

# OnSTAGE

SEYMORE 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 ParlView.*

*Misogyny Speech by Julia Gillard, permission provided by the Commonwealth of Australia under the 'Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International' licence.*

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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**  
**Gumbaynggir Country**

*Olivander Polak*  
*Director: Ed Wightman*

*Performers: Robert Miniter, 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

***Women's Issues***

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Gayamaygal Country**

*Cal Fowler*

***The Bricks and Mortar Company***

**Coffs Harbour Senior College  
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*Olivander Polak*

## Video Drama

***Faded Incarnadine***

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***A Monster Problem***

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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.

