

QPAC presents

# OUT OF THE BOX

FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN 8 YEARS AND UNDER



## SONGS OF THE SONAR

**ART FORM FOCUS:** Multimedia sensory experience, sound art and up-cycled creations

**KEY MESSAGE:** Acquiring knowledge and experience of oceanic life forms through sound and visual art

### ABOUT THE SHOW:

Swim into the cave of human jellyfish hybrid Deepstaria Enigmatica to learn about her deep ocean friends and become part of the Ocean Floor Orchestra's aquatic opus. When you emerge from the depths, materials await you to create your own mysterious sea creature.

### LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

The oceans remain one of the world's most undiscovered wonders. Through multisensory activity, such as sound recording and visual art, children will take an explorative journey with the creatures of the deep sea. New perspectives, truths and imaginings develop about one of Australia's most familiar and loved natural environments.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Here is a selection of learning platforms from which to dive into a world of aquatic biological knowledge and oceanic mystery.

#### Visualise and Imagine

Use the link from the Queensland Museum website <http://www.qm.qld.gov.au/Events+and+Exhibitions/Events/2014/06/Songs+of+the+Sonar>, to download the Songs of the Sonar Soundtrack and the Ocean Floor Orchestra recording created during your visit to Deepstaria's cave. Use these as an accompaniment to the following or similar visualisation drama exercise. Adults talk the children through the following steps at their own pace. Children may want to lie on the floor with eyes closed for this exercise.

- After the music has been playing for a short while, ask children to visualise themselves on a jetty beside the ocean.
- They jump into the ocean, piecing the sparkling surface and begin floating through the water.
- Describe the feeling and temperature of the water as they are swimming further towards the bottom of the ocean. Describe the darkness or colours, the creatures passing by.
- Eventually, guide the children to return to the surface of the ocean and climb back onto the jetty. Invite students to open their eyes at their own pace. Music can remain playing until everybody has returned.

#### Mould the Jellyfish

Explore the adaptations that have or could evolve to ensure the future survival of ocean dwellers amid environmental changes.

- Children make notes and imagine themselves as Titanic or similar shipwreck survivors that have made the ocean floor their new home. Using FEMO or clay materials, children mould themselves in this human form.
- After pondering their new environment and images of underwater life, they can hypothesise and remould the figures with physical evolutionary changes that may have occurred to ensure their survival.



## Poetry in Motion

Using three or four already existing sea-themed poems as your example, help children to explore ocean themes with descriptive words and characters associated with the big blue and the sea of consciousness.

- Set the theme of the writing exercise as 'The Ocean Floor', 'The Sea' or something similar.
- Ask children to spend 1-2mins writing as many words they can think of in relation to the theme.
- After this, the children can review the words they have written and edit out anything they find boring or unsuitable. Children then count the number of words they have written and remove half of the words. Then do this again, leaving only a quarter of the original number of words.
- With the remaining words, children are asked to write a piece of poetry. Ask volunteers to read out their work to the group.

## Cray Cray Comics

Children can improve literacy skills and engage in storytelling by creating the ongoing adventures of Deepstaria Enigmatica and her friends in comic or cartoon form.

- Encourage children to peruse a variety of comic books and cartoon strips as a starting point. Discuss the importance of font, colour, positioning, space, mood and text used to convey a message effectively.
- Ask children to jot down a few ideas about Deepstaria or create an exciting new sea creature.
- Using these ideas, the children can create a scenario for their characters and simply sketch the scene, building on the background and text as they go.

## Underwater Colours

Explore deep sea habitats and environments with an exercise in painting. Designate a wall to be covered in paper and used as a collective canvas. The bigger the area, the more effective the exercise.

- Peruse images of the sea and underwater life from books or by reflecting on and discussing your visit to the museum.
- Emphasise the use of colour to convey meaning and feelings.
- Explore texture in painting using different brushes or implements.
- Add 3D elements to the canvas using painted sponge shapes.

## OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

### Explore the Book

*Sea Monsters: A Voyage around the World's Most Beguiling Map*  
Joseph Niggs, University of Chicago Press, 2013.

*Creatures of the Deep Blue*  
Jonathon Bird, Evans Mitchell Books, 2008.

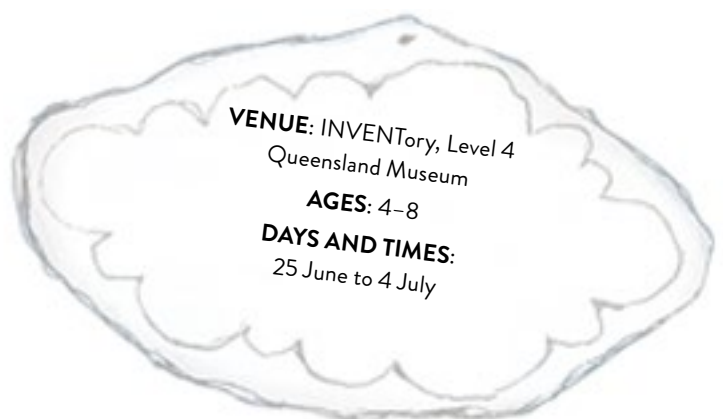
### Discover Online

'Planet Ocean' Film by David Hannan  
Free for Educational Purposes  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planet\\_Ocean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planet_Ocean)

*Deepstaria Enigmatica*  
<http://www.wimp.com/creaturecaught/>

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