

VCASS | THEATRE ARTS
presents



LITTLE BOXES

AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL THEATRE PIECE
DEvised BY THE VCASS YEAR 12 THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ROSS HANNAFORD

WEDNESDAY 6 | THURSDAY 7
APRIL 2022 @ 6PM

SOUTHBANK THEATRE | MTC LAWLER THEATRE
140 SOUTHBANK BLVD, SOUTHBANK



**SOUTHBANK
THEATRE**



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Education
and Training



**ROSS
HAN'NAFORD**
DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER

We would be forgiven for wanting to rename this production *Against All Odds*. The pandemic threw everything at us, as it did for so many. However here we are, despite lockdowns and individual isolation requirements, proudly able to share our work with you. I feel very grateful to be once again presenting live theatre and I'm fascinated by the technological side effects of Covid that remain. The opening performance of **Little Boxes** will be streamed live for many of our friends and family to enjoy anywhere in the world.



NICK HEDGER
MUSIC DIRECTOR / PIANO

The development process began with ideas surrounding identity, who we are versus who we want to be. That feeling of being stuck in a box that you don't fit in can be stifling and painful. Not surprisingly, bravery became a common theme to explore. Can the child break free from an unsustainable environment and find their own lane? Our musical explores the tear between the love of family and the acceptance of who you truly are.



Navigating 19 students' creative input can be a complex and delicate operation. Although it has been trying 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 to their futures.

A huge thank you to **Nick Hedger**, our Musical Director, who has been with us every step of the way, facing incredibly difficult restrictions surrounding singing and pandemic rules. 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.

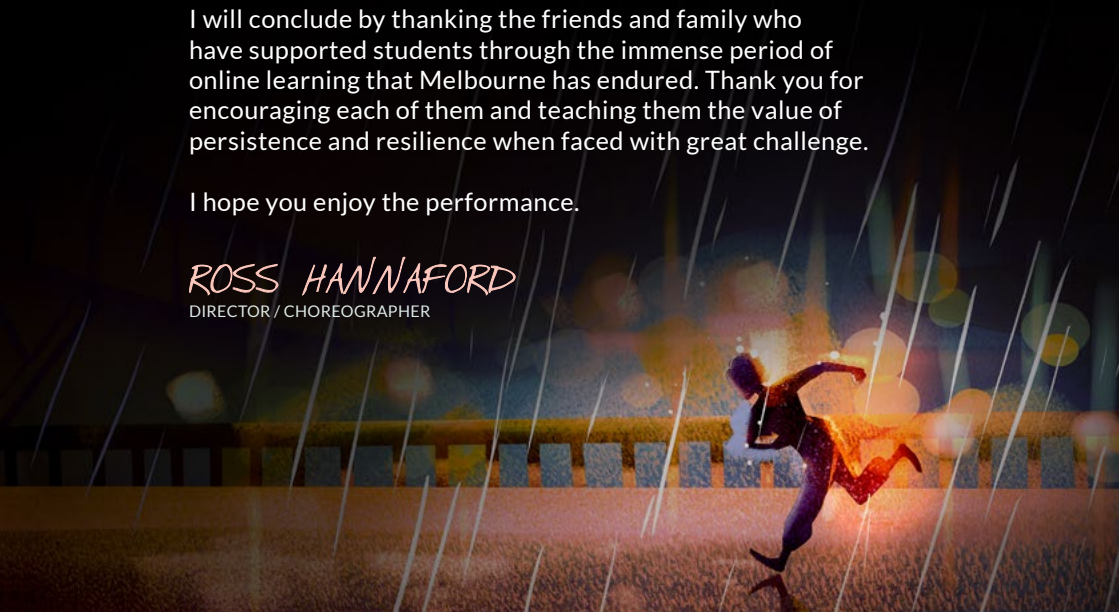
A big congratulations and 'Chookas' to the students for their efforts in getting this incredibly challenging piece across the line. I hope that they have learnt a lot and have grown in confidence throughout the process.

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 **Michael Sargeant**, **James Rust**, **Daniel Holden**, **Jenny Purcell** and all the staff at the Lawler Theatre.

