



Celebrating
10
Years in
2022



THE HART
THEATRE
COMPANY



Celebrating

2022



THE **HART**
THEATRE
COMPANY

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Welcome to the Theatre

“Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it.”

Augusto Boal

Augusto Boal's words, and fierce intent, ring especially true after the past two years.

Since the Hart Theatre Company's (HTC) inception in 2012, it has been led with unwavering enthusiasm and dedication by Kim Anderson, engaging with the talents of over 300 students and proudly presenting five productions each year.

With deep appreciation, and pride, for all that the HTC has achieved, we are delighted to share with you our 2022 10th anniversary season.

Supported by the ethos and culture of St Leonard's College, the HTC insists upon the highest production values and standards, to inspire our students and help build an environment that is enriching, affirming, and inclusive for all members of our casts, crews, company, and community.

Our aim, as always, is to be the preeminent destination for students of the performing arts.

The HTC is also a beacon for creativity, connection, and the pursuit of excellence. Our team of Directors have been busy developing production designs, and together with the talents of our Costume Designer, Jillian Wilson, and Theatre Technician, Carl McKinnon, we have a season that is sure to delight and transport audiences, while reminding us of the vital importance that theatre holds in our collective lives.

Our season this year offers a broad range of stories and experiences, from classic Broadway musicals to Shakespeare. We have a nod to our past seasons with Middle School students performing *The Wizard of Oz* and a recognition of the past two years of interrupted seasons with the 5/6 students presenting *Dr Dolittle Jr.* which was to be part of last year's season.

We are so excited to share our 10th anniversary season with the St Leonard's College community.

We thank you for your support and patronage over the past ten years – and we look forward to seeing you at each of our amazing productions in 2022.



Nathan Armstrong
Head of Hart Theatre



Our Students Share the !

"I have been given the opportunity to express who I am and what I love, with people who love it too. It's a chance to sing some of the most iconic songs and play characters I love. It allows each and every person to work together and make a piece of art that everyone is proud of and have some fun whilst doing it."

Lucy McClymont

"A Hart Theatre show is my outlet for expression, creativity and passion."

Hana Mitchell

"Being part of a Hart Theatre Company production is about increasing my confidence and making new friends in different year levels. I have to go out of my comfort zone for the benefit of others."

Sophie Sexton

"Performing in the musical has been the highlight of every year for me since year 5. Our fabulous directors, musical directors, choreographers, musicians and crew really breathe life into a Hart Theatre Company production."

Oliver Ghaly

"Getting involved in a Hart Theatre Company production is the best chance to do something exciting and creative, whilst meeting new people and having fun."

Ellie Elsayed

"I enjoy the opportunities a Hart Theatre Company production allows me, in establishing new friendships with those that share the same interests, as well as creating a piece of work we can all look back on and be proud of."

Jordan Lock



St Leonard's College Senior School Musical

CHICAGO

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION



Thursday 31 March – Saturday 2 April 2022

Chicago

High School Edition

Senior School Musical

Dates: Thursday 31 March – Saturday 2 April 2022 (7.00pm)

Venue: Leonardian Centre

Director: Mr Nathan Armstrong

Having recently celebrated its 25th year on Broadway, *Chicago* is a jazz inspired tale of murder, greed, corruption, and the price that comes with fame. The global smash-hit success of *Chicago* is due to its toe tapping score, Fosse inspired choreography by the great Ann Reinking, and the gritty, but evocative, snapshot it offers of Chicago in the 1920s.

As the first show in our 10th anniversary season, our production of *Chicago – High School Edition* is sure to delight audiences with its 'razzle dazzle' and 'all that jazz'!



St Leonard's College Senior School Play

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██████████
██████████ THE
██████████ 39
██████████ STEPS
By John Buchan



Thursday 19 May - Saturday 21 May 2022

The 39 Steps



Senior School Play

Dates: Thursday 19 May – Saturday 21 May 2022 (7.00pm)

Venue: TC Woolhouse Theatre

Director: Ms Samantha Stone

Adapted from John Buchan's original novel, Patrick Barlow's play is a foundational work of the spy thriller genre but with buckets of slapstick and physical noir theatricality thrown in for good measure. Our intrepid Hannay finds himself on the run across Scotland trying to save a secret of National importance from leaving the country. Will he make it in time? Is Pamela a secret agent? Did the milkman do it? Why do the characters only eat fish? And what exactly are *The 39 Steps*?

