

FOURTEEN

A MEMOIR BY SHANNON MOLLOY
ADAPTED BY SHAKE & STIR WITH SHANNON MOLLOY



**NATIONAL TOUR
EDUCATION LINKS**

© 2024 COMPILED BY KATIE GENTLE FOR SHAKE & STIR

ABOUT SHAKE & STIR

Shake & Stir is one of the country's leading contemporary theatre companies touring Australia and New Zealand since 2006. Shake & Stir produce an annual season of Mainstage and in-school productions.

Mainstage work includes: The Twits, Fourthcoming, Fantastic Mr Fox, A Christmas Carol, The Australian premiere of Green Day's American Idiot, George's Marvellous Medicine, Endgame, Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts, Dracula, Wuthering Heights, 1984, Tequila Mockingbird, Out Damn Snot, Animal Farm and Statespeare. The company is widely acknowledged as a leading national touring theatre company, taking medium to large scale works to major metropolitan and regional centres in every state/territory of Australia, annually. Shake & Stir has been nominated for APACA'S Drover Award for Tour of the Year for every past national tour, collecting the Award consecutively in 2014 & 2015.

National Tours included: Jane Eyre, George's Marvellous Medicine, Green Day's American Idiot, Dracula, Wuthering Heights, Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts, 1984, Animal Farm and Statespeare.



[instagram.com/shakeandstir](https://www.instagram.com/shakeandstir)



[facebook.com/shakeandstir](https://www.facebook.com/shakeandstir)

SHAKEANDSTIR.COM.AU

Shake & Stir Theatre Co acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which the company gathers; Yagarabul and Turrbul country and pay respects to the Elders that are with us today and those past. First Nations people have been creating stories to educate, record history and entertain for over 2000 generations and we are honoured to be able to continue in this.



ABOUT OUR SHOW

Age recommendation: 14+

Warnings:

This play contains strong coarse language, mature themes, simulated violence, depictions of self-harm and suicide ideation, and sexual abuse. It also contains strobe lighting, theatrical smoke effects, and the use of stage cigarettes.

Shannon Molloy is a year 9 student at an all-boys rugby-mad Catholic school in regional Queensland, with a secret that no one can ever find out. Shannon is gay. Based on the best-selling memoir by award-winning journalist Shannon Molloy, **Fourteen** is the inspirational true story of growing up gay in central Queensland, transformed into a powerful must-see theatre production by nationally acclaimed Shake & Stir theatre co. Set to a nostalgic mixtape of 90s bangers from all your faves, from Shania Twain to The Spice Girls, **Fourteen** addresses the trials and tribulations of growing up with honesty, humour and heart. Equal parts uplifting and heart-wrenching, we follow Shannon in a year of self-discovery set amidst a backdrop of torment, bullying and betrayal – not just at the hands of his peers, but by the adults who were meant to protect him.

This moving coming-of-age memoir about adversity and tragedy is also a story of resilience, hope and hilarity – thanks to the love of a group of close-knit friends, a fiercely protective family, an extraordinary mother and...
S Club 7.

CREATIVE TEAM

Adaptors

Nelle Lee
Nick Skubij
with Shannon Molloy

Director

Nick Skubij

Creative Producer

Ross Balbuziente

Set Designer

Josh McIntosh

Costume Designer

Fabian Holford

Lighting Designer

Trent Suidgeest

Sound Designer

Guy Webster

Choreographer

Dan Venz

Intimacy Director

Michelle Miall

Fight Director

Tim Dashwood

Curriculum Connections:

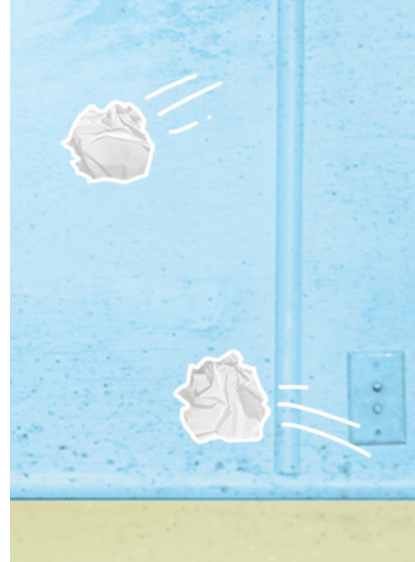
Drama

As a Verbatim Ensemble piece adapted from Shannon Molloy's autobiographical novel, **Fourteen** is an exciting example of Australian Contemporary Performance, using a hybridity of Epic, Magical Realism, Transformative, Visual and Physical Theatre.

