

Case study

Home Turf

Details

What:

Home Turf explores the hidden stories, concerns and secrets of teenagers in regional Queensland. In 2014, La Boite toured *Home Turf* to Chinchilla, Dalby and Tara.

In each of the three communities, artists worked with students and teachers for two weeks to research and explore themes. Five artists then spent a further six weeks in each community to develop a range of theatre skills with both students and teachers.

Through drama, contemporary dance and video, the comedy, emotions, fears and even the absurdities of being a teenager in a country town in Queensland in 2014 were explored.

The program culminated in a performance co-developed with the students at the Chinchilla Entertainment Centre which was live-streamed to Tara and Dalby. In addition, La Boite staged a community performance at Dalby High School.

Masterclasses in comedy, digital media masterclass and physical acting were also hosted for the broader community.

When:

December 2013 to October 2014

Where:

Chinchilla, Dalby and Tara



Home Turf. Image courtesy La Boite. Image: Angus McLeod

Key stats:

- 2 performance and 29 engagement activities
- 400 attendees at performances
- 3 communities

Arts Queensland contribution:

\$50 000 – Playing Queensland Fund

Contact for further information:

Glyn Roberts

Email: glyn@laboite.com.au

Phone: 07 3007 8600

Website: <http://www.laboite.com.au>

Links:**Home Turf Documentary**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRF1GKAA9zU&list=UUxDD0QPc0prw7aN5AcIE0A>

Outcomes

- Students involved developed new skills in playwriting, dance, performance techniques and audio visual skills. Teachers noted an increase in student's skills.

I learned how to animate a movie and also how to draw a bird and a train using shapes seen in the picture. I liked this because it was very fun and interesting. - Student from Tara

I've enjoyed learning to open up about my emotions and having someone read them out because before that I never really opened up to many people - Student from Chinchilla

- The program created better connections between students in the three towns.
- Evening community workshops hosted in each of the communities helped developed creative skills within the community.
- La Boite successfully trialed a number of innovative approaches in engaging the community including community master classes.

Learnings and reflections

La Boite had the following reflections, learnings and advice for others conducting a similar project:

- *School timetabling was crucial in the delivery of the project. This takes careful planning and detailed consultation to ensure the project can successfully integrate with other school projects.*
- *Allow for the students to take ownership over the project.*
- *Allow additional time for reflection within the schools for richer opportunities for communities to personally connect throughout the process, not only in the final outcome.*
- *The documentation of the project was very important for the communities and the other partners in the project.*



Home Turf. Image courtesy La Boite.