GIFTED AND TALENTED
DRAMA PROGRAM
2016
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

John Curtin College of the Arts is committed to fostering learning for life and pursuing excellence, emphasising learning through active engagement in the arts. This vision is embedded in the college values.

We commit to:
creativity, innovation and imaginationespect, care and compassion
everse

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We commit to:
creativity, innovation and imagination
respect, care and compassion
excellence
a fair go
responsibility and integrity.
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John Curtin College of the Arts has successfully delivered quality Arts programs for more than 35 years. Our outstanding reputation makes us the school of choice for talented Arts students and we are Western Australia’s only Selective Arts School.

The college was the first school in Australia to offer theatre arts and dance as Gifted and Talented courses and has offered Arts programs for selected students in music, ballet and drama since 1973.

John Curtin is an Independent Public School that identifies the potential talent of students in ballet, contemporary dance, drama, media arts, music, music theatre and visual arts.

A unique curriculum for Gifted and Talented Arts students, and those identified as academically talented, is delivered at the college. John Curtin provides students with opportunities for extension, acceleration and enrichment not only in the Arts but also in all academic studies.

The college provides the opportunity for all students in Western Australia to develop their identified creative intelligence in an environment of like-minded peers who share the same passion, motivation and value of education.

All students can access unique, high quality learning experiences that add value to their education and contribute to their development of lifelong skills such as empathy, creative thinking, problem solving and communication, to name a few, that all contribute to learning for life.

Dean of the Arts
Travis Vladich
ACADEMIC BALANCE

At John Curtin, your child will partake in an exceptional and balanced academic program.

The college has an academic balance policy which identifies how essential it is for all students to achieve to their full potential in all areas of their learning in order to have a variety of choices of pathways at the completion of secondary schooling.

John Curtin provides a rigorous curriculum focusing on high academic achievement in all learning areas for students across all year groups.

Gifted and Talented courses have a minimum of four hours per week, which is the same amount of contact time as the core academic subject areas of English, mathematics, science and society and environment. The selective arts program becomes one of the student’s core subjects and a focus on academic balance ensures students have the opportunities to excel in all areas of the curriculum.

Students study their arts course alongside these core subjects and have equal access to all academic programs. They also have access to design and technology, languages (Italian), home economics, business education, computing, health and physical education programs.

Academic balance is about creating pathways of choice for whichever direction students choose to take in their future. The focus on a well-rounded education allows students to continue careers in the arts industry or pursue careers in numerous other professions including medicine, law, education, politics and science.

WHAT IS ACCELERATION?

The Gifted and Talented curriculum follows a model which takes into account all students' needs and abilities. The most able students need appropriately paced, rich and challenging instruction and a curriculum that differs significantly from normal classrooms.

John Curtin follows a specialised differentiated approach to curriculum delivery which provides your child with opportunities to accelerate, extend and enrich their learning.

Acceleration allows your child to move through key concepts at a faster pace while fostering your child’s intellectual growth and proficiency levels.

Educators conduct pre-tests to find out what each student already understands and/or is able to do. The curriculum is then condensed so students can engage in activities that provide depth, diversity, difficulty and density.

Research in Gifted and Talented education shows that students achieve their full potential when they work with like-minded peers in a stimulating learning environment facilitated and taught by expert teachers. Students should be challenged continually to work towards their personal best, enjoy the learning and embrace the challenge.

WHAT IS EXTENSION?

Extension provides your child with open-ended activities that invite curiosity, exploration and manipulation of ideas and materials at a deeper and broader level. Students focus on creativity, innovation, critical thinking, responsibility and leadership.

Gifted and Talented programs involve additional lessons, workshops, rehearsals and performances that are scheduled beyond the normal college day. All scheduled activities are designed to extend the knowledge, skills and development of gifted and talented students and are a compulsory part of their program.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

For intellectually gifted students we offer specialised academic courses in English and society and environment, mathematics and science as part of our Academic Excellence Program in Years 7 to 10.

The college’s Academic Excellence Program places like-minded students in a challenging and rigorous environment designed to support students to achieve academic excellence.

Arts students can participate in this program alongside their Arts course. The Academic Excellence Program is not an additional course; it is part of the student’s core curriculum.

