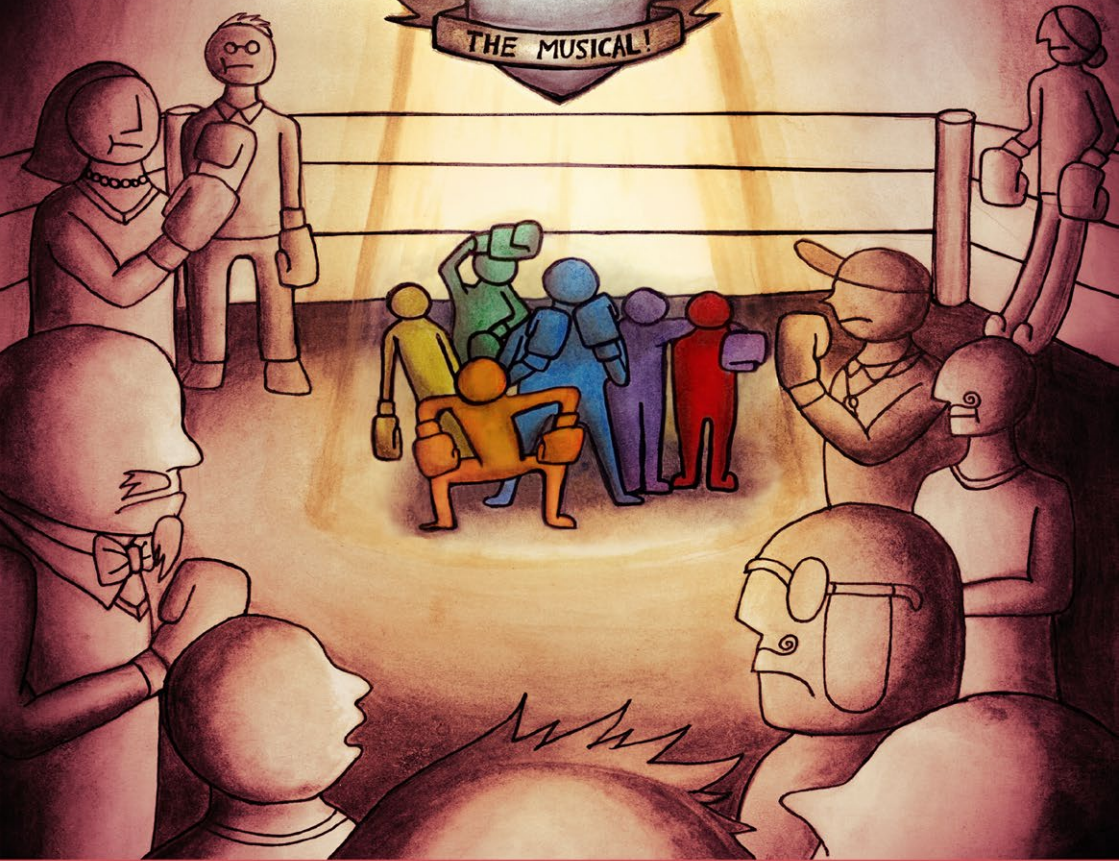


VCASS | THEATRE ARTS | 2022

presents

FIGHT!

THE MUSICAL!



An original musical theatre piece devised by the VCASS Year 11 Theatre Arts students
under the direction of Ross Hannaford and Nicholas Hedger

THURSDAY 1 AND FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 2022 AT 6PM

SOUTHBANK THEATRE MTC | LAWLER THEATRE

140 Southbank Boulevard Southbank



**SOUTHBANK
THEATRE**



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Education
and Training

Cover Art by Michael Doyle and Yuehan (Vivian) Ren

It has been an absolute joy working with the Year 11 Theatre Arts students; some of the smartest, kindest and hardworking students I have had the privilege of working with.

I am immensely proud of the process we have gone through to create this exciting piece of theatre. The layered learning that has been achieved over the last three terms will stand these students in good stead as they move into Year 12.

We began with ideas surrounding status quo, fighting for what you believe in and power imbalances. *Fight! The Musical* explores the tear between the immense weight of what has always been done and the fight for how we want things to be. A timely exploration as we all navigate and tussle with the social, cultural and governance changes the globe has faced in the last five years.

Navigating 18 students' creative input can be a complex and a delicate operation. Although it has been difficult at times, I believe we have been inclusive and in turn each student has had the opportunity to contribute, create and take ownership of the piece. We began with lessons on how to function effectively as a group, using healthy communication skills and I hope the students hold these skills close to them as they move forward with more confidence in their futures.



