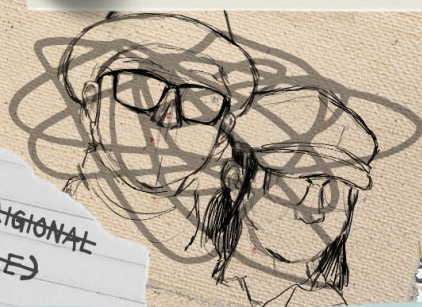




~~TOTALLY REAL~~
~~SCRIPTED~~ UNTITLED
~~IN REAL LIFE~~
~~REAL (WORKING TITLE)~~
[INSERT AUTHENTIC
TITLE HERE]



based on a real
story

TO BE ORIGINAL
AKING TITLE)

THING REAL

ORK

6PM THURS 30
NOVEMBER AND
6PM FRI 1 DECEMBER
VCASS | RECITAL ROOM

VCA Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Department
of Education



AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL THEATRE PIECE
DEvised BY THE VCASS YEAR 11 THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF NICOLE MELLOy AND DANIELE BUATTI

[INSERT AUTHENTIC
TITLE HERE]

NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

I am so proud of the continuing success of the music theatre course within the Theatre Arts program. This program trains students across four terms of intense studies and is a huge challenge in underpinning new skills, devising theatre and, of course, performing live. The process itself, as well as the singing and dance sessions, are provoking in the best way possible; they generate great scope for personal growth, personal bests and the learning of what it is to work in a respectful, creative and cohesive team.



ROSS HANNAFORD
COORDINATOR

[Insert Authentic Title Here] is an ensemble piece at its best, a show within a show with all the complexities that go with it. This musical challenges authenticity and the many layers we must scratch back to find who we truly are. Who says you are authentic, only you can truly know and it is in this insecure pretence that we grapple with this theme.

I want to provide a heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the Director, Nicole Melloy, who took this project on with heart, energy and great passion. Her dedication from start to finish to every aspect of this project has been amazing; high care, high expectations and highly creative. I also want to thank Daniele Buatti who joined us mid-process and took to this course with rigour and determination. Thank you to both of you for what I know has been a valuable learning experience for the students. Thank you to Hilary Bland and the entire leadership team for your ongoing support and the valuing of the music theatre program within Theatre Arts.

Best of luck Year 11 Theatre Arts students.

Insert Chookas here

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been an utter delight this year to work with this upbeat Year 11 Theatre Arts class to create a musical from scratch. It was the students' individuality that initially inspired me to explore the very foundation of the piece; authenticity.

From my very first class with this unique bunch of actors I was anticipating the fun we could have with 20 different ideas about what it is 'to be real' at a time in life when you are navigating the complex terrain of discovering your identity, in a society that is saturated with fake stuff. In our initial explorations we discussed being bombarded with curated social media profiles, heavily edited imagery, artificial personas, politicians that lie, generations of people who suppress what they are truly feeling, and even explored the notion that being inauthentic is often a social survival tactic.



NICOLE MELLODY
DIRECTOR



DANIELE BUATTI
MUSICAL DIRECTOR



After writing individual monologues to use as inspiration for group scenes, the students presented me with a colourful and random array of fascinating skits with everything from a dysfunctional Mafia family through to a bunch of writers who kept bringing up the topic of zebras and lions. Amazing and terrifying!

How do you thread these ideas together in a seamless and thematic way? This kind of editing or crafting takes years of workshoping with some of the best writers from around the world. During many lively workshop sessions, we realised that the only way to do justice to the theme was to base it on something real. Therefore, in striving to create and indeed 'save our own musical' we looked to what was playing out in front of us and began writing a show within a show, creating a somewhat meta and ultimately 'authentic' musical.

I am really proud of what the students have been able to achieve. We have learnt a lot about the importance of class etiquette, getting on with the work, doing the preparation, being inclusive, supporting our colleagues and covering for our peers in the craft of being an understudy. Not to mention the art of singing, dancing and acting simultaneously as is required for a career in Musical Theatre! It is my hope that these skills stand the students in good stead as they move forward into their future pursuits. And did I mention the students are upbeat? And also incredibly brave? They chose theatrical songs, big showy choreography, colourful costumes and bold characters. Consistently plunging themselves into the singing and lunging into the dancing with open hearts and determined minds, voices, and limbs.

A huge thank you to Daniele Buatti, who amazingly came onto the project halfway through the year. He is a truly dedicated teacher, and when I put my hand out, he willingly jumped off the cliff into the crazy, creative abyss. I am so grateful for his musical prowess and his consistent ability to collaborate with respect and creativity.

I would also like to thank the course coordinator and my predecessor Ross Hannaford, who has been so generous with his mentorship and administrative expertise. He was truly pivotal in keeping everything on course; a sensible lighthouse throughout the creative storm.



Finally, I would like to thank the principal Hilary Bland, for her belief not only in me but the importance of this project. I would also like to thank Donatella Mannolini and Joel Batalha for their care and attentiveness, Goran Banyai for his much appreciated work with the students on Fridays in Term 4, the year 11 Visual Arts students Alicia and Erk for their poster design and Dylan Breninger for the program design and photography, Tom Backhaus for his stage management, and the broader Theatre Arts department for their guidance and contributions. We are so lucky to have such an amazing staff at VCASS.