Participation is based on results of the selective entrance academic test taken by all students applying for Gifted and Talented Education Programs in WA public schools and/or Nelson testing administered by the college. Further supporting information ensures accurate judgements are made that are supported by more than one source of data.
In addition to the general college costs, students are required to pay an annual charge for each Academic Excellence Program subject. Extension activities such as university visits, interschool debating, incursions, excursions and competitions enrich the college programs. These are subsidised by the Academic Excellence Program levy however there may be small additional charges at times.

To find out more about the Academic Excellence Program contact Deputy Principal, Georgina Wigley at georgina.wigley@education.wa.edu.au

PARTICIPATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

Academic balance is a priority and there is a requirement that students aim to achieve high standards in all their learning programs. The college encourages students to seek assistance from their Student Services manager or assistant manager or Gifted and Talented teachers if they are experiencing difficulty achieving a balance across all programs.

It is expected that the college’s Arts activities take priority over external activities. Students are required to discuss external commitments with the Gifted and Talented heads of learning areas to ensure they do not conflict with college activities.

In the performing arts, performance is an integral part of Gifted and Talented performing arts programs and all workshops, rehearsals and performance commitments are regarded as essential extension and/or assessment activities.

Activities including performances, rehearsals and workshops are identified and scheduled prior to the commencement of the school year in order for families to plan around these commitments. Information regarding these requirements will be provided to students and parents/carers in advance. Sometimes, however, it is necessary for changes to be made to schedules and it is essential that students communicate all correspondence provided by the college to the parents/carers. The timing of some activities depends on the availability of community artists, performers and directors and some opportunities arise throughout the year.

SELF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Throughout the program, students are encouraged to be responsible for all aspects of their learning. This includes constructing and keeping to schedules and timelines, organising resources for productions, managing their progress, negotiating and problem solving with peers, teachers and parents and making necessary changes to ensure student success.

Students should be focused, motivated and committed to the overall life of the college. Our teachers provide an education that is inspiring, challenging and one that enhances all learning experiences.
ENRICHMENT

A unique feature of the Gifted and Talented Arts Programs is Enrichment. This important college program is designed to reinforce the holistic and evolving nature of the Arts, highlighting students’ Gifted and Talented disciplines and how they are influenced by other art forms.

Enrichment also provides students with the opportunity to work with a range of peers from other Arts programs.

There are two Enrichment Programs: Rotational Enrichment and Music Enrichment.

Gifted and Talented Music Program students are automatically enrolled in Rotational Enrichment.
Rotational Enrichment

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students are arbitrarily allocated into term rotations for enrichment programs and over the duration of the year students will experience four different programs. The Rotational Enrichment Programs aim to enrich students as artists and learners.

The following are examples of Enrichment Programs that may be offered in Year 7, 8 and 9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circus and Confidence</th>
<th>Physical Arts and Wellbeing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draws on circus related skills including juggling, diablo and tumbling along with providing participants with aspects of balance, coordination and team work to develop confidence and collaborative skills.</td>
<td>Active participation in activities that lead to fostering self-esteem and confidence. Provides insight into developing interpersonal skills and team work in practical physical activities. Techniques in relaxation and managing stress are explored to discover self-awareness and wellbeing.</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication and Self-management</th>
<th>Production and Design</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students look at the media and produce recorded pieces that promote, publicise and communicate ideas and issues to the public. There is also a focus on managing and creating schedules to make more effective and efficient learners.</td>
<td>Explores the roles of the production team and different aspects of theatrical production including design, construction and publicity. A focus on the element and design principles assist student creations through creative thinking and analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement and Awareness</th>
<th>Yoga and Mindfulness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students explore the importance of health and keeping active through the Arts. Types of movement are explored along with the influence of music to create mood and movement. There is a focus on developing coordination and rhythm along with awareness of space and others.</td>
<td>The practice of yoga develops strength and flexibility and provides students with techniques and strategies to soothe nerves and calm the mind. Explored are the connections between the body and the mind and the importance this connection has in society and the Arts.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SFX Make-up</th>
<th>StageCraft</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Involves the theory and practical application of make-up to create SFX for the theatre, including cuts, bruises, aging techniques and the enhancement of facial features to create character.</td>
<td>Students experience and develop skills in using different technologies to create props and simple theatrical set construction to be are used in future college productions.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Year 10

