joy and pride that come from your remarkable achievements. We hope each student leaves here feeling proud of their contribution and inspired by their own creativity.*

*As a token of our appreciation, we have a participation certificate for each school to honour and thank you for your efforts. Let's celebrate your achievements together as we hand these out now."*

### Procedure for presenting certificates to each school by the Ambassador

1. Call the 3 student reps from the first school forward.
2. Read out the school name and item title.
3. Make a comment about the school's performance.
4. Special guests (or Ambassador if no Special guests available) present the certificate and shakes hands. (Show host to assist with certificates if no special guest)
5. Ambassador then calls the next school forward.

*After the last school is presented with their certificate, the show host resumes the presentation ceremony.*

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**PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD:** presented by the show host.

- Thank you [insert Ambassador name] I think it's time now for me to present the Wakakirri Best Public Speaking award! This award celebrates the amazing student representatives who have shown exceptional skill in the art of public speaking and I would like to offer a big congratulations to all our outstanding public speakers tonight. It was a privilege and a joy to work with you all!
- We all know that being interviewed onstage after performing is no easy feat. This award recognises students who have not only excelled in remembering their lines but have also captivated our audience with their poise and impressive delivery. Their words have made a positive impact on all of us.
- Let's give a big round of applause to [insert school name]

*Show host announces the winning school and presents the school with their certificate.*

**SPIRIT OF WAKAKIRRI AWARD:** presented by the Wakakirri show day coordinator.

- But wait....there's more!! Before we end the presentation ceremony, please welcome our Wakakirri Show Day Coordinator who will reveal the winner of the prestigious Spirit of Wakakirri award! Please put your hands together for [insert name].

*"Tonight, as the Show Day Coordinator, I'm privileged to present the Spirit of Wakakirri Award. This award goes to schools that embody respect and encouragement – not just in performances, but throughout rehearsals and interactions.*

*At Wakakirri we show encouragement by saying 'Chookas' - which means good luck. Today, it's been truly heartwarming to hear this word exchanged among schools.*

*Throughout the journey of Wakakirri, we are looking for schools that extend their support and encouragement to their fellow participants throughout the day. These schools exemplify the spirit of Wakakirri through their uplifting camaraderie, and their genuine encouragement of one another.*

*And so, without further ado, the Spirit of Wakakirri Award goes to..."*

*Show day Coordinator announces the winning school and presents the school with their certificate.*

*The show host resumes the presentation ceremony.*

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### CLOSING OF THE SHOW

- To finish off tonight's ceremony, can I ask all our students to join hands , walk to the front of the stage and take a final bow!
- Thank you [insert special guests name] for being with us this evening and once again we congratulate all of the students and their school's support teams for all their hard work.
- Also a thank you to all of you here tonight for being such a wonderful audience. I do hope you've enjoyed the evening.
- Don't forget, Wakakirri will be collecting donations as you exit the theatre, to support disadvantaged schools to experience what you've enjoyed tonight. Please donate any spare change if you can.
- Have a safe journey home, remember to collect your lovely children before you leave and we look forward to seeing you again at Wakakirri.
- Good night everyone!

*Host and students dance / celebrate on stage as the curtain closes.*

### Stage Manager Cues

1. Play end of show music ('theme song')
2. Close Stage Curtain
3. House lx to full