

# LUKA LESSON

ONLINE POETRY EDUCATION PROGRAMS



WITH OVER A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE IN POETRY EDUCATION BOTH IN AUSTRALIA AND ABROAD, LUKA LESSON HAS DESIGNED WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCIES SPECIFICALLY SUITABLE FOR AUSTRALIAN & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS.

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**When we put process first,  
the outcomes are lasting.**

*"Disengaged, disenfranchised, disheartened. These are the students who stunned us all with the power of poetry. It was my wish that Luka Lesson visit my school to increase student interest in poetry. I could never have imagined that in one week he could create a group of courageous young leaders who would stand and deliver words laden with truth, humour and desire. He graciously offered not only his talent, but his heart to young people on the verge of being lost."*

- *Kylee Owens, Lead Teacher, Hastings's Secondary College*

## LUKA LESSON - BIOGRAPHY

Luka Lesson is an Australian poet and rap artist of Greek heritage. Luka's work engages with stories of survival, the mythology of his family homeland, political resistance and the power present within the act of sharing our vulnerabilities. An author of two independently published collections, Luka has been commissioned by the National Gallery of Victoria, had poems published in a number of international anthologies, and toured with the likes of Dr Cornell West (USA), Akala (UK), Tiki Taane (NZ), Nahko and Medicine for the People (USA) and Shane Koyczan (Canada). Most recently Luka was commissioned to write and perform a new work with composer Gordon Hamilton for The Queensland Symphony Orchestra. In 2017, Luka established his very own annual poetry retreat program in his grandfather's village on the Greek island of Rhodes. Over the course of his career, Luka has always used his work as a touchstone for education programs in schools and universities. In fact, his poem 'May Your Pen Grace The Page' will appear on the NSW Australian high school English curriculum from 2019 to 2024 - the first time 'performance poetry' has appeared in an Australian curriculum.

### Major Works / Career Highlights

- 2011 Australian Poetry Slam Champion
- 2012 'Please Resist Me' album release
- 2012 National Gallery of Victoria commission
- 2013 Masters Sound Design (Poetry Performance) VCA
- 2013 'The Future Ancients' publication
- 2014 EXIT album release
- 2015 'Antidote' album release
- 2016 Sydney Conservatorium of Music residency
- 2017 'Living Artefact' single release
- 2018 Queensland Symphony Orchestra commission

*"Poetry has become a touchstone I have constantly turned to for guidance."*  
- Luka Lesson



# PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL RESIDENCIES

2013 International School Beijing

2013 Hong Kong International School

2014 International School Beijing

2015 Hong Kong International School

2015 Canadian International School of Hong Kong

2015 Western Academy Beijing

2015 South Saigon International School

2017 Renaissance College Hong Kong

2017 Western Academy Beijing

2017 South Saigon International School

2017 Renaissance International School Saigon

2017 Hong Kong International School

2018 Shanghai International Community School

2018 United Nations International School, Vietnam

2018 Hong Kong International School

2018 Mont'Kiara International School, Kuala Lumpur

2018 Garden International School, Kuala Lumpur

2018 International School of Kuala Lumpur



## AUSTRALIAN RESIDENCIES AND EDUCATION BACKGROUND

2006 - 2018

Visits and residencies to over 500 schools, education centres, university campuses and private colleges. Starting with Milpera State High School in 2006, and most recently completing a week-long residency at Roseville College, Sydney. These years include developing the Xavier College Poetry Slam program, education tours of all major cities and being included in the 'Positive Schools' conference tours in across Australia and Singapore.

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

From 2019 to 2024 Luka Lesson's poem 'May Your Pen Grace The Page' will be included in the NSW year 12 English curriculum. This is important not only because of being recognised as one of Australia's major poets, but also because it is the first time the words 'performance poetry' have been used in Australian curriculums - meaning that the genre has finally been recognised and legitimised by the country as a whole through Luka's hard work and tenacity over the past decade.

# NEW ONLINE ENGAGEMENT OPTIONS

The COVID-19 Pandemic has generated the necessity for Luka Lesson to offer online workshops and performances.

To help bring value into classrooms during these unique circumstances, Luka Lesson is now offering his education services in an online capacity to schools and education centres worldwide.