In Year 10 students who participate in Rotational Enrichment select one Arts program for the whole year. This selection is similar to students participating in a minor Arts course alongside their gifted and talented program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dance</th>
<th>Design - Photography</th>
<th>Drama</th>
<th>Media Arts</th>
<th>Music Theatre</th>
<th>Production</th>
<th>Visual Arts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Music Enrichment**

Students with ability and experience in music may elect to do Music Enrichment. This program includes instrumental lessons and ensemble rehearsals. Students who have been learning an instrument in primary school can continue with that instrument. There is an expectation that students remain in Music Enrichment for the four years of lower school. Students can also continue music in upper school.

The components of Music Enrichment are

- musicianship – aural perception skills, music language and theory
- music literature – genres, eras, composers and compositional styles

**Instrumental**

Students have small group instrumental tuition once per week on the instrument they began in primary school.

**Ensemble**

Participation in ensembles is compulsory and music enrichment students are placed in the ensemble appropriate to their instrument and skill level.
Drama
OVERVIEW LOWER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our leading drama program provides your child with opportunities to develop high level dramatic skills alongside other gifted arts students. Students are encouraged to develop skills as independent learners, use the dramatic form to make their own statements and develop an appreciation of how the Arts are an integral part of society.

The benefits of our drama course are diverse. Students are given the opportunity to develop reading, writing, listening, speaking and performance skills, as well as foundations for interpreting, reflecting and analysing creative modes of expression.

The lower school program is a unique course that focuses on students practically exploring drama conventions, developing academic understanding and workshopping practical skills in order to provide learning experiences in drama that other schools in the State cannot offer.

Your child will broaden their knowledge and appreciation of drama as an art form, profession and life skill. Students are provided with opportunities to work with industry artists including professional actors and directors to explore scripted drama and develop specialist skills. Performance is a key component of the program and your child will have the opportunity to perform in front of a range of audiences in a variety of theatre spaces.

Lower school students are immersed in the conventions of drama and theatre. They are introduced to the drama forms and styles that influence contemporary theatre practice and practically explore the theories of renowned international and national dramatists in the application of scripted performance and devised drama.

Writing Skills

Students are encouraged to explore written genres as a means of relevant expression. Thought pads or creative journals are used for students to develop the capacity for instant creative reflection and critical analysis on a daily basis. Throughout a unit of work, each student will draw from their thought pad to complete extended responses and short answers and present a drama process folio.

The Process Journal is an essential component of the program as it is used to record understandings of the practical and theoretical aspects of the course and for students to reflect on their own work and works of others, skills, processes and understandings that are covered in the workshops, class work and performances.

Time is given to practically explore how to be effective communicators in drama, through following frameworks and analysing best practice.

Performance Examinations

Students will perform scripted monologues, improvisations and interview questions in individual performance examinations. They will have the opportunity to explore scripted monologues from various playwrights with differing styles and thematic influences. Spontaneity and the ability to accept and extend an offer are skills developed for the improvisation section of the examination. For the interview section the power of the spoken word and the ability to succinctly analyse choices made are key attributes that are developed.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

The school community supports a policy of compulsory uniform. All drama students are required to wear the John Curtin College of the Arts polo shirt and navy blue shorts or college tracksuit pants. Hair needs to be tied back for all classes and all jewellery removed. This dress code is used to encourage a professional ethos, to allow students flexibility in movement and to develop a sense of neutrality (a blank canvas) which is essential for our drama performers in all class activities.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are an integral part of the Gifted and Talented drama course and attendance at all rehearsals and performances is compulsory. In Years 7, 8 and 9 the focus is on performance work that showcases the students’ class work to family and friends. There are performances for students twice a year. Opportunities are also given to students to extend and accelerate understanding through workshop and performance with industry professionals.

A feature of our drama program is the Guest Director Season for students in Year 10 to 12. Students work alongside professional actors/directors to produce a work that showcases all students to the local community in one of our state-of-the-art performance venues.

