

OnSTAGE

SEYMOUR CENTRE



Performances and exhibition by HSC Drama students

2024 Higher School Certificate



Program 1

Chain Reaction

Xavier Catholic College, Ballina
Bundjalung Country

Alani Adamson, Tilly Cubis, Lucy Jack

In the wake of current social issues, *Chain Reaction* is inspired by the suffragette movement and the strength and courage of women who paved the way for modern female rights movements. This piece explores the prejudiced narrative that has existed throughout time and was created to restrict women's rights.

Copyright note: Senator Hanson-Young audio sourced from ParView.

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Salieri

Riverstone High School
Darug Country

Alexander Billett

Adapted from the first scenes of Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*, *Salieri* illustrates the composer Antonio Salieri reminiscing about his arrival and success in Vienna, and his growing envy of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Copyright note: Source contains extracts from *Amadeus* by Sir Peter Shaffer.

St Eulalia

Inspired by *They don't pay? We won't pay!* by Dario Fo and Franca Rame. Translated by Jon Laskin and Michael Aquilante.

Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta
Burramattagal Country

Sharanya Kugan

St Eulalia is inspired by Dario Fo and Franca Rame's *They don't pay? We won't Pay!*, adapted with a cultural twist. A middle-aged Sri Lankan woman comedically expresses the tale of economically troubled times. This satirical piece aims to capture the 2022 mass protests against the Sri Lankan government, driven by public outrage over economic mismanagement that triggered severe inflation, blackouts and shortages of essentials.

Disgraced

Hunters Hill High School
Wallumedegal Country

Lucy Hardaker, Maxwell Patrick, Nash Williams

Disgraced is an avant-garde, absurdist exploration of the harsh realities faced by the severely impoverished living on our city streets. Rejected and overlooked by society, three street urchins turn to busking in a desperate attempt to survive. When their efforts prove fruitless, they resort to more daring measures and draw the authorities' unwanted attention.

Faded Incarnadine (Video Drama)

St Augustine's College Sydney
Gamaragal Country

Jesse O'Connor

Faded Incarnadine is about the struggles of teenage guilt and grief surrounding the death of a loved one. It explores the decay of a man's mental health as he comes to terms with confronting his father whom he feels disconnected from.

INTERVAL

Women's Issues (Moved Reading of Script)

**Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus
Gayamaygal Country**

Cal Fowler

Director: Ed Wightman

Performers: Laetitia Opie, Natalie Patterson, Callum Wilson

A medical clinic witnesses various 'god awful' issues that plague its patients. Moira Baker is luckily assured of her completely normal condition. Unsatisfied with Doctor Stanforth's assessment she requests a second opinion.

The Skip Bin Crisis

**Northern Beaches Secondary College, Manly Campus
Gayamaygal Country**

Annabelle Bartram, Alexandra Harris, Gabriella May, Madeleine Sgro

Four possums are suddenly evicted from their skip bin. They must now do everything it takes to save their home and livelihoods.

Meyne Wyatt's City of Gold

**Xavier College
Darug and Gundungurra Country
Grezzu Gino Vella**

This play explores the life of a Wongutha-Yamatji man when he returns home to the town of Kalgoorlie after the death of his father. It explores the lived experiences of being black in Australia.

Copyright note: This extract from City of Gold has been adapted for this performance by Grezzu Gino Vella.

Tanked

**Newington College
Gadigal Country**

Harvey Carnegie, Daniel Davison, Angus Fletcher, Thomas Gray, Benji Socratous, Darcy Yu

Six characters find themselves confined within the transparent walls of a tank. Merging the styles of mime, clowning and physical theatre, *Tanked* explores the nature of human problem-solving when we are faced with an unusual circumstance.



Program 2

All Quiet on the Emu Front

**Oxley College
Gundungurra Country**

Beam Disadee, Oscar Fox, Cameron Harris, Jacob Munn, Sergio Strang lori

All Quiet on the Emu Front follows farmers in Western Australia desperately protecting their lands, gifted for their World War I service, from incarnation of evil itself: the emus. What follows is utter chaos, a brutal skirmish between friend, feather, and foe. A warning of the cyclic nature of violence and war in one of Australia's defining moments. A great war, the great Emu war.

How Does that Make You Feel?

**Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School
Darug Country**

Tylar Smith

This dramatic comedy about a therapy session is a window into the life of a mentally and emotionally unstable man named Vergil. The audience is the therapist as they are exposed to a roller coaster of different events and experiences that affected this flamboyant, and at times outrageous, young man.

The Sinking Island of Teonimenu: 8 Waves of War

**Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School
Bundjalung Country**

Maysa Walton

Inspired by a true story, this cultural performance follows a young custom man in the Solomon Islands as he navigates the impacts of the Japanese invasion during World War 2. When high risks endanger his family, what lengths will he go to, and what power will he invoke to avenge his people?