ROSS HANNAFORD

DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER



NICK HEDGER

MUSIC DIRECTOR / PIANO



A huge thank you to Nick Hedger, our Musical Director who has been with us every step of the way. Nick's skills in music theatre vocal arrangement are some of the best in the country. He is also excellent in devising and composition and has been key to the overall form of the show.

A big congratulations and 'Chookas' to the students for their efforts in getting this incredibly challenging piece across the line. I hope that they have learnt a lot and have grown in confidence throughout the process.

I would also like to thank our Principal, Hilary Bland, and Head of Theatre Arts, Chris Button, for their continued trust and support. Indeed, there are many others to thank including a special mention to Silvana Rossington who worked with the students for an entire term and to Dylan Breninger who brings his unique creativity and care to the program graphic design each year. We are spoilt by the talent of the exceptional staff at VCASS and additional thanks must go to Michael Sargeant, James Rust, Jenny Purcell, and all the staff at the Lawler Theatre.

I will conclude by thanking the friends and family who have supported the students through a critical time in their development. Thank you for encouraging each of them and teaching them the value of persistence and resilience when faced with challenges.

I hope you enjoy the performance.

ROSS HANNAFORD

DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER





Music Theatre Workshop is a four-term study within the Theatre Arts program. It is a performance-based course that introduces students to different ways of working, new performance vocabulary and the particular skills required to devise and realise a work in this performance style.



The work created by Ross Hannaford, Nick Hedger and the members of the Company focuses on what it means to become a unique individual, to know what is important and what should be challenged, to be resilient, to be kind to others and to understand the power and responsibilities of agency.

A genuine 'ensemble' piece, *Fight!* is an ambitious work: a multi-voiced narrative punctuated by songs that advance rather than just embellish the story. I hope that audiences enjoy the work as much as I have enjoyed watching its realisation over the past seven months.





All concepts, staging and choreography have been created in collaboration with the students and the creative team. The script was created by the students and edited by Ross Hannaford.

The following students led the way in writing the script in consultation with the entire year 11 Theatre Arts class.

Bethanie Matic | **Natasha Nette**
Tate Newman | Jessica Wardle

TILL IT HAPPENS TO YOU

Composer | Lady Gaga, Diane Warren
Choreographer | Ross Hannaford

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO CHRIS — ~~THE~~ CARRIE

Composer | Michael Gore
Lyrics | Dean Pitchford
Choreography | Storm Maksutova, Chloe Crellin & Eva Tegar

TOTALLY DONE! — SPRING AWAKENING

Composer | Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater
Choreography | Lily Moran, Bethanie Matic & Michael Douthwaite





THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Composer | Queen

Choreography | Rahnee Parker, Darcy Dowling, Natasha Nette & Yianni Paikopoulos

I'M STILL STANDING

Composer | Elton John & Bernie Taupin

Choreography | Rahnee Parker

YOU WILL BE FOUND - DEAR EVAN HANSEN

Composer | Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

Choreography | Jess Wardle, Coco Mccuaig, Dante Tierney

PERFECT

Composer | Pink, Max Martin & Shellback

Choreography | Jess Wardle, Coco Mccuaig, Keely Baird







MEDLEY

Arrangement | Nick Hedger

Before I go | Guy Sebastian, David Hodges & Jamie Hartman

Survivor | Beyonce, Anthony Dent, Matthew Knowles

Fighter | Christina Aguilera & Scott Storch

LIGHT — NEXT TO NORMAL

Composers | Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey



THE CAST



**KEELY
BAIRD**



**SCARLETT
BRUMBY**



**CHLOE
CRELLIN**



**MICHAEL
DOUTHWAITE**



**DARCY
DOWLING**



**CAS
HANSEN**



**STORM
MAKSUTOVA**



**BETHANIE
MATIĆ**



**COCO
MCCUAIG**



**EMMA
MITCHELL**



**LILY
MORAN**



**NATASHA
NETTE**



**TATE
NEWMAN**



**YIANNI
PAIKOPOULOS**



**RAHNEE
PARKER**



**EVA
TEGART**



**DANTE
TIERNEY**



**JESS
WARDLE**

2022 YEAR 11 THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS

(PHOTOGRAPH BY PARADE PICS)



VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL
Hilary Bland

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Donatella Mannolini, Michael Sargeant
& James Rust

HEAD OF THEATRE ARTS
Christopher Button

THEATRE ARTS ADMINISTRATION
Jenny Purcell

DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER
Ross Hannaford

MUSIC DIRECTOR / PIANO
Nick Hedger

SCRIPT
Students & the Creatives

TECHNICAL MANAGER
Michael Sargeant

COVER ARTWORK
Michael Doyle and Yuehan (Vivian) Ren

**PROMOTIONAL DESIGN
& PHOTOGRAPHY**
Dylan Breninger

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