

DRAMA HAPPENS HERE



“The dedication and quality of Girton’s thriving Drama Department with its many amazing performance opportunities fosters students’ talent by providing them with the skills necessary to become confident performers. The discipline is embraced at Girton - I cannot think of a better school in the region to explore the Performing Arts.”

BRONTE BAILEY, DRAMA CAPTAIN (2016-2017),
VCE THEATRE STUDIES TOP ACTS PERFORMER 2016
AND THREE TIME WINNER OF THE
'ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL'

Girton Grammar School has a rich and enduring culture in the Performing Arts, and Drama is a part of every student's life from Prep up until Year 8. Beyond Year 8, students can choose specialised Drama electives in Year 9 which lead to VCE Theatre Studies and VCE Drama.

All Senior School students can also participate in co-curricular Drama including productions, The One Act Play Festival and at various events and assemblies.

Within an artistically inspired atmosphere, Girton students quickly develop a sense of confidence and an avenue for creative expression that weaves its way through all parts of school and home life.

Drama provides an outlet for the safe and genuine creative expression of the mind, body and spirit.



“It’s crazy and wonderful to think that the fun I had in my Drama classes and school productions is now what I’ve decided to do with my life.”

EMILY HAVEA, NIDA GRADUATE
AND 2009 GIRTON GRADUATE



THE BENEFITS OF PERFORMING ARTS

Studies have shown that students involved in theatre develop better cognitive skills, exhibit higher self-esteem, build collaborative and social skills, display better study habits and consistently perform higher on tests. Marked increases have been noted in students' creativity, teamwork, leadership, responsibility and commitment. Involvement also helps students improve their time management, communication, interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence..

The process of putting on a school production cultivates school spirit and generates community support.

It helps students make intellectual connections across a variety of subjects. The success of the Performing Arts at Girton may best be measured by the self-confidence, discipline, character, cooperation and self-esteem instilled in the students who have participated in the Drama Program, as they master the diverse skills necessary to perform to an audience.



THE PROGRAM

The Girton Grammar Drama program provides students with an education in all aspects of drama, theatre production and performance. Through specialist trained teachers, rigorous curriculum content and a range of incursions and field trips to experience professional theatre locally and in Melbourne, students are immersed in the Australia's Performing Arts industry.

The Drama subjects in the senior years sit alongside a huge array of co-curricular Drama opportunities in both the Junior School and Senior School.

Facilities include a Performing Arts building with a fully equipped and much-loved "Black Box" Theatre, a number of private music tuition rooms, plus a dance studio. The Junior School Hall is magically transformed into a theatre with the full suite of professional sound and lighting equipment, to give every student a taste of the big time!

Every year there are grand-scale theatre productions, performed at Bendigo's renowned Ulumbarra or Capital Theatres, giving students a "real-life" opportunity to experience a professional theatre environment.



“I believe Girton is the premier school in Bendigo for Performing Arts courses and co-curricular opportunities with amazing rooms, spaces and staff available to assist with the growth of each student involved.”

LACHLAN GEARY, A+ THEATRE STUDIES
GRADUATE 2015 AND “TOP CLASS”
PERFORMER AT MELBOURNE ARTS CENTRE.

JUNIOR SCHOOL DRAMA

At Girton Grammar Junior School, the annual production involves all students in Years Two, Four and Six. The production process is incorporated into the specialist Drama and Music curricula.

Students have the opportunity to prepare an audition to apply to be a main character. Over the course of the rehearsal period, students learn music and lyrics, choreography and how to present a character on stage in a theatrical story. As young theatre makers, students are encouraged to continually evaluate and reflect on ways they can improve, both as individuals and as a class or group, to reach the high quality performance standards expected. They learn how to use relevant language to contribute constructive feedback.

The energy and buzz of being part of a live theatre performance can be life changing. Not everyone wants to be an actor, but everyone performs in various roles in everyday life. Theatre performance develops life skills. At Girton, we are proud to witness the journey of our students as they develop these skills through our Performing Arts programme.





“Productions have been one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done at Girton. We have one of the most supportive and dedicated Performing Arts Departments that I’ve ever heard of. I cannot encourage other students enough to take a chance, believe in yourself, and have the time of your life.”

GRACE PHILLIPS, “MRS POTTS”, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, GRADUATE 2016. 2020 VCA GRADUATE - MUSICAL THEATRE



PERFORMANCES

Performance opportunities are the best way to develop confidence and presentation skills in students. On stage is where the real magic happens.

With Bendigo's largest Performing Arts program, there is a creative opportunity for every student. From Prep through to Year 12 students are given several opportunities each year to perform. This includes our Junior and Senior School Productions, Year 8 Production as well as the "End of Year Spectacular".

