



# SVAPA

## SPECIALIST VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



Specialist  
Programs

The Specialist Visual and Performing Arts (SVAPA) program is a unique program that promotes excellence across the Arts. It provides an educational journey that enriches students' learning through the development of Arts' ideas, skills, processes, creative and critical thinking. The Arts' culture offered in SVAPA is about learning based on contemporary practices of working in multiple art forms.

The SVAPA course at Mount Lawley Senior High School blends the four Art forms of Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts. Students are able to specialize in their main Arts' interests during Year 10 and are encouraged to continue in the strong Senior School Arts Program in Years 11 and 12.

Exciting links have been established with Edith Cowan University (ECU) and Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA). We are also a pilot school in the Spark\_lab project with PICA and ECU. Certificate II in Live Production (Theatre & Events), is available as part of the Year 11 & 12 program.



## SPECIALIST VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM @ MOUNT LAWLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### BACKGROUND

The first students entered the SVAPA programme in 2001 and graduated from the school in 2005. Each year since, many SVAPA students have successfully graduated and some have continued with their studies in Visual Art, Drama, Music and Media at a tertiary level. Their initiative, creativity and commitment model the benefit of an Arts' enriched education. SVAPA students have been elected regularly as Head Girl or Boy since 2005.

### SVAPA SCHOLARSHIPS

One student from each feeder primary school will be offered a scholarship toward their fees.

### COMBINED ARTS' FOCUS

The particular aspect of the specialist art programme at Mount Lawley Senior High School is that it provides a broad-based Arts course, requiring the students to participate in the 4 Art areas of Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts.

All students need participate in all 4 arts in Year 7, 8 and Year 9. In Year 10 students may specialise their arts' interest as a pathway into Senior School Visual and Performing Arts' courses. All Year 10 students complete their SVAPA course with the SVAPA Project Class in Year 10.

In both Years 8 and 9 there is opportunity to work in a combined arts focus. We are committed in delivering a program that is contemporary,



innovative, playful, humanistic and holistic.

### SVAPA CAMP

Year 7 & 8 SVAPA classes attend an annual camp at Point Walter. This is to allow the groups to work together and to introduce the new students into the 4Arts' flavour of the SVAPA course. The teachers and the students develop creative arts' practices and friendship.

### MUSIC CAMP

Students attend annual camp which is comprised of rehearsals and other musical team building activities. Different ensembles are taken each year.

### EARLY MORNING ENRICHMENT CLASS

Enrichment classes allow students to extend their arts skills and practice with arts professionals such as dancers from CO3 Company, director Adam Mitchell, Improvisation with The Big Hoo Haa and puppeteers St John Cowcher and Chris Isaacs.

### WEEKEND ENRICHMENT CLASS

Once a term, SVAPA students attend a Saturday workshop to extend and support the program's contemporary arts focus. It is a chance for all year groups to mingle with each other as well as work across all four arts. In the past we have had Josh Hogan and Elise Reitze (Music), Rohan Harnett (Animation), Jodee

Knowles and Tane Andrews (Illustration), Andy Quilty and Abdul Abdullah (Painting)

### MOUNT LAWLEY ARTS FESTIVAL DAY

The Arts Festival Day is held at the end of April or early May. It involves the whole school in an afternoon of arts activities and events. It culminates in a rock concert with a well-known local band. SVAPA students take on leading roles throughout the day.

### PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SVAPA students are privileged to work with leading theatre and dance companies as well as established and emerging artists. Events range from workshops and productions to provocations and guidance. SVAPA students have worked with Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (Spark\_Lab), ECU, The Last Great Hunt, West Australian Youth Theatre Company, James Berlyn, Propel Youth Arts, WAPPA, The Blue Room and Bell Shakespeare.

### ARTIST IN RESIDENCY

The program supports a bi-annual artist in residence to create a large scale performance/exhibition, which is open to all committed SVAPA students.

### SVAPA EXCURSIONS & INCURSIONS

Exposure to plays, concerts, performances, exhibitions and films are tremendously important





to a well-rounded arts student. Each year we begin with the Perth International Arts Festival, then we meander through The Blue Room, Black Swan, Bell Shakespeare and PICA seasons, Art exhibitions at PICA, Art Gallery of Western Australia and Art on the Move. All four arts are covered with our annual excursion to the Awesome Festival.

#### SVAPA INTERNATIONAL TOUR

A tradition of a tri-annual Arts Tour to London and Paris has begun. Arts teachers take a group of students from years



9-11 on a once-in-a lifetime experience. These are the few events we have seen... Opera in Paris, Complicite Theatre Company at the Barbican, 'Oh What a Lovely War' in Brighton, 'The Tempest' in Stratford upon Avon as well as tours of the British Film Institute, National Theatre, Monet's Garden and The Globe Theatre plus exhibitions at White Cube, Saatchi and Saatchi, The Louvre, National Portrait Gallery and the Musée d'Orsay.

#### 10 SVAPA PROJECT CLASS

All SVAPA students are encouraged to take a semester of the Project Class. It is seen as a culmination of their inquiry into the arts. The students along with an artist/mentor, are wholly responsible for their combined arts project.



#### SENIOR SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Success in Senior School arises from interest, developing excellence and a joy of learning that is nurtured by the SVAPA pedagogy. We offer visual and performing arts' courses in Year 11 & 12; Certificate courses at TAFE, ECU courses. These programs give students some very exciting options.

**CERTIFICATE II in LIVE PRODUCTION, THEATRE AND EVENTS (CUA20213)**

#### CERTIFICATE III in MUSIC INDUSTRY

This course is available to students in Year 11 and completed in Year 12.

#### SVAPA SUCCESS

Students in SVAPA enjoy the enrichment workshops and being in classes of creative, keen peers who respond enthusiastically to the heightened expectations of their specialist teachers. SVAPA students are ready to do more and to be more involved, interested, experimental and explorative within the culture of success that is encouraged in SVAPA @ MLSHS.

#### SELECTION PROCESS FOR SVAPA PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

1. An A4 portfolio
2. A cover page with name, photo, address, phone number and attending primary school.
3. A hand written letter, by the student, explaining why they would like to be part of the SVAPA program.
4. Copy of the most recent school report.
5. Two to four pages of creative work : photographs of visual art, dance performance, musical experience, creative writing

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL REFERENCE

6. 'A tick box' reference (downloaded from school website) from the class teacher to be sent by the primary school to:

*Moya Thomas*

*SVAPA Coordinator*

*Mount Lawley Senior High School*

*65 Woodsome Street*

*Mount Lawley. 6050*

*Email: Moya.Thomas@lawley.wa.edu.au*

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Portfolio is to be submitted to the Middle School Office by the due date as indicated on the Application Form.

Students will be notified of the selection workshop dates and times by letter.



## For Further Information contact

Mount Lawley Senior High School,  
65 Woodsome Street, Mount Lawley, Western Australia 6050  
(PH) 9471 0300 (FAX) 9271 1126 Email: [enquiries@lawley.wa.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@lawley.wa.edu.au)

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Website: [www.lawley.wa.edu.au](http://www.lawley.wa.edu.au)