

## Do you want to:

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- Improve staff engagement and increase personal and professional connections?
  - Explore the myriad of stories and the real experiences alive in your organisation?
  - Run a conference session that connects your staff with why they do the work they do?
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Imagine... a hand raises and one of your staff walks to the front to share her story. An experienced Playback facilitator assists her to shape her story. She tells of a client experience that is challenging and heartening and exemplifies why she keeps doing this work. It is not an easy story and it covers both the strengths and the inadequacies of the organisation. As she talks, heads nod in recognition of when the systems don't work, and also when they do, and there is a laugh of recognition when she talks about worrying overnight whether she got it right. The facilitator then guides her to choose actors to take the different roles in the story, and then with music and spontaneous theatre, the story is played back, live, onstage. It is in this retelling, in the performance of the story, that the audience individually finds where they connect with the parts of the story, with the work, with their organisation and with each other.

Playback Theatre creates an innovative, safe and entertaining forum that offers an opportunity to explore complex individual and organisational stories - as well as generating new connections in that process.


The sharing of and listening to stories allows people in organisations to understand, to feel empathy, to laugh and bond and ultimately strengthen relationships.

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**“Sometimes reality is too complex. Stories give it form.”**

JEAN LUC GODARD

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**“Stories are a communal currency of humanity.”**

TAHIR SHAH

# How to use Playback Theatre

Playback Theatre facilitates and sharing of stories and can be used in various ways depending on the strategic outcomes required. Playback is used:

- To re-connect participants with why they do the job they do, not just how they do it.
- To connect and warm up the audience to a theme or topic.
- To facilitate a dialogue as a way to manage organisational change and transition.
- To shift the energy and refocus the group in a more creative and collaborative way.
- To align and recharge team cohesion within a team building day.
- To celebrate milestones and or achievements.
- To connect participants with how they feel about a conference's focus, rather than what they think about it.

Playback Theatre translates heady ideas into the lived experience. During a conference or team day, if an event has been very cerebral and people have been listening for a while, people's stories and our performance changes the dynamic to re-energise the room.

We engage the audience to open different perspectives to the topic via theatre and story - and by taking a literal story out of its context and reframing it within theatre, metaphor and music, we encourage the audience to see a familiar story in a new context inviting the possibility of a fresh perspective.

# How we do this

The Playback facilitator conducts a conversation between the audience and the improvising ensemble (actors and musician). The result is a compelling blend of entertainment, reflection and understanding as the Playback team spontaneously brings the true story to theatrical life. Rather than being passive observers the audience is actively involved with the creation of meaning. The facilitator, or 'Conductor', invites the audience to reflect on what they are hearing and seeing to look for relevance and meaning. A Playback session is often powerful and humorous, with entertainment and discovery rolled into one.

Client feedback - You put the heart and the emotion into the subject matter, which otherwise had been dealt with at an intellectual and analytical way. You also brought an element of fun or laughter into the program.

Read more from our clients at [www.playbacktheatre.com.au](http://www.playbacktheatre.com.au)

We cater for a wide range of organisations within the Corporate, Community, Government, Educational sectors