Learning is hands-on in Drama, with students writing scripts; designing costumes; creating sets and stage lighting; participating in specialist workshops; and experiencing the satisfaction of collaborating with peers and the thrill of a performance to be proud of, always.



THE ONE ACT PLAYS

This annual festival 'kick-starts' our Performing Arts calendar of events at the end of Term One.

The event showcases the original work largely written and directed by Girton Grammar students. Students have several weeks to develop short performance pieces which are presented before an audience and a panel of judges in the Black Box Theatre. Students have the opportunity to receive awards for script writing, directing and performing. The coveted prize of the 'Best Play' trophy is hotly contended, and rightly so!

Apart from the awards, students who are part of the One Act Play festival have the opportunity to work with students from different year levels and explore a variety of performance styles including comedy, absurdism and melodrama.







YEAR 8 PRODUCTION

Every Girton Grammar School student remembers their Year 8 Production with great fondness. As a compulsory requirement for every Year Eight student in the school, this is a unique event designed for students to experience what it is like to 'tread the boards' and create a large scale musical production. Whether it's singing, dancing, acting or having a single line to perform, the Year 8 Production is a wonderful learning experience that encourages even the most reluctant performer.

Students who are interested in a lead role audition early in the year and attend regular rehearsals outside of class time. The entire Year Eight cohort learn choreography, receive singing lessons as well as acting tuition to help them prepare towards this event during class time.



SENIOR SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Girton Grammar's Senior School Production is one of the biggest events on the school calendar. Students from years seven to twelve are able to audition at the beginning of the year before embarking on a five month rehearsal period towards a large scale play or musical at the end of Term Two. Each year, the Senior School Production is staged at either the Ulumbarra Theatre or Capital Theatre in front of sell out audiences.

The Senior School Production allows students a range of onstage opportunities such as acting, singing or dancing as well as providing incredible opportunities to be involved in on-location publicity photoshoots, media interviews and working alongside industry professionals. Students can also be part of the action in backstage roles and operating various types of theatre technologies.

Apart from the theatrical experience, students often form lasting friendships, learn the value of team-work and develop a greater sense of confidence at school by being part of the Senior School Production







PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

The Performing Arts Showcase is an annual event held in Term Three which celebrates some of the strongest performers, designers and creators from across the school.

Students are nominated by staff to present their work from several disciplines including Drama, Theatre Studies, Dance, Media and the Year Eight Production. A panel of Performing Arts staff judge the work and present awards including the 'Performing Arts Distinction Award', 'The Performer of the Year Award' and 'The People's Choice Award' as voted by the audience on the night.

The Performing Arts Showcase is sponsored each year by local businesses and demonstrates the exceptional talent of Girton Grammar students.



“Girton’s Performing Arts program allows theatre students to realise their creative vision on a scale of professionalism, independence and sheer quality that rivals professional theatre companies. The experiences given to our class in design and directing were invaluable, and as a reviewer I’m always eager to come back to sit in awe of what they create!”

HOLI WALSH, GIRTON GRAMMAR DRAMA
AND THEATRE STUDIES STUDENT 2015,
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT
AND THEATRE REVIEWER.

VCE RESULTS

Students undertaking VCE Courses attend regular productions and workshops in Melbourne, as well as learning the principles of performance and theatrical design.

Drama productions and other public performance opportunities have opened many doors to professional arts careers for past students as playwrights, directors, set designers and actors as well as careers in backstage and theatre technician roles.

In VCE Theatre Studies and Drama, Girton Grammar students achieve a consistent level of excellence with many students performing in the VCAA Season of Excellence “Top Class” performances, for outstanding VCE results.



DRAMA CALENDAR - TYPICAL YEAR

Date	Performance	Location
TERM ONE		
February	Senior School Production Auditions	Black Box Theatre
March	The One Act Play Festival	Black Box Theatre
TERM TWO		
May	VCE Drama Ensembles & Unit 1/2 Theatre Studies Production	Black Box Theatre
June	Senior School Production Performances	Ulumbarra Theatre
June	Drama and Music Combined Musical Theatre Excursion	Melbourne
TERM THREE		
July	Performing Arts Scholarship Auditions	Black Box Theatre
August	Performing Arts Showcase	Black Box Theatre
September	VCE Media Film Festival	Black Box Theatre
September	Year 8 Production Performances	John E. Higgs Hall
TERM FOUR		
October	VCE Drama Solos & Theatre Studies Monologues Evening	Black Box Theatre
October	Junior School Production Performances	John E. Higgs Hall
December	Speech Night: End of Year Spectacular	Ulumbarra Theatre





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