

VCASS | **DANCE** | 2022

presents

Curtain UP

MAY 26 - 27 | 6 & 8PM

VCASS STUDIO THEATRE

57 MILES STREET, SOUTHBANK



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



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presents

Curtain **UP**



Steven McTaggart
HEAD OF DANCE

Studying and rehearsing works of major choreographers is an exciting and challenging experience. The dance staff are presenting some new choreography from our Jazz course, as well as adaptations of major works from contemporary and ballet repertoire.

We have been thrilled to see the students rise to meet this occasion and are proud to share their work with you in this season.

Fostering the future of young artists is important. It is what we do. Creating an appreciation for the profession and providing training for the mind, body and artistic spirit is evident in our performances and the careers of our alumni.

Please enjoy this performance of *Curtain Up*.

Program

YEAR 10 & 11 GIRLS BALLETT | *Entrance of the Swans* from Act II *Swan Lake* after Petit Pas

Swan Lake is arguably one of the most famous of ballets, showcasing the ultimate artistry and prowess of the ballerina. As a flight of swans come to land by a lake in Act II, the beauty and power of these birds is encapsulated in this iconic choreography and glorious music.

Teamwork and precision form the basis of the artistry required in this scene, emphasising the important role played by the corps de ballet.

YEAR 7 BALLETT | *Friends Dance* from Act 1 *Giselle* (1841)

Giselle is one of the great traditional Romantic ballets, a tale of love, betrayal and forgiveness originally choreographed by **Jean Coralli** and **Jules Perrot**. This adaptation from Act 1, occurs as we are introduced to the rural village, where Giselle's friends dance to celebrate the completion of the harvest.



YEAR 7 DANCE

Sean Yuet Hew, Ebony Veitch, Giorgiana Ridolfi, Chloe Lahood, Han Zhao,
Sheydin Glynn, Charlotte Trapani, Ella Eastoe and Lexi Robertson

YEAR 8 & 9 GIRLS BALLE | *Dance of the Hours* from the opera
La Gioconda (1880)

This stylised classical piece is taken from the opera *La Gioconda* composed by **Amilcare Ponchielli**. It depicts the hours of the day through solo and ensemble dances and forms part of the Vaganova Academy training. The girls have been exploring the artistry and elegance in the carriage of the body while challenging their technique en pointe. The choreography utilises the classwork we have been working on in Semester One in a refined and pure form. Highlights to look out for are uniformity, musicality and precision of technique.

YEAR 8 & 9 BOYS BALLE | *Stick Dance* from Act III of
La Fille Mal Gardée (1960)

This fun excerpt from **Frederick Ashton's *La Fille Mal Gardée*** is a presentation of the *Stick Dance* which appears in Act III. The choreography is based on Morris Dancing - English folk dancing that incorporates rhythmic stepping, clapping with sticks and coordinated shapes created by the ensemble.



YEAR 8 DANCE

Mika Reiss, Annabelle Tran, Christina Ivas, William Wiseman,
Misa Titcher, Milla Rigazzi and Nico Lundqvist

YEAR 7 CONTEMPORARY | *I Been 'Buked* from *Revelations* (1960)

This piece by **Alvin Ailey**, is the opening segment of *Revelations*, a pivotal work in the repertoire of the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**. The experiences of slavery and religion, were inspirations for this work made in homage to **Alvin Ailey's** mother. *I Been 'Buked* has been an extraordinary opportunity for our Year 7's to explore the power and purpose of this choreography.

YEAR 10, 11 & 12 JAZZ | *River* Choreographed by **Ross Hannaford** (2018)

The concept of standing in your power and never letting anyone walk over you has been great inspiration for this evocative track *River* by **Bishop Briggs**. The dancers are working hard to embody ideas of anger, courage, dominance and resistance; physically demanding qualities which employ great amounts of energy and attack. We hope you enjoy this high stakes play on power struggling to win its worth.

YEAR 8 CONTEMPORARY | Excerpt from *Hush* by **Christopher Bruce** (2006)

Christopher Bruce's *Hush* revels in the circus-like circumstances that raising a young family can bring. This short excerpt is adapted from a solo and duo segment that playfully uses swinging, falling and spontaneous movements to reflect the music and a sense of interaction throughout this engaging work.



YEAR 9 DANCE

Connor Bevis, Martin Cohen, Ryan Black, Darcy Donoghue,
Jasmine Pye, Emogen Gough, Desiree Li, Eliza McTaggart, Daisy Boo Allen, Matilda Eardley, Sharon Jiang, Keira Lee,
Ella Tan, Chloe Dan, Mishka Oehlers, Kurumi Laksmi and Jocelyn Wee Ching Wen
Missing | Banjo Chiron

YEAR 11 & 12 JAZZ ELECTIVE | *Shut It Down* Choreographed by Jack May

Jack May, our guest jazz elective choreographer, has drawn from a variety of commercial and urban dance genres to create this joyful and exuberant item. Its current style and genre challenges the timing, dynamic shifts and the high energy of the dancers. Enjoy!

YEAR 9 CONTEMPORARY | Excerpt from *Weather* by Lucy Guerin (2012)

This piece by **Lucy Guerin** explores the theme of weather patterns and our changing climate through movement and dancers' relationships. The year 9 students have imaginatively reconfigured some of this material into small group sections.

