

## **Ensemble & Company Auditions 2018** *Information for Students and Parents*

NHSPA offers the opportunity for all students to be involved in the co-curricular program.

### **Co-Curricular Program**

The Co-Curricular Program is the name given to all Dance, Drama, Music and Technical ensembles and companies that run at the school. Entry to these ensembles are by an audition process during Week 2 to Week 4 of Term 1 2018.

### **Companies and Ensembles Definition**

Each Performing Arts discipline has a different meaning for these two terms.

- **Drama** refers to all groups as Companies usually named after the director.
- **Music** refers to all groups in terms of Large Ensembles and Chamber Ensembles (smaller groups).
- **Dance Companies and Ensembles** represent the School at major International, State, Regional and local dance festivals, prestigious public performances and the School Showcase Concerts.

### **Showcase Concert Seasons**

There are two major performance opportunities for Ensembles and Companies during the year called Showcase Concerts. Showcase Concerts occur twice a year during Term 2 and Term 4. Additional performance opportunities may occur throughout the year depending on the type of ensemble required for various occasions.

**All students at NHSPA may audition for Music, Dance, Drama and Technical Ensembles and Companies, regardless of if they have been accepted into the school as a Performing Arts student.**

**It is a mandatory requirement for students who have gained entry to NHSPA as an audition student in either Dance, Drama or Music to audition each year to gain entry into the co-curricular program.**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **When are the auditions?**

Auditions will take place in Weeks 2 to 4 of Term 1 2018. A timetable of audition times can be found as an attachment at the back of this document. Students and parents will also be able to access audition information via the student news and the school website.

### **Can I audition for more than one PA discipline?**

Yes. There is no restriction on auditioning for more than one discipline.

### **What do I need to prepare for the audition?**

Specific requirements for each discipline are explained in the information below.

### **What ability level do I need to audition?**

The best policy is to 'give it a go'. If you are unsure of any specific criteria or audition information please see the Head Teachers, PA staff or the Performing Arts Coordinator.

Leisa Munns (Dance), David Kavanagh (Drama), Chris Miller (Music), David Ferguson (Technical Company), Deborah McGowan (Performing Arts Coordinator) and Giovanna Trenoweth (Film Production Company)

### **What will be my commitment level be if I am successful at my audition?**

It is essential that you attend all rehearsals and performance commitments- both weekday and weekends (where necessary). If there are absences that are unexplained or constant, your place in the Ensemble/Company will be jeopardised as will consideration for a position in future showcase companies. Students will be asked to sign an Ensembles Contract outlining their commitment.

### **What cost is involved if I am successful on gaining entry into the program?**

All students who are involved in the co-curricular program are required to pay \$120 per semester. The rate is still the same even if you are in more than one company or ensemble. Dance companies and ensembles will also be required to pay an annual costume fee.

### **How do I know I have been accepted into an Ensemble/Company?**

The finalisation of the audition process will take a few weeks. Lists of successful candidates are posted outside each PA staffroom of successful candidates.

### **What happens if I don't get in?**

If your name does not appear on a Ensemble/Company list, please see a member of the audition panel as soon as possible. Written and verbal feedback will be available to all students after the audition process.

### **When do rehearsals take place?**

Music Ensembles rehearse before school at 7:30am and in the afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30pm.

Drama and Dance rehearse in the afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30pm. Closer to a performance additional weekday rehearsals and/or weekend rehearsals (especially in Drama) may be called where necessary.

### **Do I need to reaudition each year?**

Yes. All students need to re audition for their place in the co-curricular program each year.

## **DANCE INFORMATION**

### **When and where will the auditions be?**

Auditions will take place during Week 2 and 3 of Term 1, 2018. These auditions will be held in the Dance Department, after school from 3.30-5.30pm.

### **What do I need to prepare?**

Students do not need to prepare anything for the Dance audition. For each audition students will learn a small piece of choreography and perform it in small groups.

### **What are the selection criteria for the audition?**

The dance staff will consider Technique, Performance Quality and Work Skills when making their decision.

### **What do I wear to the audition?**

Suitable dancewear for girls consists of plain (colour and style) leotards, tights and bare feet (Ballet/Pointe shoes where appropriate). Suitable dancewear for Boys consists of tights and a form fitting T-Shirt or leotard. Clothing which restricts or covers movement is unacceptable.

### **What is the next step after the auditions?**

After the first dance audition, selected students will be invited to attend the **CALLBACK on Thursday 8th February 2.45-5.00pm**. There is no call back for the Classical Ballet audition.

### **About our Dance Groups**

**Dance Companies and Ensembles** represent the School at major International, State, Regional and local dance festivals, prestigious public performances and the School Showcase Concerts.

