

OnSTAGE

SEYMOUR CENTRE



Performances and exhibitions by HSC Drama students

Excellence from the 2022 Higher School Certificate



Message from the Production Manager

The NSW Higher School Certificate Drama course launched in 1992 and was first examined in 1993. As the course was new and teachers and students desperate for examples of exemplary work, OnSTAGE came into being in 1995 at the Wharf 2 Theatre at the Sydney Theatre Company. The following year it found its home at the Seymour Centre and has run every year there since (except for one year when only a digital package was available during our COVID lockdowns).

2023 celebrates the 29th year of OnSTAGE and we can be very proud of the standard we have produced in our course and our students.

A big part of our success is the ability to showcase some of the best works from across the state in group performance and individual projects. I often hear from teachers that OnSTAGE is the annual excursion highlight for their students and themselves. It opens up a world of possibilities to all the different approaches you can take to succeed in the HSC Drama course. There is a plethora of genres, group compositions, staging, creative choices, voices and ideas that emerge that allow students agency to explore the world around them in our unique and important art form.

OnSTAGE celebrates the excellence in devising, performing, writing, designing, critical analysis and video drama production and is an incredibly important show for educating, inspiring and entertaining the next group of students who are embarking on their Year 12 studies. That is why we have continued a blended model in each program so you will see group performances, individual performances, a moved reading of a student's scriptwriting project and a video drama.

We'd like to congratulate the students, their teachers, schools, families as well as our loyal audience and stage crew who all make this show a success. I'd also like to pay homage to the production managers who pioneered OnSTAGE from its inception: Wendy Michaels in 1995, followed by Paul Viles from 1996-2015. It was a pleasure to step into their shoes and embrace OnSTAGE, its importance, relevance and the delight it receives from its supportive audience.

Let's celebrate the talents of our students and I hope you enjoy the show as much as we do.



Jane Simmons
Production Manager, OnSTAGE
The Arts Unit, Department of Education

OnSTAGE is jointly presented by the NSW Education Standards Authority and The Arts Unit of the NSW Department of Education. NESA showcases HSC excellence for the benefit of students and teachers in all NSW schools. The Arts Unit delivers programs to NSW government schools in dance, drama, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking, spelling and special events.



Program

The Lamingtons (excluding Saturday February 4)

Caringbah High School

Jonathan Jock, Hannah Lewis, Georgia Nolan

Today is the grand final of the over-90s lawn bowls championship at the Southside Bowling Club. The Lamingtons, the second-best team, will be playing the current reigning champions, Betty and the Scones. Sorry! Late change of plan. They'll be playing, err, The Grim Reapers.

Hysteria (Saturday February 4 only)

PLC Sydney

Stephanie Eldridge, Georgia Macdessi, Ava Hanmer, Lily Ritchie, Anastasia Vasilaras

The origin of the term 'hysteria' – from the Greek, *suffering in the uterus* – tells us all we need to know about who will be diagnosed with this condition. Treatment over the centuries has varied, from group sex to burning at the stake. Enter five schoolgirls, ready to change their story.

The Countess

MLC School

Amelia Jubelin

The countess must secure an invitation to court for the baron's musical soir e this Friday evening – only for the sake of her niece, Isabelle, of course. Not to be outdone by Madame de Schemer, Isabelle's experienced and delightful aunt makes a deal with the Marquis de Mischief.

The Imaginary Invalid¹

Merewether High School / Finigan School of Distance Education

Julia Boyd

Roll up! Roll up! See the clash of the comedies! *Le Malade Imaginaire* – 17th century French – vs Buster Keaton – early 20th century silent film. Marvel as Argan nosedives into a scheme to maintain his hypochondria! Be astonished as the veneer is stripped from any faade of social nicety!

Rubatois

Cape Byron Rudolph Steiner School

Krystal Pierce, Elsa Poole, Coco Neumann, Eliza Mae Kirkpatrick, Zahra Barnes

'Rubatois' is defined as 'the unsettling awareness of your own heartbeat'. It is said to derive from the Italian '*rubato*' – 'robbed, stolen'. Just as domestic abuse robs children of the life they should have had, and a woman of the love she thought was hers.

¹ From *The Imaginary Invalid* by Moli re as adapted by Milles Malleson.

As You Liked It (Video Drama)

Pymble Ladies' College

Ciara Gibson

William Shakespeare's *As you like it* is a tale of freedom and empowerment. Its famous monologue, 'All the world's a stage ...' outlines the seven stages of life, ending with: 'Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything'. Is our addiction to social media also a form of sensory deprivation?

