

Tackling bullying on stage

GARETH NARUNSKY

ACTOR Tim McGarry of the Monkey Baa Theatre Company has performed the one-man play *I Am Jack*, based on the book by Jewish author Susanne Gervay, around 150 times.

He will reprise the eleven roles in the play – which looks into the issue of bullying – once again for a special Courage to Care fundraiser to be held next month.

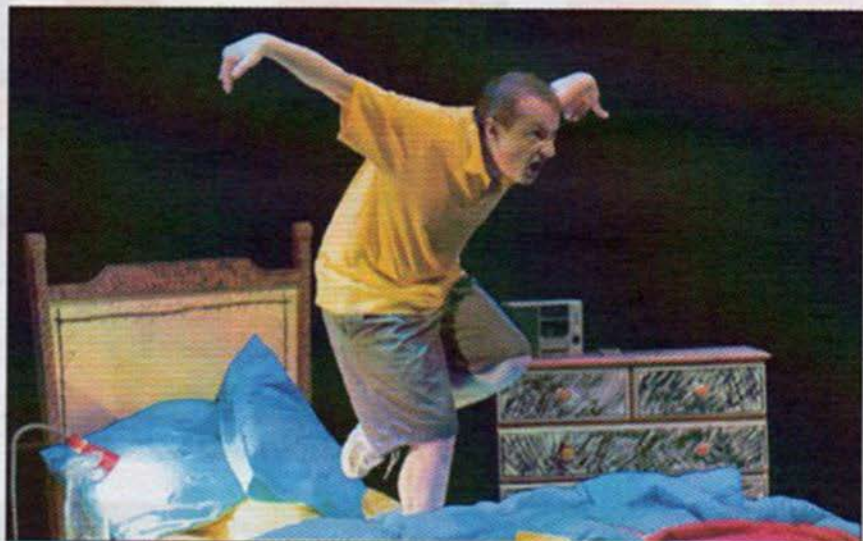
“These issues are hard to talk about, they’re hard to discuss, particularly for young people,” McGarry explained.

“So I guess for us, theatre has that very magical element of people being able to sit there and watch a play, and watch a story and relate to the story.

“And hopefully through the story, they can then walk away and then begin to talk about the issues that come up.”

McGarry said that despite the serious theme of the play, there is a positive message. “The catchphrase of the work is that Jack goes from being victim to victor,” he said.

“And I think that really sums it up beautifully, because through help from family and through his teacher Jack does overcome the entire issue of bullying. We certainly see within the work the stages it takes for Jack to understand why it’s happening to



Actor Tim McGarry performing *I Am Jack*.

Photo: Terry Moore

him, and the stages of how to actually overcome it.”

An important aspect of the production is the question-and-answer session that follows the performance.

Gervay – who based the book on her son’s experiences – will moderate the discussion with McGarry at the Courage to Care event.

“I find that a really fascinating time for people to be able to speak either about their issues or about problem solving,” McGarry said.

“It’s an amazing time and it’s always very unpredictable what’s going to happen in that Q&A session, but often people are very honest and very candid.”

Courage to Care NSW chairman

Andrew Havas was full of praise for the play and the Monkey Baa Theatre Company. “I’ve seen it personally now twice, and it’s a lot of fun and we specifically picked it because of the topic,” he said.

He said funds raised would assist in taking Courage to Care into Queensland and Western Australia.

I Am Jack is presented by the Monkey Baa Theatre Company on Sunday, March 16 at 8pm at Lend Lease Darling Quarter Theatre.
Bookings: (02) 9361 6035;
fundraiser@courage-to-care.com.au.



Watch a clip

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