

VCASS | THEATRE ARTS

presents



FESS UP!

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES.
24 HOURS WITH A GROUP OF YOUNG ADULTS AS THEY
BRAVE A DAY THAT COULD CHANGE THEIR LIVES
FOREVER. CAN THEY BEAR TO CONFESS TRUTHS THAT
HAVE GONE UNSAID FOR FAR TOO LONG?

TUESDAY 27 & WEDNESDAY 28
APRIL 2021 @ 6PM

SOUTHBANK THEATRE
MTC LAWLER THEATRE



**SOUTHBANK
THEATRE**



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Education
and Training



For a second there I had almost forgotten the exciting thrill and churning anticipation associated with the creation of live performance.

Currently the future of live performing arts is at the mercy of the dreaded 'C' word. This constant 'at risk' cloud has added an intensity and will to our journey from rehearsal room to stage. A will to remind our audiences of the theatre's ability to challenge, transform and innovate people's attitudes and conceptions. To say we are excited to be performing again, and in the Lawler Theatre no less, would be an understatement.

Creating the credits page for this program was almost an impossible task. It demonstrates the huge collaborative effort and creative force that contributed to '*Fess Up!*' Navigating 19 individuals' creative input can be a difficult task, but ultimately it has been much more engaging for the actors and, we hope, a more surprising and provoking experience for the audience.

We began with ideas surrounding bravery, not only courageous acts usually associated with the theme but also more subtle ideas like the courage it takes to hold space for someone, or the mettle needed to stand up for yourself. The students devised five vignettes which traverse yet unite a vast array of themes, all very evocative and unique in their own way.

This is a direct reflection of the students' own uniqueness but also their willingness to create with vulnerability and authenticity.

I want to congratulate and wish the students a big Chookas for the performances. They have created an incredibly complex and challenging musical, the perfect playing ground to demonstrate their immense talent and potential. A bright future ahead for this group I think.

A huge thank you to **Nick Hedger** our musical Director who has been with us every step of the way. Nick bounces ideas about with care and thought, and is a wonderful support. I very much appreciate his skills, particularly in the area of devising and composition.

I would also like to thank our Principal **Hilary Bland** and Head of Theatre Arts **Chris Button** for their continued trust and support.

Welcome back to the theatre and enjoy the performance.

Ross Hannaford
DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER



Music Theatre Workshop is a three-term study integrated into the Theatre Arts program. It is a performance-based course that introduces students to a different way of working, a new performance vocabulary and the skills required to realise a work in this performance style.



The work created by **Ross Hannaford**, **Nick Hedger** and the members of Company 2021 is an exploration of the expectations and anxieties of a group of young people on the cusp of leaving secondary school for the 'whatever' that is to come. Complex in narrative structure and technically demanding, **'Fess Up!'** is an ambitious work that combines acting, movement, vocal and instrumental skills to tell an engaging and enjoyable story.

Chris Button
HEAD OF THEATRE ARTS

Nick Hedger
MUSIC DIRECTOR / PIANO



**FESS
UP!**

**THE
CAST**



Rex Balfe



Janita Barber



James Dikranian



Jess Harding



Loz Hawkins



Desiree Katakis



Jack Linke



Milana
Markovic-Matovic



Danae Melzer



Heidi Milne



Alex Mulcahy



Ashton
O'Donovan



Seb Poole



Grace Rosebirch



Eryn Saunders



Molly Simpson



Lucy Stubbs



Rad Valance



Zuzanna Wiech

PROGRAM

Little Voice

Composer | Sara Bareilles
Choreography | Ross Hannaford

Brave

Composer | Sara Bareilles
Choreography | Ross Hannaford

Beautiful

Composer | Laurence O'Keefe & Kevin Murphy
Choreography | Ross Hannaford

Confession

Composer | Lynne Shankel
Arrangement | Damon Intransartolo

Yellow Brick Road 1

Composer | Elton John
Lyrics | Bernie Taupin
Vocals | Heidi Milne

How Deep is Your Love?

Composers | The Bee Gees
Choreography | Jem Melzer

Take Me to Church

Composer | Hozier
Arrangement | Eryn Saunders
Choreography | Eryn Saunders, Sebastian Poole & Ross Hannaford

Yellow Brick Road 2

Composer | Elton John
Lyrics | Bernie Taupin
Vocals | Eryn Saunders

Strong

Composer | **London Grammar**

Lyrics | **Hannah Reid**

Arrangement | **Mia Robinson**

Backing Track Arrangement | **Loz Hawkins**

Choreography | **Desiree Katakis & Ross Hannaford**

Yellow Brick Road 3

Composer | **Elton John**

Lyrics | **Bernie Taupin**

Choreography | **Ross Hannaford**

Piano | **Nick Hedger**

Vocals | **Desiree Katakis**

Under Pressure | Break Free | Don't Stop Me Now

Composers | **Queen**

Choreography | **Lucy Stubbs & Ross Hannaford**

Arrangement | **Loz Hawkins**

Musicians | **Nick Hedger, James Dikranian, Rex Balfe,**

Ashton O'Donovan, Rad Valance & Loz Hawkins

Yellow Brick Road 4

Composer | **Elton John**

Lyrics | **Bernie Taupin**

Vocals & Piano | **Loz Hawkins**

Up

Composers | **Gary Clark & John Carney**

Arrangement | **Loz Hawkins**

Choreography | **Lucy Stubbs**

Home

Composer | **Charlie Smalls**

Arrangement | **Nick Hedger & Ben Nicholson**

Piano | **Nick Hedger**

Script Contributions

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

Zuzanna Wiech

Heidi Milne

Sebastian Poole

Rad Valance

Jessica Harding

Ross Hannaford







2021 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

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

PROMOTIONAL DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY

Dylan Breninger

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UPCOMING TERM 2 EVENTS

Ticket information available @
www.vcass.vic.edu.au

- **MUSIC | Vocal Concert**
4 & 5 May @ VCASS Recital Room
- **MUSIC | Year 11 Solos Concerts**
12 & 13 May @ VCASS Recital Room
- **THEATRE ARTS | DAGS**
19 May @ Lawler Theatre

SAVE THE DATE

- **THEATRE ARTS | Almost, Maine**
1 & 2 June @ Lawler Theatre
- **DANCE | Major Performance Season**
5 & 7 August
- **MUSIC | Major Performance Season**
15 September @ Melbourne Recital Centre

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