Cosmos

**Moriah College
Gadigal Country**

Adi Bocman, Leielle Bocman, Talia Kadoury, Tamlyn Mayer, Keren Rafael

Cosmos is a satirical alternate history of the Space Race, focusing on the intense Cold War rivalry between the United States and Soviet Union. The story explores themes of nationalism, propaganda, and the absurd lengths each side will go to so they can claim the moon as their own, leading to catastrophe. This production emphasises the destructive impact of unchecked ambition on humanity.

A Monster Problem (Video Drama)

**Blaxland High School
Darug and Gundungurra Country**

Banjo Tucker

A Monster Problem challenges perceptions about environmental responsibility by balancing humour and hope with a serious message. A park ranger attempts to prevent littering and creates a monster out of rubbish to scare litterers. When his plan fails, he witnesses a group of children voluntarily cleaning up the park, revealing a glimmer of hope in the younger generation.

INTERVAL

The Bricks and Mortar Company (Moved Reading of Script)

**Coffs Harbour Senior College
Gumbaynggirr Country**

Olivander Polak

Director: Ed Wightman

Performers: Robert Minitier, Bakri Idris Mohamed, Laetitia Opie, Natalie Patterson, Leon Walshe, Callum Wilson

The Bricks and Mortar Company is satirical parable of the Arms Trade movie and the housing crisis. In the style of Brecht's Epic Theatre, the audience is subjected to the absurd and immoral actions of the businessmen of the Bricks and Mortar; Martin, Gruman, Rin and Roskogii. Their actions parallel the worsening corruption and greed of the commercial machine.

The Skip Bin Crisis

**Northern Beaches Secondary College, Manly Campus
Gayamaygal Country**

Annabelle Bartram, Alexandra Harris, Madi Heesom, Gabriella May (Friday only), Madeleine Sgro

Four possums are suddenly evicted from their skip bin. They must now do everything it takes to save their home and livelihoods.

Fireface

**Smiths Hill High School
Dharawal Country**

Julia Matthews

Olga is a troubled teenage girl in an incestuous relationship with her brother, Kurt, exacerbated by her dysfunctional nuclear family. In this extract from Marius von Mayenburg's *Fireface*, Olga seeks emotional release through recounting her violent acts.

To Dish Upon A Star

**SHORE – Sydney Church of England Grammar School
Gamaragal Country**

Harry Brigden, Hugh Gluskie, Edward Hall, Josh Satur, Jack Ingham Smith

In the boiling pot of the culinary world, five ambitious chefs at the Bellflower Inn juggle knives, eggs, and the quest to resurrect a legendary family recipe. As they spice up their kitchen antics and scramble to impress, they discover that true perfection is more than just a dash of salt and pepper — it's a recipe for camaraderie, passion, and a pinch of unexpected friendship.



Individual projects

Individual projects can be undertaken in Critical Analysis, Design, Script Writing or Video Drama. Exemplary individual projects by 2024 HSC Drama students will be available to view as a virtual exhibition on the NESA website in late February 2025, so all schools can celebrate and learn from 2024 HSC students online.

Critical Analysis

Director's Folio

Waltzing the Wilarra

Barker College
Darug Country

Eleanor Bock

Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman

Georges River College, Oatley Senior Campus
Gadigal and Darug Country

Maya Cerkic

Antigone

Abbotsleigh
Darug Country

Evangeline Hagen

Portfolio of Theatre Criticism

An Overview of Contemporary Theatre Practices

Colo High School
Darug Country

Laura Henderson

Diversity in Australian Theatre

Roseville College
Gamaragal Country

Abbey Sherwood

Portfolio of Theatre Criticism

St Joseph's Catholic College
Darkinjung Country

Olivia Zaia

Applied Research Project

Dreamtime Alive: The Evolution of Aboriginal Theatre in Modern Australia

Nimbin Central School
Bundjalung Country

Giselle Thenet

Design

Promotion and Program

Waltzing the Wilarra

Santa Sophia Catholic College (Secondary)

Darug Country

Meenal Nandhini

Tartuffe

Newington College

Gadigal Country

Benji Socratous

When Darkness Speaks: Stories In the Dark

Canley Vale High School

Darug Country

Minh Khang Tu

Lighting and Set Design

Stories in the Dark - set design

Newtown High School of Performing Arts

Gadigal Country

Haru Beyit

Death and the Maiden – lighting design

St Mary Star of the Sea College

Dharawal Country

Amelie Hutchins

The Visit – set design

Kambala

Gadigal Country

Sophie Scanlon

The Visit – set design

The Hills Grammar School

Darug Country

Elizabeth Vardouniotis

Costume Design

The Visit

Newtown High School of Performing Arts

Gadigal Country

Ines Garcia

The Taming of the Shrew (1980)

Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, The Entrance Campus

Darkinjung Country

Ariana Hemmerle

Waltzing the Wilarra

**SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Gadigal Country**

Natasha Herbert

Stories In The Dark - World Of Warscapes

**Presbyterian Ladies' College Sydney
Wangal Country**

Zoe Kopczyk

Scriptwriting

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**Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus
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OnSTAGE is presented by the
NSW Education Standards Authority
(NESA).

NESA showcases HSC excellence for
the benefit of students and teachers
in all NSW schools.