INTERVAL

Misery Loves Company (Moved Reading of Script)

Stella Maris College

Isabella Reid

Director: Mathew Lee

Performers: Maeliosa Stafford, Paul Grabovac, Felicity Jurd, Ariadne Sgouros, Eliza Scott, Emma Harvie, Sebastien Scott, Robert Boddington, Mathew Lee

Northern Ireland, 1977. The Glyn family gathers. Daphne is dead and George has dementia, Henry is having revelations, Dolores wants action, Jackie is stressed. Niamh wants to listen to *The Clash* while Cecilia wants to draw her way out of the day and Ernie just wants to cuddle his grandpa.

The Siren

Katoomba High School

Beatie Witt Howard, Ellysia Hope, Tegan Krempl, Lily Sepetauc

The convicts are boarding *The Siren*, bound for Van Diemen's Land. Among them are four young women, sentenced to time in that savage land. Their only crimes were love and vulnerability.

Mrs Smith²

Xavier Catholic College Ballina

Lirra Eady

The Bald Soprano, first produced in 1950, is subtitled *Anti-play*. It begins respectably enough, its setting specified in stage directions culminating in 'The English clock strikes 17 English strokes'. But, as you'd expect from a playwright who believed that the human situation is essentially absurd, it quickly descends into chaos.

36 Barrels

SHORE – Sydney Church of England Grammar School

Timothy Hugh Barrett, Marlon Jack Cayley, Samuel Hugh McCredie, Caleb Grant Gallant, Cooper Clive Gregory

1605. A group of Catholic men plot to blow up the British Houses of Parliament and kill King James I. They secrete 36 barrels of gunpowder in a cellar under the House of Lords. They probably hadn't initially thought of using rats or a giant slingshot, but who's to say?

² From *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco

Individual projects

For the first time, exemplary individual projects by 2022 HSC Drama students will be available to be viewed as a virtual exhibition on the NESAs website in late February 2023. This means regardless of whether schools are in Sydney or in the regions, they can celebrate and learn from 2022 HSC students. These projects can be undertaken in Critical Analysis or Design.

Critical Analysis

Director's Folio

***Death and the Maiden* by Ariel Dorfman**

Sydney Girls High School
Neva Maria Mikulic

***Black Diggers* by Tom Wright**

John Therry Catholic College
Hayley Spiteri

***Antigone* by Sophocles**

Wenona School
Alice Vance

Portfolio of Theatre Criticism

Women in Contemporary Theatre

Pymble Ladies' College
Alisha Behl

Dramatic Diary

Kincoppal – Rose Bay School of the Sacred Heart
Thomasina Louise Cook

Theatre reviews

Ulladulla High School
Poppy Elenius Gillespie

Applied Research Project

Can the use of technology in flexible theatre spaces attract a younger generation of theatre-goers?

Turrumurra High School
Holly Byers

Patriarchy vs Feminism. The Exploration of Women in Shakespeare's Romantic Comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*

All Saints Catholic College
Amy Guthrie

Design

Promotion and Program

***Death and the Maiden* by Ariel Dorfman**

Newington College

William Hastings Hyland-Falle

Stories in the Dark

Engadine High School

Joshua Hicks

***Antigone* by Sophocles**

Meriden School

Emma Rose Holland

Lighting and Set Design

In the shadows our stories come to light – set design

Ravenswood School for Girls

Eloise Chia

***Tartuffe* by Molière – set design**

Newtown High School of Performing Arts

Abbie McAllister

***Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller – set design**

Sydney Girls High School

Thea Eve Macarthur-Lassen

Stories in the Dark – lighting design

Barker College

William Hunziker

Costume Design

***The Visit* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt**

Hornsby Girls High School

Alaina Fang

***Waltzing the Wilarra* by David Milroy**

Barker College

Jennifer Hercus

Vietnam War – Stories in the dark

John Therry Catholic College

Audrey Parrag

***The Visit* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt**

Fort Street High School

Helena Wang

Video Project

Space Oddity

Northern Beaches Secondary College Manly Campus

Sophie Stephinson

**Showcase Lead:**

Sam Hood, Events and Engagement Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority

Isabella Grillo, Events and Engagement Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority

Production Manager:

Jane Simmons, Drama Performance Officer, The Arts Unit

Lighting Design:

David Ferguson

Stage Manager:

Sorie Bangura

Assistant Stage Manager:

Ellen Osborne

Technical Operator:

Genevieve De Souza

Stage Crew:

Cleo Baldwin, Emily Johnson, Finn Macpherson, Maggie Hartsuyker, Jasper Nobbs

Floor Design:

Pier Production

Photography:

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For more information visit:

www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au