



MT LAWLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SVAPA NEWSLETTER

TERM 1

TWENTYTWENTY



Welcome back or welcome for the first time!

This is my little informal newsletter that tries to let you know what is happening within our program. I begin with a small catch up what our alumni and current students are doing in the Arts. Please feel free to send me an email if your child is involved in anything and I will pop it in.

I then re-cap on last terms event and then go through the upcoming calendar events.

Thanks,
Moya

SVAPA Alumni

Hannah Cockroft, alumni 2014 has written her first play, Talkback. It opened last week at the Blue Room as part of the Fringe Festival. Hannah was a delightful student, she played Goneril in the School production of King Lear and was terrifyingly good at being a wicked character.

Hannah Davidson, alumni 2015, graduated WAAPA in 2019 has created a show STARPOWER, opening this week at the Blue Room Theatre as part of the Fringe Festival. Hannah played Lady Macbeth as a gender fluid, the artist formally known as Prince loving, disco dancing Queen. Since leaving Mt Lawley she has collaborated with the Western Australian Youth Theatre Company (WAYTCo) for many years, most notably in the position of Assistant Director and Performer in the 2019 multi-award winning site-specific production REST. Since 2018 Hannah has been a member of Perth improv comedy group The Big HOO-HAA.

“From Perth’s indie theatre darlings, Rorschach Beast, comes a Western Australian story about the moments we share when we think nobody else is watching. Intimate and immersive, you and two friends get to experience these moments from the backseat of the car itself”. Izzy Macdonald, Alumni 2012 is one half of Rorschach Beast and has created fantastic show after fantastic show. Izzy played a strong and powerful Marcus in our version of Titus Andronicus. She has cited this as turning point in her career aspirations.

“Françoise and Friends debut performance will draw you into the vibrant world of yé-yé music and culture. For two nights only these funky beats, catchy tunes and swinging rhythms will transport you to 1960s France.” Jazz vocalist and local talent Sylvia Cornes, alumni 2013, is accompanied by a stellar line-up including Thomas Freeman (guitar), alumni 2014.

Congratulations to our lovely Tayla Siskopolous, alumni 2019, who was accepted into Stage Management at WAAPA for 2020. Stage Management is a highly competitive course at WAAPA. Tayla topped Cert II in Creative Industries: Live Production for two years running and was a consistently hard working and kind student from her very first day in year 8.

Jade Richards, alumni 2011 recently was awarded the Intercoiffure International Photography Avant-garde- junior section for Australia.

Current Students

Sofia F2, year 10 SVAPA, successfully auditioned for the Perth City Ballet to perform in The Sleeping Beauty, which was performed at The Quarry in January 2020.

LAST TERM

Thank you to Jen Jamieson, Steph de Baisi and Fiona Hull for all their hard work and for imparting such creative knowledge to our kids. Jen worked alongside the Tiny Works students, Steph supported and led the exhibition with the year 7's and Fiona created a fantastic dance program for our year 8's.

Tiny Works

What a team effort! Tiny Works is truly a great show to produce as it brings in so many collaborators in one space. Thank you to the mentors, Charlotte Otton, Andrew Sutherland, Janet Carter and Joshua Pether for helping guide the work. Thank you to Sian Roberts and Zoe Barron for their work on Grant writing. Thank you to all those who gave up a Sunday afternoon to be a test audience – Deb Edwards, Jane Packham, Tomas Mawer, Josephine Robinson, Sarah Linden, Julie Colasante, Rebecca Davis and Iva Filiposka. This is one of my most favorite moments in the whole year, artists, parents, teachers, industry members and cert students all come together to view the work, give feedback, eat food together, mix and mingle and be present for our students.

The year 9's created a remarkable show, each show was hand crafted and executed beautifully. Thanks to our professional trike crew, who ushered, ran the show and was guided by our most excellent production Manager, Natalie Diggins.



Music Soiree

The Music Soiree delivered the closing score to a very busy year. Thank you to the big support from parents, huge thanks to the parent support committee and of course the Music students did a sensational job. Thanks to Shahna Gallagher and Michelle DeRozario for making this very social and enjoyable event happen.

ECU/SVAPA 2019 Midsummer Dreaming

Last year, I was given the opportunity of remounting the 2017 SVAPA production I co-directed alongside Ian Wilkes of a Midsummer Dreaming with 4th year Drama Education students at ECU. It's Shakespeare in a Noongar context. Year 10 SVAPA students, Beth, Fran, Amelie, Sophia, Claudia, and Zoe came on board with the production as the spirits (fairies) and worked incredibly hard. Professionally I was very fulfilled at how competent, focused and creative the students were. Christina Gray, the Head of Drama Education wrote the below.

“During this semester, I have been working with your amazing drama teacher, Moya Thomas and some of her specialist drama students in our very first collaboration between ECU and MLSHS. During this time, my students and I have been most impressed with how mature, creative, fun and considerate your students are. We have gained so much from this collaboration and hope that it is the first of many more to come.

I'm sure you receive a lot of positive feedback about your drama program as it has such an outstanding reputation out in the community. I just wanted to add to this feedback and commend you on leading such a wonderful school.”



Middle School Visual Art Exhibition

Last year we had our inaugural Middle School SVAPA Art Exhibition “Exploration of the Found and Handmade” at Edith Cowan University on Friday 13th of December.

Students had been working alongside artist Stephanie De Biasi for the last semester in their early start classes to create a collection of beautiful and intriguing objects.

We are hoping that this is a springboard to many more end of year exhibitions of art work. This event could not have been made possible without the help, support and drive of Jane Packham.

Thank you to all parents for coming along to the event and thank you to Renae Hill for representing the school at the exhibition.



THIS TERM

Perth Festival

Five excursions in the space of three weeks! This year we have booked into see Hecate, Tao of Glass, Black Ties, Bran Nue Day and Leviathan.

Please see the Consent 2 Go emails with dates and times. Our apologies for the re-sending of the invitations as the costing of the excursion did not appear in the first round.

It's important for our Specialist students to participate with the arts community and viewing and responding are integral parts of that process. There is a plethora of other amazing shows at the Festival and I hope you manage to engage as a family in these events.

Arts/Languages Festival

Our annual festival is on the 3rd of April. The school dispenses with classes after lunch and students can wander around the school and engage with a multitude of activities, such as improvisation, circus, art workshops, magic, music acts and silent disco. Also there are an enormous amount of food options for students to try out. The afternoon culminates in a live music performance. It's a great day for Art, Culture and Diversity.

SVAPA camp

Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, the event that has all the students speaking in a higher pitch and way too fast is coming up. The camp starts on the 5th of April with a school drop off at Mt Lawley. We all then jump on the bus to the lovely location of Point Walter. We are there for two nights, supervised by the arts faculty. During the stay students participate in a range of workshops culminating in a devised performance on the last day. We also invite the students to the Calathumpian Ball, a time honoured tradition of coming to dinner in fancy dress then partaking in a parade where teachers will throw candy at you for TURNING IT OUT.

Forms will be emailed out at a later date with information on, what to bring, food allergies etc.,

SVAPA Information Night

For family and friends who are interested in the program, I am hosting an Information Night on the 23rd of March at 7pm in the Tricycle Theatre.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of one of our arts staff over the school holidays. Jen Barrie worked within the Music department for the last four years and her death was a shock to us all. At her funeral, we met many previous and current students paying their respects to Ms Barrie. It was a touching service. My heart goes out to her husband and two daughters.