YEAR 11 VCE SOLOS

Thursday May 26

6pm | **Braelan Newman**

8pm | **Katherine Montgomery**

Friday May 27

6pm | **Katherine Montgomery**

8pm | **Chloe Pearce**

These solos are created by the students in VCE, honing decision-making skills in regard to all creative aspects of the choreography. These inventive and crafted works challenge and extend the students' abilities and are a major part of their VCE Dance Assessment.



YEAR 10 DANCE

Rocco Frediani, Hugo Ernst-Russell, Taj Cooper, Jack O'Toole,

Flynn Masterton, Ashton Smith, Thomas Stevens, Zachary Medved, Xavier Gibson, Samuel Holzberger, Molly Hughes, Ruby Monroe, Chloe Nikolovski, Pearl Southgate, Lily-Grace De Zwart, Ayshia-Mila Stromei, Sienna Babbage, Aishlinn McLean, Blythe Nadorp-Daw, Alicia Wong, Maddison Fisher and Mikaylah Caracciolo

YEAR 10 VCE COMPOSITION | *Drawn* Choreographed by
Steven McTaggart and Dancers

We have collaborated on a group dance for performance that is inspired by acts of magnetism, attraction and repulsion. Composed of learnt and self-devised sections, this work has honed the inventive, teaching and learning skills of our talented and energetic Year 10s.

YEAR 12 BALLET | Excerpt from *Year of the Rabbit* (2014)

Justin Peck is the Resident Choreographer of the *New York City Ballet* and you can see the lineage of both **Balanchine** and **Robbins** in this 2014 ballet *Year of the Rabbit*. The jazzy groupings of the ensemble counterpointed by a speedy soloist are pure **Balanchine**; while the clear 'conversations' going on between the dancers and other stage theatrics reflect **Robbins**. **Peck** brings his own youth and fun to the work as well as a sensational musicality.

YEAR 10 & 11 BOYS BALLET | Excerpt from *Artifact* (1984)

Here is an excerpt from *Artifact*; a work that some have called the greatest neo-classical ballet of the 20th Century - a big call! Choreographed by **William Forsythe** in 1984, it is still challenging audiences and dancers today, (performed mostly in its *Suite* version). The moving texture that **Forsythe** creates on the stage, forcing the audience to watch the big picture rather than individual dancers, helped change the way people watch concert dancing.



YEAR 11 DANCE

Braelan Newman, Oscar Flight, Jaidyn Millington, Mackenzie Hancock, Noah Sharpe,
Gabrielle Arnold, Jessica Smart, Lauren Edwards, Emma Mills, Bridget Stackpole,
Chloe Pearce, Katherine Montgomery, Lucy Clatworthy, Ella Morrison and Morgan Renolds

YEAR 11 VCE SOLOS

Thursday May 26

6pm | **Gabrielle Arnold**

8pm | **Morgan Renolds**

Friday May 27

6pm | **Morgan Renolds**

8pm | **Gabrielle Arnold**

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YEAR 10 CONTEMPORARY | Excerpts from *Vertical Road* by Akram Khan (2010)

Akram Khan's *Vertical Road* is a representation of an individual life, ascending the path from birth to death. A big subject! This excerpt has blended elements of the work together and challenged the dancers to create phrases inspired by this physically intense and powerful theme.

YEAR 11 CONTEMPORARY | Excerpts from *Gods and Dogs* (2008)

Jiri Kylian's piece centres around the ideas of clothes, costumes and bandages. The ways we cover or enhance our bodies, change our personalities or alter our social standing through our clothing, are aspects **Kylian** explored through this work. The Year 11s have reworked some of the learnt vocabulary into varying group structures.

YEAR 12 CONTEMPORARY | Excerpts from *2 One Another* (2012)

Raphael Bonachela worked closely with poet **Samuel Webster** and his *Sydney Dance Company* dancers to develop ideas for this work. **Webster** wrote imaginative responses to watching the dancers improvise in the studio. His words and phrases were then reinterpreted by the dancers individually to develop personal responses that were later shared and manipulated into various sections of the dance. **Bonachela's** key interest for the work is what shapes us as people. **Webster's** words were the catalyst for the dancers to explore their unique voice or perspective.



YEAR 12 DANCE

Audrey Moutia, Felix Milewski, Siobhan Cooper, Merrick Steinfort, Amelia Dixon, Ariana Wolf, Zac Purves, Lucas McLean, Hannah Lesniauskas, Ashley Brkovic, Tiana Magnussen, Rubi Hawkins and Mia Mangano

VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

ACTING PRINCIPAL

Donatella Mannolini

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Michael Sargeant & James Rust

HEAD OF DANCE

Steven McTaggart

DANCE STAFF

Janne Blanch, Madeleine Eastoe
Ross Hannaford, Tim Harbour,
Sela Kiek-Callan, & Fiona Munroe

MUSIC ACCOMPANIMENT

Olga Polyetayeva

PROMOTIONAL DESIGN

Dylan Breninger

PHOTOGRAPHY

Parade Pics

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SAVE THE DATE

- **THEATRE ARTS | *Love and Information***
25-26 May @ Lawler Theatre
- **DANCE | *Pétrouchka***
31 Aug - 3 Sept @ VCASS Studio Theatre
- **MUSIC | *Major Performance***
5 Sept @ Melbourne Recital Centre

Ticket information available @
vcass.vic.edu.au/vcass-life/events

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