These services include:

- **WORKSHOPS** - A range of 7 writers' workshops which can be adapted to become 30 - 60 minutes long.
- **PERFORMANCE** - A 50 minute general poetry performance and Q&A
- **NSW CURRICULUM POEM** - A 50 minute presentation and Q&A on his poem 'May Your Pen Grace The Page' now included on the NSW Curriculum.
- **Building Resilience: A Poet's Guide** - A new 50 minute 'poetic keynote' speech on poetry and resilience.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch for bookings, prices and discounts should your education centre require the support.

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# LUKA LESSON

## WORKSHOP OPTIONS

Luka Lesson runs 7 main workshops processes:

1. Diaspora - A look into the journeys of displacement shared by so many of us in today's world. What is home? How does one find their 'place in the world'? These questions are encountered in this workshop process.

2. Make Your Myth - A dive into Greek Mythology and the art of myth-making. A chance to rebuild your creation story from the ground up and redesign your personal history with nothing but the limits of your own imagination. Step into the hero's journey.

3. The 10 Line Formula - Ten prompts are given, one for each line, and in the end the writer discovers that to let go of control can be the most powerful way to write. Sometimes, we need to get ourselves out of the way, to create the truest forms of expression.

4. Portrait Poem - Based on Luka Lesson's 'Yiayia' poem about his grandmother, as well as his 'Macquarie' libretto about Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Writers are asked to either research a public figure, or record facts and quotes from a family member, before being lead through the creation of a poem based around their life story.

5. Social Issues Poetry - Writers are invited to discuss the power of art and poetry for social change before being lead through a process of choosing, researching and writing a poem based around a social issue. Both powerful facts and statistics are combined with metaphor, simile and other poetic devices to create an educational and emotionally engaging piece.

6. Stream of Consciousness - Writers are lead through a series of long form writing processes with the aim to create as much text as possible. They are then assisted in approaching the writing with an editor's eye and are able to create a poem with what has already been written. This releases need for 'perfection' from the outset and helps the writer to realise that sometimes our best work happens when least expected.

7. 'Found' Hybrid Poetry - Writers are invited to take words from other books, magazine or songs, before being lead through a process of incorporating those 'found' passages with their own writing. In this way they create something of a collage of words.

***Please note: All workshops can incorporate vocal and performance exercises, as well as readings of students' poetry.***

*“Self-love is a  
dying art,  
Not dying  
for your art.”  
~Luka Lesson*



## “ TESTIMONIALS REGARDING LUKA LESSON’S WORK

*“Disengaged, disenfranchised, disheartened. These are the students who stunned us all with the power of poetry. It was my wish that Luka Lesson visit my school to increase student interest in poetry. I could never have imagined that in one week he could create a group of courageous young leaders who would stand and deliver words laden with truth, humour and desire. He graciously offered not only his talent, but his heart to young people on the verge of being lost.”*

- Kylee Owens, Lead Teacher, Hastings Secondary College

*"Luka is a genuine artist of high quality whose poetry is powerful and poignant. I salute his prophetic witness!"*

- Dr Cornel West

*"Luka Lesson is one of those people who changes the weather; who by his very presence makes the landscape seem more possible, more holy, more livable. I don't know where he came from or how he got to be so magic. What I do know is that I am better for having experienced him. A better writer. A wider girl. More true of heart. Words make worlds. Luka knows this. His mouth is a creation story...and we are all better for it."*

- Dominique Christina, National Poetry Slam Champion and two-time Women of the World Poetry Slam Champion (USA)

*"I'm not really into hip hop—I'm too old, I guess—but Luka Lesson is a sonic literary genius, and THAT is what I love. So if he is hip hop, then I guess I love hip hop after all."*

- Taylor Mali, 4-time National Poetry Slam Champion and former president of Poetry Slam, Inc. (USA)

*“Luka Lesson is quickly becoming one of the most powerful artists of our medium. A rare writer that practices what he preaches and in turn passes that same integrity onto those he teaches and performs for. All comments about awesome word play and clever lines aside his work is most importantly simple, honest, rebellion. The stuff that all great art is made from. His poems are fistfights with history, the truthful telling of it, honest Hellenic hip hop anthems sung from between the parts of your textbooks your teachers warned you about. I am lucky to call him my ally, and my friend.”*

- Ken Arkind, Minor Disturbance Youth Slam, Colorado

*"Luka is the kind of poet other poets want to be. Other poets want to be honest."*

- Shane Koyczan

*"Luka Lesson is a sonic literary genius."*

- Taylor Mali