English and Literature

Exploring a year in the life of Molloy, this episodic memoir provides a narrative of Australian personal experience, using 1st person description to explore themes of belonging, identity and coming-of age. Useful as a comparison of text to stage adaptation or able to be compared with texts of similar themes.

**TEACHER RESOURCE KIT AVAILABLE FOR
SCHOOL BOOKINGS -
VISIT SHAKEANDSTIR.COM.AU**



AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LINKS (V9)

English

YEAR 9

Language for interacting with others

AC9E9LA01 - recognise how language empowers relationships and roles

Text structure and organisation

AC9E9LA03 - examine how authors adapt and subvert text structures and language features by experimenting with spoken, written, visual and multimodal elements, and their combination

Literature and contexts

AC9E9LE01 - analyse the representations of people and places in literary texts, drawn from historical, social and cultural contexts, by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world authors

Examining literature

AC9E9LE04 - analyse texts and evaluate the aesthetic qualities and appeal of an author's literary style

Texts in context

AC9E9LY01 - analyse how representations of people, places, events and concepts reflect contexts

YEAR 10

Language for interacting with others

AC9E10LA01 - understand how language can have inclusive and exclusive social effects, and can empower or disempower people

AC9E10LA02 - understand that language used to evaluate, implicitly or explicitly reveals an individual's values

Literature and contexts

AC9E10LE01 - analyse representations of individuals, groups and places and evaluate how they reflect their context in literary texts by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world authors

AC9E10LE03 - analyse how the aesthetic qualities associated with text structures, language features, literary devices and visual features, and the context in which these texts are experienced, influence audience response

Examining literature

AC9E10LE05 - analyse how text structure, language features, literary devices and inter-textual connections shape interpretations of texts

AC9E10LE06 - compare and evaluate how "voice" as a literary device is used in different types of texts, such as poetry, novels and film, to evoke emotional responses

Analysing, interpreting and evaluating

AC9E10LY03 - analyse and evaluate how language features are used to implicitly or explicitly represent values, beliefs and attitudes

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LINKS (V9)

Drama

YEARS 9 + 10

Exploring and responding

AC9ADR10E01 - investigate use of elements of drama, performance skills and/or conventions to communicate and/or challenge ideas, perspectives and/or meaning in drama across cultures, times, places and/or other contexts

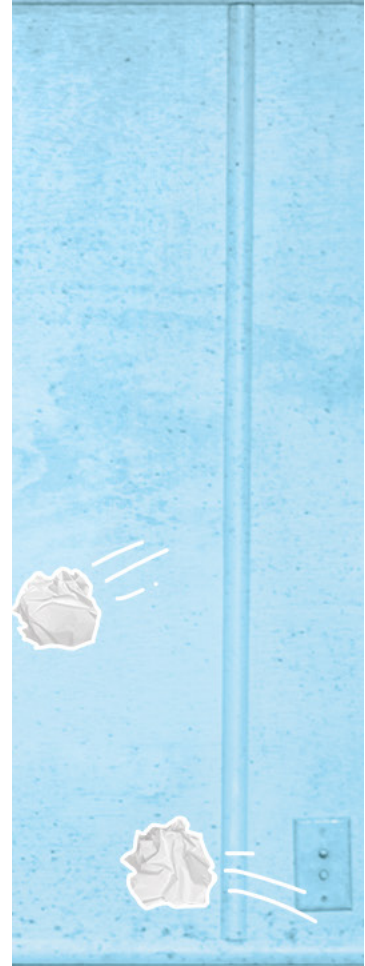
Developing practices and skills

AC9ADR10D01 - develop performance skills and/or techniques to manipulate elements of drama and/or use conventions to communicate the physical and psychological aspects of roles and characters consistent with intentions

AC9ADR10D02 - reflect on their own and others' drama or practices to refine and inform their use of elements of drama, conventions and/or approaches to shape and sustain dramatic action

Creating and making

AC9ADR10C01 - improvise and devise drama, and interpret scripted drama, using elements of drama and conventions to shape and manipulate dramatic action and convey intended ideas, perspectives and/or meaning



FOURTEEN - *AT A GLANCE*

THEMES

Belonging and Friendship
Self-expression
Mental Health
Coming of Age
Identity
LGBTQ+ experiences
Imagined ideals vs reality
Finding role models
Survival



LITERARY STYLES

Autobiography and Memoir
Australian Literature
Non-fiction
Novel Study
Comparison of texts around similar themes



FOURTEEN -

AT A GLANCE

Dramatic Styles

Contemporary Performance
Verbatim Theatre
Physical Theatre
Ensemble Theatre
Non- Linear
Transformation of text