I will conclude by thanking the friends and family who have supported students through the immense period of online learning that Melbourne has endured. Thank you for encouraging each of them and teaching them the value of persistence and resilience when faced with great challenge.

I hope you enjoy the performance.

ROSS HANNAFORD
DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER





This year's Music Theatre Workshop became 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 realise a work in this performance style.

The work created by **Ross Hannaford, Nick Hedger** and the members of Company 2022 is a series of 'snap-shots' of what it means to become an individual, to challenge the known and contemplate how agency can promise an authentic future. A genuine 'ensemble' piece, ***Little Boxes*** is an ambitious work that weathered the travails of COVID lock-down and has emerged as an engaging piece of multi-voiced story telling.

CHRISTOPHER BUTTON

HEAD OF THEATRE ARTS



PROGRAM

BORN THIS WAY

Composer | **Lady Gaga**
Vocals | **Francesca Zeccola**

BOXES

Composer | **Gavin James**
Choreographer | **Ross Hannaford**

CORNER OF THE SKY

Composer | **Stephen Schwartz**

TIMES ARE HARD FOR DREAMERS

Composer | **Daniel Messé**
Choreography | **Sylvia Kokkinos** and
Caitlin Thompson assisted by
Hailey Watson and **Felicity Mahney**

HAIR

Composer | **Lady Gaga**
Choreographer | **Ross Hannaford**

AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IT

Composer | **Dan Gillespie Sells**
Choreography | **Abby Perks**



PROGRAM

BORN THIS WAY

Composer | **Lady Gaga**

Vocals | **Sylvia Kokkinos**

All concepts, scripts, staging and choreography have been created in collaboration with the students and creative team.

LOUDER THAN WORDS

Composer | **Jonathan Larson**

IN

Composer | **Michael Gore**

Lyrics | **Dean Pitchford**

Choreography | **Shaelyn Connor,**

Thierry Mendoza and **Leo Dunshea**

BITCH OF A LIVING

Composer | **Duncan Sheik**

Lyrics | **Steven Sater**

Choreography | **Vivienne Price**

assisted by **Josie Laidlaw Grealy**

BORN THIS WAY

Composer | **Lady Gaga**

Vocals | **Shaelyn Connor**

YOU LEARN

Composer | **Alanis Morissette**





LITTLE BOXES THE CAST



ABBY PERKS



BELLA KORFF



CAITLIN
THOMPSON



CHELSEA
MACKENZIE
GEORGE



DARCY BRYCE



ELLEN
PENNELL



ELLI NEAL



FELICITY
MAHNEY



FRANCESCA
ZECCOLA



HAILEY WATSON



JOSIE LAIDLAW
GREALY



LEO DUNSHEA



POPPY GORDON



RUBY JEWEL
WHITELEY



SARAH WARREN



SHAELYN
CONNOR



SYLVIA
KOKKINOS



THIERRY
MENDOZA



VIVIENNE
PRICE



2022 YEAR 12 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 COORDINATOR
& ADMINISTRATION**
Jenny Purcell

DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER
Ross Hannaford

MUSIC DIRECTOR / PIANO
Nick Hedger

SCRIPT
Students & the Creatives

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Daniel Holden

COVER ARTWORK
Claire Magris & Caroline Fang

**PROMOTIONAL DESIGN
& PHOTOGRAPHY**
Dylan Breninger

Follow us on: **Instagram** 

www.instagram.com/vcasssecondaryschool

UPCOMING TERM 2 EVENTS

Ticket information available @

www.vcass.vic.edu.au

- **MUSIC | Vocal Concert**
11 May @ VCASS Recital Room
- **MUSIC | Year 11 & 12 Solos Concerts**
17, 18 & 19 May @ VCASS Recital Room

SAVE THE DATE

- **THEATRE ARTS | Love and Information**
25-26 May @ Lawler Theatre
- **DANCE | Major Performance**
1-3 Sept @ Studio 1 VCASS
- **MUSIC | Major Performance**
5 Sept @ Melbourne Recital Centre

VCASS STREAMING

In order to view a streamed VCASS event you must first register with our streaming platform. **Register Now.**

Once you have registered you can access all our streamed events. **Go to VCASS Presents.**