Throughout the students’ time at the college they may often be invited to perform for various community events. We promote professional industry standards and responsibilities. Once a student has made a commitment to participate, he/she is obliged to attend all rehearsals and subsequent performances, some of which will be outside school hours.
**EXTENSION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extension classes</th>
<th>Performances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Boys’ Project (includes comedy extension).</td>
<td>Festivals and community events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEARS 7 - 10 - Workshops with industry artists.</td>
<td>Lower school - Comedy sports.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 7 - Project based workshops</td>
<td>YEAR 7 - Formal and informal performances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 7 and 8 - Workshops in physical theatre and vocal development.</td>
<td>YEARS 8 - 10 - Performances in a professional setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 9 and 10 - Performance Examinations.</td>
<td>YEAR 10 - Guest Director Season – working with industry professionals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 10 - Guest director workshops/seasons.</td>
<td>YEAR 10 - Opportunity for performance with upper school students in senior drama production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masterclasses.</td>
<td>Immersion in the fundamentals of Theatre Production and Conventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master classes with industry professionals in design and production.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical development</th>
<th>Reflection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocal training.</td>
<td>YEAR 7 and 8 - Process journal and investigation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement training.</td>
<td>YEAR 9 and 10 - Excursions to professional theatre performances.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>View drama performance seasons offered at John Curtin.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCELERATION</th>
<th>YEAR 10 – upper school course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>Year 10 students develop and perform practical performance examinations in line with ATAR guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compacted curriculum so students are fast tracked through content that has been mastered. Students work on content one year level above standard curriculum delivery.</td>
<td>Curriculum scope and sequence for all Gifted and Talented year groups based on ATAR drama courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students explore a range of broader, deeper and more challenging practical and written learning tasks than those delivered in a standard educational setting.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Please note: This table presents an example of what is offered as part of the program.

**UPPER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

It is required that lower school Gifted and Talented drama students continue on to the upper school drama courses. This will prepare them for further studies at University, TAFE or vocational fields, while offering continued and intensified enrichment, extension and acceleration. We offer courses to suit varied pathways.

Further details on the drama courses can be found in the Year 11 and Year 12 Curriculum Handbooks.

**COURSE COSTS**

The cost is $400 for each year from Years 7 to 12. These costs are subject to change.

**CONTACT**

For further information on any aspect of the Gifted and Talented Drama Program contact the Head of Drama and Visual Arts.

E: fiona.tholet@education.wa.edu.au
## SAMPLE TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule:</th>
<th>Grid: Year</th>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Student Reference</th>
<th>Form:</th>
<th>Student Number:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Form Teacher:</td>
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</table>

### MONDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>8.30-9.30</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30-9.30</td>
<td>DRAMA</td>
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<td>DRAMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30-10.30</td>
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<td>ART</td>
<td>9.30-10.30</td>
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<td>10.30-11.45</td>
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<td>10.30-11.45</td>
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<td>11.45-12.45</td>
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<td>11.45-12.45</td>
<td>MATH</td>
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**Lunch**

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<tr>
<th>Period 5</th>
<th>12.45-1.45</th>
<th>12.45-1.45</th>
<th>12.45-1.45</th>
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**Drama**
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Attendance and Punctuality

A high level of attendance and punctuality is necessary for students to access the full range of opportunities at the college. At least 90 per cent attendance has been identified as the requirement for full participation in learning.

The Gifted and Talented Arts programs have compulsory activities which extend beyond period 6 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and period 5 on Thursday and Friday. Learning to manage travel time, homework and subject requirements is a college priority and students need to learn organisational skills to effectively plan and manage their study program in all subject areas.

All learning areas address this requirement by embedding the learning of management and organisational skills into the programs.

Arts Immersion

All Arts students will have the opportunity to participate in activities, excursions and tours. These opportunities are aimed at immersing students into the Arts of other cultures and visit world cities in order to gain an appreciation and understanding of the holistic nature of the Arts.

Code of Agreement

John Curtin College of the Arts is committed to ensuring learning occurs within a caring, safe and supportive learning environment that is responsive to students’ particular abilities and learning styles, and which challenges and engages them to excel.

A Code of Agreement for students, parents/carers and staff identifies the specific requirements relating to the Gifted and Talented Arts programs. This is to ensure that students can work effectively and cooperatively in all of their studies at the college. Students and parents/carers sign this agreement on acceptance into the college. Adhering to the elements of this agreement is expected of all students.