Dramatic Conventions

Hybridity
Fragmentary props and costumes
Fluidity of time and place
Multiple Roles
Appropriation
Mediatization
Transcribed Dialogue
Narration and Monologue
Stylised Movement/Physical Theatre
Use of song
Episodic – Non-Linear

ABOUT THE AUTHOR - SHANNON MOLLOY

Shannon Molloy is an award-winning Australian journalist based in Sydney, specialising in feature writing. Experienced in general news, property, entertainment and business reporting spanning print, digital and publishing, he's also worked in public relations and communications, in both the consumer and not-for-profit spaces, and had a brief stint as a political adviser. Outside of work, he's into reading and writing, tinkering in the garden, amateur photography, '90s pop music and beer. He's mad about travel too.

PROLOGUE BY SHANNON MOLLOY

What came next after 14? It's a question I'm asked often but struggle to summarise. But, here goes.

- I went to America at 15 and had the best time. It was truly life changing. I lived with a woman named Barbara and her son Frank in Simsbury, Connecticut.
- I came back to Australia, finished high school, and moved to Brisbane at 18 to study journalism at The University of Queensland.
- I fulfilled my dream of working in the media, landing my first job at 20. I've been published in just about every major newspaper in Australia since, and several magazines too.
- My work has appeared internationally in The New York Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Sun, and The Advocate. I've made a fair few TV and radio appearances as a commentator.
- I took a brief detour from journalism at 26 and worked in politics for the great Anna Bligh, Premier of Queensland.
- I moved to Sydney when I was 28 and met the love of my life, Robert. We moved in together a year later. We married when I was 32.
- At 34, I wrote a book called *Fourteen* that became a best-seller and won a few accolades.
- I'm working on another that comes out soon.
- I've seen a lot of the world – with more to come, hopefully. I've hiked through the hills of northern Thailand, rode a bike across Cambodia, had a crack at Everest Base Camp, and journeyed through Chilean Patagonia. I've also done some plush travel – London, New York, Buenos Aires, Bangkok, Singapore and more.
- At 35, my daughter Ava was born – by far the greatest, most joyous accomplishment of my life.



USEFUL RESOURCES FOR ENGAGING TEENS IN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

- » Black Dog Institute- www.blackdoginstitute.org.au — a world leader in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder.
- » www.BITEBACK.org.au - BITE BACK is the Black Dog Institute's website for 12-18 year olds based on positive psychology. Inspire Foundation www.reachout.com.au —
- » ReachOut.com - <http://teachers.reachoutpro.com.au> - an online youth mental health service, inspiring young people to take charge of their mental health and wellbeing.
- » Reach Out Teachers Network has mental health and wellbeing resources and online training activities.
- » MindMatters - www.mindmatters.edu.au — a whole school mental health and wellbeing framework, offering tools and free professional learning for all secondary school communities.
- » beyondblue - www.beyondblue.org.au — a national, independent, not-for-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety and related disorders in Australia. www.beyondblue.org.au/senseability —
- » SenseAbility is a strengths-based resilience program with modules and resources designed for those working with 12-18 year olds. www.ybblue.com.au — youthbeyondblue for young people. www.headspace.org.au — the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. www.headspace.org.au/school-support — information and assistance for Australian secondary schools affected by suicide.
- » Response Ability - www.responseability.org.au — aims to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people through the education of pre-service teachers.
- » Remember School Counsellors/Guidance Officers/School Psychologists are a great resource to answer your questions and to help you discuss issues with students.

Content Warning:

This play contains strong coarse language, mature themes, simulated violence and depictions of sexual abuse. Suicide ideation is depicted on stage - an attempt is interrupted by another character. It also contains strobe lighting, theatrical smoke effects, and the use of stage cigarettes. We understand the themes may be triggering for some people. Please consider the context of your students and your school environment as you discuss the content.

Details for trigger warnings:

Within the show course language is used, both in aggressive and occasionally in comedic ways. Throughout Shannon's story, there is a moment where he is sexually assaulted, and then physically assaulted as he escapes. There is also consensual kissing, which is later represented as an unwanted interaction. Underage drinking and drug use is referenced within the production. An explicit and lewd fictional love letter is read out within the play. Suicidal thoughts and actions are depicted. Throughout the play, Shannon is bullied with homophobic derogative language. Discussions around religious beliefs regarding hell and sexuality occur. Shannon discusses making an attempt on his life, and begins to act on this - before being intercepted by another character.

SHAKE & STIR

THEATRE CO

