



Paul Taylor is a native Australian storyteller, musician and visual artist. A native of Adelaide, Paul journeyed to the US in the 1990's as part of the sister cities program with Austin, TX.

Since the 90's he has moved to Laramie, WY, returning to his native Australia for 2-3 months each summer to work with the last remaining elder and custodian of the Wardaman Aboriginal culture in the northeast territory, Yidumduma Bill Harney, who through the customs and traditions of the Wardaman, has adopted Paul as his son. Together, they are recording the oral history of the tribe to preserve for future generations.

Paul tours the U.S. extensively, bringing his cultural and educational programs to schools and communities and serving as an unofficial cultural ambassador for his native country.

Paul provides a quality arts integrative experience; combining history, cultural geography, visual art, music, social studies, storytelling, dance and science in his programs.

Awards:

- **University of Wyoming Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award**
- **Awarded one of the Wyoming Governor's Arts Awards** ~ *"Through your gifts as a storyteller, musician, actor, mural designer, and educator you have opened doors for students of all ages. We are fortunate to have a person of your talents among us."* ~ Governor M. Mead
- **Nominated and selected as one of 3 State Finalist Award Winners for the Northern Territory in the Australian of the Year Awards** for his years of service performing/teaching as a cultural ambassador in the US and at the same time working with Yidumduma Bill Harney and the Yubulyawan Dreaming Project.

Arts-in-Education Programs: K-6th grades - Paul presents concerts and educational outreach work with schools and other community venues. His performances present the many faces of Australian culture through story, music and poetry. Taylor weaves the story of Australia's history and people with on-stage costume changes, songs, the music of the didgeridoo, and both contemporary and traditional stories from Australia.

WONDERS DOWN UNDER is an interactive performance of Australian stories and music. Students come away with a unique look at the wonderful Aussie character through an exciting blending of stories, songs, dance, painting, theatre and didgeridoo - drawing comparisons in American history and culture. The performance honors both Aboriginal and European roots. Students will be introduced to the Aboriginal spiritual worldview, the Bush University, the Creation Story; teaching us to pay attention, care for our water, care for our land, to care for our place wherever we may be. Depending on age, the show could feature dramatic story versions

of classic Aussie folks songs & interactive participation; Aboriginal Dreamtime stories told with permission (the Wardamon Creation Story and Great Flood, The Rainbow Snake, Moon & Possum & Spirit Children, Didjeridoo & Termintes, The Sun Lady, Brolga (dancing crane), Gurrukmun the Frog; and/or a selection of classic Aussie Bush Ballads or cowboy poetry.

WONDERS DOWN UNDER will introduce students to the Aboriginal spiritual worldview - their Creation Story, that teaches us to pay attention, care for our water, care for our land, and to care for our place, wherever we may be.

RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS

Multi-disciplined, featuring story, song, dance, art and theatre. Over the course of more than 20 years of work, Paul has developed an all school elementary Australian immersion residency aimed at every student participating, and culminating in a final community performance. The joy and community that emanates from the students and teachers in these experiences is very powerful and lives forever within the students.

Residency and Workshops Link: <http://paultaylor.ws/index.php/about/guestbook/>

Weblinks: <http://paultaylor.ws> **AND** <http://loydartists.com/roster/f/c/22>

Videolinks: <https://youtu.be/kapmCYWe4GU>

AND <http://www.paultaylor.ws/index.php/media-kit/video-gallery/>

WISDOM STORY MURALS (Residency Project) / Science, Art & Caring ***

Celebrating Indigenous Wisdom, Inclusion, Diversity, Social & Environmental Justice

2021 Wyoming Art Fellowship Award: Honorable Mention

http://www.paultaylor.ws/files/8916/2932/0388/Wyoming_Arts_Council_Announces_Fellowship_Recipients_-_Wyoming_Arts_Council.pdf

Paul's murals are inspired by Aboriginal rock art culture; the teachings of the great Spiritual Ancestor Rainbow Serpent; the mentorship of Elder Bill Harney; and the Aboriginal Law of "Caring for Country". They are co-designed and painted by art teachers, students, scientists, community artists and participants. Paul acts as the Artistic Director for each project. They are inspired by water science and ethics; landscape, mapping, watersheds, aquifers; local motifs, school totems, symbols; and personal life journeys, and are designed so an entire class or all the participants, can be painting at the same time, aiming to create community through the art process.

Mostly painted on 18'x5' sign cloth, the mural is often used as the theatrical backdrop for the final residency performance. They become a permanent reminder of the Aussie Residency, it's fun, learning, and a signature mark left behind by former students.

The Rainbow Serpent is a great Spiritual Ancestor throughout Aboriginal Australia who brought water to the world. Rainbow is both giver and taker of life; male and female; the link between the Sky Father and Earth Mother; a symbol for balance and inclusion; teaching us to care for our water and our land. As Bill Harney says, "*we bring happiness to the land.*"

The mural workshop supports achievement standards in Visual, Language & Performing Arts, Theater, Social Studies, Science, Geography and STEAM innovation.

See the process:

http://www.paultaylor.ws/files/9214/2844/9203/The_Rainbow_Snake_Project.pdf

*****This is an arts-in-education as well as a public, community project.*****

Instructional Objectives:

The objectives achieved in Taylor's presentations to elementary/middle students are:

- To introduce students to the European migration to Australia through storytelling theater.
- To present Australian culture as it was in the founding of the country and as it is today through interactive songs and stories.
- To draw parallels between US history and Australian history.
- To introduce students to the culture and traditional stories, songs and dance of both European and Aboriginal Australia.
- To introduce students to the Aboriginal music, instruments and art.
- To explain the physics found in the sounds of traditional instruments and in the workings of the boomerang.

Curriculum:

Geography – Australian geography; similarities and differences to US geography; the way land affects and determines the culture

Cultural Studies – Instruments, songs, stories, dance of European immigrants to Australia; instruments, stories, songs, dance, art of Aborigines in Australia; oral history preserved in story and song

History – Australian history; connections to US history; cause and effect of events between US and Australia

Art – Music; visual art in painting and instrument making; dance; oral history and storytelling

Learning Benchmarks:

- Analyze and apply cause and effect relationships to a variety of historical issues, events and problems.
- Analyze and apply change and continuity relationships to a variety of historical issues, events, and problems.
- Interpret historical perspectives through personal, local, state, tribal, national and global narratives.
- Analyze economic, social, physical and human migration, settlement and distribution patterns.
- Locate and examine physical and human characteristics of places and regions, their impact on developing societies and their connections and interdependence.
- Evaluate how human cooperation and competition for resources shape the earth's political, economic, physical, and social environments.
- Evaluate how technological developments, societal decisions, and personal practices influence the earth's sustainability.
- Examine the relationship between government and citizens to distinguish and evaluate the ways that civic participation occurs in local, state, tribal, national, and global