Course Costs

At the end of Term 4 parents/carers receive a college account listing all the subjects their child has selected to study during the year ahead, including the relevant costs for Gifted and Talented programs.

Full payment of college charges or a regular payment plan implemented at the start of the year is required prior to students having access to extension activities such as workshops, rehearsals and performances. Parents/carers who are experiencing difficulty regarding payment at this time should contact the Business Manager to arrange a payment plan.

Please note that if payment of the annual charges for Gifted and Talented programs have not been made in full prior to the first performance, and there is no payment plan in place, the student will not be able to access some resources such as costumes, external guest tutors, extension workshops and performances.

Exit Procedures

It is required that students who accept a position in a Gifted and Talented Arts program continue in that program through to Year 12. One of the Year 11 and 12 subject choices must be in the area of the Arts under which they gained entry to the college.

Unless a student lives within the college catchment boundary, it is required that they remain in their Gifted and Talented program.

Students are not able to transfer between Gifted and Talented programs.

Students have the opportunity to apply for additional Gifted and Talented programs for Year 11 and 12. Applications for an additional program in upper school can be accessed through the Gifted and Talented branch at www.det.wa.edu.au/giftedandtalented. Closing dates are early in the year for the following year. No late applications will be accepted.

Extended Leave

The Gifted and Talented programs have a developmental structure and extended absence may seriously affect the progress of the individual student as well as the progress of other students in the program. This is especially significant in group assessments that may extend over a period of time. Extended absence must be approved by the Dean of Arts and/or Principal.
Gifted and Talented Monitoring Program

For Gifted and Talented students to engage fully in all the opportunities provided at the college, a monitoring system is in place to provide assistance and support. The Student Services team and learning support specialists work together to provide guidance and assistance.

Students enrolled in a Gifted and Talented program who are unable to meet the requirements of the Code of Agreement will be monitored and this can result in their status and place in the program being reviewed.

The college provides support so students can make the most of all the opportunities available in the Gifted and Talented programs.

Parent Support Group

Parent support is integral to the successful running of the Arts learning areas at John Curtin College of the Arts. Parents can assist by volunteering time to help with productions and administrative tasks and providing technical expertise.

The refreshment canteens in the Ellen Street and Curtin Theatres are managed and staffed by parents. Parents are placed on rosters to work in the canteens on performance nights. Rosters and canteen stocks are prepared and maintained by a manager. These canteens are also fundraising activities and provide funds for student events and equipment.

Uniform Requirements

The college has a specified uniform and students are expected to follow the requirements in order to have access to all the extra opportunities provided at the college.

All items of uniform are to be sourced from the college uniform shop. To ensure students have adequate uniform items, parents/carers are expected to place orders at the end of the previous year. Winter items should be ordered at the same time to ensure students have requirements in sufficient time for the colder months.

The Gifted and Talented programs and Enrichment Programs also have specific dress requirements and it is essential that these requirements are purchased in time for the start of the college year.
Coming up at the Curtin Theatre...

As an incoming John Curtin College of the Art student we offer you the discounted student price for these performances.

Please book online at jc.wa.edu.au

AN EVENING OF MEDIA
Years 7 - 12 Media Arts
This showcase of student production work displays the creative ideas and talented film making skills of the media arts students.

Monday 23 November 2015
7.00pm
Curtin Theatre

THE NUTCRACKER
Project Company and Years 7 and 8 ballet and dance students

Our students will present a traditional version of the Christmas favourite The Nutcracker. This ballet is a wonderful vehicle to showcase the talents of students at the college and is sure to entertain audiences young and old.

Friday 4 December 2015  7.00pm
Saturday 5 December 2015   12.00pm matinee and 7.00pm
Curtin Theatre

SHOWCASE 2015
Year 12 Graduates

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SEE OUR ARTS STUDENTS AT THEIR VERY BEST. To celebrate the outstanding work of our Year 12 students we present Showcase 2015, where performers will show highlights from across the Arts.

You will need to book early for this show as it always sells out quickly.

Friday 11 December 2015
7.00pm
Curtin Theatre