

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

Soccer Mums

Smiths Hill High School

Rachel Harris, Lauren Hulley, Sophia Marosszeky, Charlotte Gear

Jenny is missing and the match is just not the same for the Dapto Dogs. But when she turns up at half-time to feed her betrayal oranges to their deadliest rivals – the North Shore Narwhals – the soccer mums need to take drastic action.

I'll be here¹

St Catherine's School

Scarlett Pearce

It's been a long time since September 11, 2001 in New York, and Claire is finally ready to say 'Yes' to Jason. She's ready to move on, not just sit at home and cry. She doesn't want life's moments to just pass her by.

Toad's Glorious Adventure²

The King's School

Ryan Bond

Unrepentant Toad, 'stolen by a car', imprisoned for his sins, escaped by deceit. Boastful Toad, shouting out his story, so full of bluster, pride and conceit.

Good Morning Claire

Turrumurra High School

Holly Byers, Alexandra Hodges, Paloma Renouf, Adelaide Tustian, Sophie Davis, Giselle Vilar

You don't have time for friends Claire. You need to find your Prince Charming. With six Disney princesses to guide you, you're sure to have a perfect life and find your Happy Ever After.

Ennui (Video Drama)

International Grammar School

Madiba Doyle-Lambert

You're dead. You're stuck in a house with one annoying person. You're bored. You need to do something. You obsess about trying to escape, or recording what's happening. Either way, you're still stuck in that house.

INTERVAL

¹ From *Ordinary Days*, music and lyrics by Adam Gwon.

² From *Toad of Toad Hall* by AA Milne (1957), based on *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame.

Fence Wars (Moved Reading of Script)

Davidson High School

Liv Wishart

Director: Eve Beck

Performers: Thomas Matthews, Brendan Miles, Alex Sideratos, Eve Beck

Damo and Kat might be neighbours but they're not the perfect blend, and they're definitely unlikely to become good friends. Damo just wants to watch the footy. Kat is about to invoke the *Trees (Disputes Between Neighbours) Act 2006* (NSW).

Phar Lap

St Ignatius' College

Oliver Ethan Peffers Ell, James Stuart Craig, Zakariya Skaf, Maximilian Toohey, Louis Claude Philip Cage, Angus Nicholas Greiner

Six mates, one horse. One bloody beauty of a horse named Phar Lap. Five mates take it on, one mate pulls the plug.

A Hundred Words for Snow

Georges River College, Oatley Senior Campus

Sophia Tsoltoudis

Rory isn't the sort of person who suits the name 'Aurora'. She's the sort of person who can carry out her father's final wishes.

Hysteria

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.



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 NESA 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?

Turramurra 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 Stephenson



OnSTAGE

Production Team

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:

Anna Warr

For more information visit:
www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au