



Luka Lesson

**Slam Poet
Educator
Hip Hop Artist**

“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, Highly Accomplished Teacher, Chatham High School, Taree NSW, Australia.**

“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 coordinator, Slam Nuba and Nuyorican National Slam Team Poetry Champion (USA)**

Luka Lesson

Slam Poet Educator Hip Hop Artist

"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 (USA)

"Luka is a lesson in fierce talent and what it means to hone energy into stunning verse with soul. Rarer still, his heart's always open to community and commitment to the real change that drives what he writes about. Proud to have him in the Asia-Pacific neighborhood."

Khairani Barokka, Poet (Indonesia)

"It was wonderful. Luka is articulate, generous and so relatable. He answered their questions with ease and humour and performed songs and freestyle at their request. The English staff said that this was our soul food."

Aya Jarvis, Birrong Girls High

Programmes:

The Performance: Luka will perform his award winning poetry and rap verses interwoven with creative writing and performance exercises. Luka runs a Q&A during the show answering any of the students' questions regarding creativity, the writing process and becoming a full-time artist.

Suitability – Primary Years 5 and 6 only, please provide pen and writing pad for each student

– High School Years 7-12

Performance Cost: \$5.00 + \$0.50 GST = \$5.50 (GST incl) per student

Minimum fee \$700 + \$70 GST = \$770 (GST incl), minimum of 140 students*

*Please note every student over 140 pays \$5.00 plus GST

For audiences larger than 150 students, please provide a microphone.

The Workshop – 1 ½ Hours: Luka will perform a selection of poetry and instigate a discussion around the elements of the medium, followed by:

- Exercises aimed at generating text, such as "stream of consciousness", new-style haiku and a deep look at creating metaphors
- Effective and simple methods for writing and editing poetry
- Performance-based tasks, vocal exercise, movement and stance advice and emotional support and encouragement
- A chance for the students to perform in front of their peers

Workshop Cost: \$800 + \$80 = \$880 (incl. GST), max of 50 students. A few extra allowed at \$17.60 (GST incl.) per student.

The One Week in Residence: Luka Lesson will work with students to develop, write, edit, memorise and perform a poem in a showcase on the final day of the residency, where they will join Luka on stage.

Cost: \$5000 + \$500 GST = \$5500 (incl GST) (plus airfares and accommodation if applicable). The optimal number of students is approximately three classes.

The Performer:

Luka Haralampou, aka Luka Lesson, is a spoken word poet and Hip-Hop artist of Greek heritage from Australia. With four years of international touring, 13 Writer's Festivals, 9 years of workshop experience and almost ten years of writing under his belt, Luka has written commissions and performed for the likes of The Nuyorican Poet's Café (NYC), The National Gallery of Victoria, One Blood Music Festival (South Africa), Greece's pioneer Hip-hop group 'Active Member' and China's most celebrated living poet Xi Chuan in Beijing. He is also the Australian Poetry Slam champion of 2011 and Melbourne Overload Poetry Festival slam champion of 2010. In 2016 in conjunction with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Luka devised and presented a show based on a re-interpretation of Homer's *The Odyssey*.

Academically Luka holds a first-class honours degree from Monash University and has taught side-by-side with Indigenous educators and staff at the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies. He has co-ordinated and spoken at symposia relating to cross-cultural awareness and recently completed Masters of Sound Design (Poetry Performance) through the Victorian College of the Arts. As a workshop facilitator Luka has assisted thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds to write and perform their work, many for the first time.

Young Australia Workshop

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