My greatest ambition with this course is that the students walk away with a better appreciation and understanding of the joyous art form that is musical theatre. However, this class embraced and respected the medium before we even began. It is no surprise to me that the message of this show is one of hope and positivity: The show must go on. To quote one of our song motifs, it's just Got to be Real.

I would like to send a very authentic 'Chookas' to the students for their season, and thank them for such a brilliant personal experience for my first year in this role.







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 co-written with Nicole Melloy.

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

MINKA LUKEY ENHUI CAI CHLOE JOHNSTONE OLLY SPENCER
HEAD WRITER

MUSIC CREDITS

MY OWN DRUM

by Lin-Manuel Miranda from the film *Vivo*

CHOREOGRAPHY | Nicole Melloy

SUNDAY

by Jonathan Larson from the musical *Tick Tick Boom!*

CHOREOGRAPHY | Students led

by Tea Govers-Thomas

THERAPY

by Jonathan Larson from the musical *Tick Tick Boom!*

CHOREOGRAPHY | Students led

by Phoebe Jackman

MAGIC TO DO

by Stephen Schwartz from the musical *Pippin*

CHOREOGRAPHY | Students led

by Lily Major

FROM NOW ON

by Pasek and Paul from the film *The Greatest Showman*

CHOREOGRAPHY | Students led

by Ashlyn Norman

SHOW YOURSELF

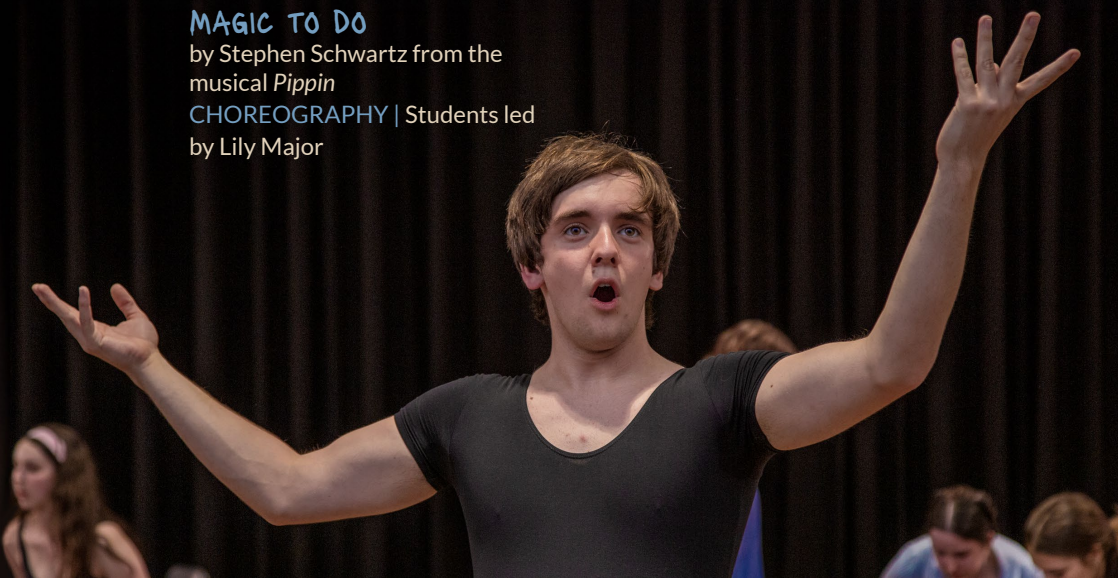
by Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez from the film *Frozen II*

CHOREOGRAPHY | Nicole Melloy

GOT TO BE REAL

by Cheryl Lynn, David Paich, and David Foster from the album *Cheryl Lynn*

CHOREOGRAPHY | Nicole Melloy







[INSERT AUTHENTIC TITLE HERE] -THE CAST



ENHUI CAI



CHARLES COURT



LILIANA CRISMANI



LUCAS DWYER



JOEY FORSYTH



TEA
GOVERS-THOMAS



SOPHIA GRANT



MIKA HATHERLEY



PHOEBE JACKMAN



CHLOE JOHNSTONE



MINKA LUKEY



LILY MAJOR



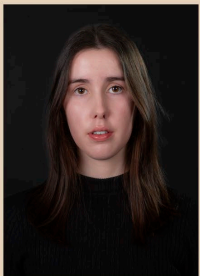
TILLY MILEWSKA



ASHLYN NORMAN



DARCY SMITH



GABI
SNOOK-VILLALOBOS



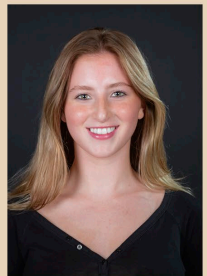
OLLY SPENCER



ELSIE STEELE



OLIVER TURNER



TIA UPTER

[INSERT AUTHENTIC
TITLE HERE]



2023 Year 11 Theatre Arts Students

(PHOTOGRAPH BY PARADE PICS)

**VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

PRINCIPAL
Hilary Bland

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Joel Batalha, Donatella Mannolini & James Rust

DIRECTOR
Nicole Melloy

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Daniele Buatti

**THEATRE ARTS
MUSIC THEATRE COORDINATOR**
Ross Hannaford

SCRIPT
Students & the Creatives

COVER ARTWORK
Alicia Thienpaitoon and Erk Cadzow

**PROGRAM DESIGN
& PHOTOGRAPHY**
Dylan Breninger

Follow us on:



www.instagram.com/vcasecondaryschool



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Department
of Education