



## **Drama Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What does Drama offer a student?**

- Life Skills: Self-esteem, confidence, courage, poise, public-speaking skills, empathy, teamwork, spontaneity, and self-expression.
- Collaboration: Stepping outside your comfort zone and encouraging students to consider different perspectives on life by working in groups with peers.
- Rigorous academic challenges: The opportunity to develop skills in critical analysis and personal reflection.
- Development of interpersonal skills to help lead, manage and support different personalities and opinions.
- INNOVATION, CREATIVITY and FUN!

### **Do I have to be a confident performer to do Drama?**

Not at all. Drama is a subject for students of all skill levels. Those wanting to improve their self-confidence, those who want to try something new and those who love theatre. Drama classrooms are safe spaces where students can explore, play and learn to express themselves, finding greater confidence and skills.

### **Is there much written work?**

There are a range of written tasks in Drama that work in conjunction with the practical work completed in class. Throughout Year 9-12 students may be asked to engage with the following:

- Logbook work: students reflect on the work they have done and create a process journal around their playbuilding and creative work.
- Creative Work: directors folios, scriptwriting, design concepts.
- Analytical: theatre reviews and applied research projects.
- Essays in Year 11 and 12: The Drama essay is a very different style of essay as it asks students to explore the practical workshops of theatrical styles and forms and how they affect the audience.

### **What is the best part of Drama?**

Student answers include supportive classrooms, freedom to have fun, practical work, flexibility, ability to work collaboratively, dynamic classroom environment, improving confidence, creativity and being able to explore.

*'Drama allows you to embrace different skills you didn't know you had before'*

– Year 12 student, 2020



**Do I have to do Drama as a subject to be in the plays?**

No, you don't. Anyone can audition for Barker productions (or be part of the technical crew). The skills you learn within the Drama classroom definitely help but it is not essential.

**Is it a bludge? Is it a lot of work?**

We are often asked about the workload of Drama. And the answer is simple.

Drama requires great commitment and a willingness to jump into class activities and workshops. With all assessments there is an expectation that students are working outside of class independently or with in groups to rehearse their performance work, which is seen as their homework, just like every other subject (except in a different form!). Senior Drama does require a lot of work, but we find that the students who choose elective Drama are up for the challenge. It provides a practical environment and a creative outlet where students love the different style of learning, are passionate about theatre and are willing to put in the extra effort.

In the words of a wise Year 11 student *'Just because you have fun doesn't mean it's a bludge.'*

**For Year 10, Musical Theatre scares me... should I still do Drama?**

Absolutely! You don't need to sing on your own and the feedback from students is how much they love the Musical Theatre unit. It is an opportunity to step outside your comfort zone and in groups act, dance and sing which is a lot of fun! For your assessment you can choose to perform a Shakespeare or Musical theatre piece.

**What does HSC Drama entail?**

HSC Drama comprises of three components: the Individual Project (IP), Group Performance (GP) and the Written Examination. Students can choose from 10 options for their IP major work: Performance, Scriptwriting, Design (Costume, Set, Poster or Lighting), Critical Analysis (Director's Folio, Theatre Reviews or Applied Research) or Film. GP consists of students creating and performing an 8-12 minute original performance in groups of 3-6. Finally, the written component has students studying Australian Theatre and another style of theatre (Black Comedy, Significant Plays of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century or Verbatim) through practical workshops and then analysing the effect of the staging through their essay writing. It is a wonderfully exciting and innovative course.

**Will I get good marks?**

Barker Drama has one of the largest cohorts in NSW and our HSC results are outstanding. In both 2018 and 2019, over 85% of our students received a Band 5 or 6. We encourage students to work to their strengths where they are able to achieve terrific results and reach their full potential.



### **How else can I get involved in Barker Drama activities?**

Each year we stage a variety of productions including a Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 Play and the Barker Musical. Theatresports (Junior, Intermediate and Senior) is run at lunchtimes and students compete in the Inter-School Theatresports competition.

Theatre Club is an opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students to sign up to attend professional theatre five times throughout the year at Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir and Griffin. Student run events include Winter Playhouse and Barker Goes Broadway organised by our Drama Captains.

### **How will Drama help me after school?**

Many of our students go onto careers in the performing arts attending NIDA, WAPPA, VCA, Actors Centre and other prestigious organisations for Acting, Musical Theatre, Performance Making and Technical Production. Others find that the skills they learn in Drama translate easily to the workforce – such as initiative, collaboration, resilience, confidence, empathy, reflection and communication.

**If you have any other questions, please email the Head of Department, Mrs Pia Midgley at [pmidgley@barker.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pmidgley@barker.nsw.edu.au)**