If a student elects to be considered for a **Company**, it signals that the student is willing to accept an increased rehearsal and commitment load, and undertake **TWO** additional Ballet classes at school to improve their Technique and Performance Quality. A student in an **Ensemble** is required to undertake **ONE** additional Ballet class as part of their commitment to the dance program.

**Classical Ballet Companies** are seen as providing students with a particular interest and ability in Classical Ballet, the opportunity to further their performance experience. Members of the Classical Ballet companies are required to meet the same general criteria for selection as members of the Dance Companies including attending **TWO** additional Ballet classes a week.

## **DRAMA INFORMATION**

### **When and where will the auditions be?**

**Drama is the only discipline that holds auditions TWICE a year- in Term 1 and Term 3.**

Auditions will take place during the few weeks of **Term 1 and again in Term 3, 2018**. These auditions will be held in the Drama Department, after school from 3.30-5.30pm. Refer to the attached Timetable for dates and times of auditions.

### **What do I need to prepare?**

Students need to prepare a **one-minute monologue** from a published play. Books of monologue are available in the school library. **Year 7 do not need to prepare a monologue as they will audition through a workshop.**

### **What are the selection criteria for the audition?**

The criteria for a good performance are as follows; a clear voice and physicality in creating a character, the journey the character takes ... not all on one level.

The Drama department takes great care trying to give students a variety of directors so that students get a broad range of directing styles while at NHSPA.

There are nine Drama Companies at NHSPA. Companies are mostly organised by similar age ranges - Junior and Senior groupings.

## **MUSIC INFORMATION**

### **When and where will the auditions be held?**

Auditions will take place during the few weeks of Term 1. These auditions will be held in the Music Department, after school from 3.30-5.00pm. Refer to the attached Timetable for dates and times of auditions

### **What do I need to prepare?**

#### **Vocal Audition**

- Students do not need to prepare any material for the Vocal Audition. The students will be taught a song and perform it in small groups and/or individually.

#### **Instrumental Auditions-Woodwind, Brass and Strings including Guitars**

- Students need to prepare one piece to perform up to 2 minutes and a scale of their choice.
- Wind and Brass auditions will require the student to attempt a short unprepared sight-reading.

#### **Keyboard/Piano**

- Students are to prepare a short piece in the style of their choice.
- *Please note that the number of places using keyboard/piano in ensembles are limited. Students are encouraged to audition for voice, percussion or on another instrument.*

### **WOMP**

Students interested in auditioning for WOMP (Weapons of Mass Percussion) are not required to prepare anything. Students will be taught several patterns in the ensemble.

**Percussion and Drum Kit.** Students will need to prepare a short piece. You may also be required to demonstrate different drumming patterns.

Music Auditions are held in instrumental groups across all years; for example violinists from Years 7 to 12 will audition on the same day.

For all Music auditions, students will perform in front of the audition panel (usually two people) and other students of that instrument. For information re audition times and venues please refer to the attached timetable.

### **What are the selection criteria for the audition?**

The Music staff will consider the following in selecting and placing students within ensembles:

- Technical facility including intonation, rhythmic accuracy and general technical ability
- Dynamics and Expressive Techniques including phrasing and articulation.
- Stylistic understanding appropriate to the piece performed.
- The panel will also consider year group, balance of Ensembles and prior commitment to Ensemble (where appropriate).

### **There are many large Music ensembles within the school:**

Orchestra, Symphonic Wind, Junior String Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, Concert Band, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Choirs.

Students **must** be a member of one of a large ensemble to be considered for selection into smaller chamber ensembles. These smaller ensembles include Extension Junior, Intermediate and Senior Choirs, String, Wind, Sax Quartets, Junior Jazz Band, Senior Jazz Band, Senior String Ensemble and Senior Percussion Ensemble. Rock ensemble(s) will be formed on a project basis rather than a regular ensemble format.

## **OTHER COMPANY INFORMATION**

### **Film Production Company**

The Film Production Company will work as a team to plan, film and edit short film/s during the year. Themes and genres will be chosen depending on student and teacher interests and expertise. Students will work towards various film festivals throughout the year as well as screening their work during Showcase Season at school.

The Film Production Company is open to students in **Years 8 to 12**. An application form can be collected from the Visual Arts staffroom and must be submitted by **3.15pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **What are the selection criteria for the Film Production Company?**

The criteria for selection include demonstrated interest and skills in various aspects of Film Production.

### **Technical Company**

The Technical Company under the direction of David Ferguson organise the sound, lighting and stage management for Showcase Concerts throughout the year. The Company is open to students from **Years 8 to 12**. There is no audition process for this company. Interested students can apply on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 3:15- 5:15pm**.