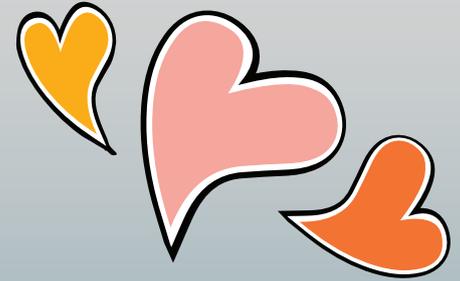
Come on this epic journey with the Senior School students as they recreate Britain's most spell binding thriller. The TCW Theatre will never be the same again! So come and join us on this intriguing and thrilling journey.

St Leonard's College Middle School Play



Thursday 4 August – Saturday 6 August 2022

A Midsummer Night's Dream



Middle School Play

Dates: Thursday 4 August – Saturday 6 August 2022 (7.00pm)

Venue: Leonardian Centre

Director: Ms Vanessa Meehan

“The course of true love never did run smooth” – Lysander, A Midsummer Night's Dream

Join us as we run away to an Athenian forest filled with magical fairies, mistaken identity, unrequited love and moonlight revels. The Middle School production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will present Shakespeare as you've never seen it before. Our reawakened production of the classic comedy will showcase the amazing talents of students in years 7 to 9 in term 3.

Three stories will collide in an explosion of comic confusion, as *The Bard's* most loved and enchanted comedy is presented live on stage. With a little bit of glitter and a whole lot of love, you won't want to miss this family-friendly production.



St Leonard's College Years 5 and 6 Musical

DOCTOR DOLITTLE JR.

Thursday 13 October – Saturday 15 October 2022

Dr Dolittle Jr.



Years 5 and 6 Musical

Dates: Thursday 13 October – Saturday 15 October 2022 (7.00pm)

Venue: Leonardian Centre

Director: Mr Adam Starr

From the village of Puddleby-On-The-Marsh comes Dr Dolittle, a doctor who, after an unfortunate mishap with General Bellows, decides that being a doctor to the animals may suit him more. He sets out to learn the linguistics of the animal kingdom and becomes one of the most sought after veterinarians in the world.

Curiosity takes Dolittle on a worldly adventure to find the elusive Great Pink Sea Snail. Dolittle is joined on his quest by a bevy of characters including Emma Fairfax and the larger than life Albert Blossom of Blossom's Mammoth Circus.

Be prepared to see wonders of the unique animal kingdom that would even amaze Sir David Attenborough. Talking dogs, parrots and introducing the Pushmi-Pullyu, a 2-headed Llama! This is a story of discovery, adventure, warmth and laughs. *Dr Dolittle Jr.* is set to amaze its audiences and take the Years 5 and 6 Musical to new heights while introducing our audience to some of the most memorable characters in years.

So take a number and take a seat, the doctor will see you shortly!

St Leonard's College Middle School Musical

THE WIZARD OF OZ



Thursday 1 December – Saturday 3 December 2022

The Wizard of Oz



Middle School Musical

Dates: Thursday 1 December – Saturday 3 December 2022 (7.00pm)

Venue: Leonardian Centre

Director: Mr Tom Ellis

No show resonates with audiences quite like *The Wizard of Oz*. The 1939 MGM film, starring Judy Garland, is fondly remembered by people around the globe to this very day. No matter how many times we have seen the musical, Dorothy's journey up the yellow brick road with her dog Toto, the Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion is still enticing, entertaining, exciting, and enchanting. Modern adaptations such as *The Wiz* and *Wicked* have only further cemented the importance of the *The Wizard of Oz* in the hearts and minds of audiences.



Senior School students last performed *The Wizard of Oz* in 2015 but 2022 will mark the first time that Middle School students will present the show at St Leonard's College. We are so excited to have you journey with us *over the rainbow* in December this year!

The Hart Theatre Company



The Hart Theatre Company was launched in 2012 with the opening of *Barnum* performed in a Big Top on the front oval. Over the past ten years the company has gone from strength to strength and grown in stature within the community. It has offered theatrical opportunities to hundreds of students and drawn in professional theatre practitioners to our production teams who embrace innovative production concepts. With two award-winning musicals to its credit and a swag of awards and nominations for its musicals at both the Middle and Senior School levels, the St Leonard's College Hart Theatre Company has proven it is a force to be reckoned with.

The company is named after Mrs Roma Hart, the first Speech and Drama teacher to stage a production at the College. Mrs Hart gave us our foundation; all those who come to 'play' with us discover their ability to soar.

Mission and Vision Statement

It is the aim of the St Leonard's College Hart Theatre Company to provide all those in the College community who participate in the program with a platform to build confidence as young performers, theatre practitioners, musicians, dancers and scenic artists. The Hart Theatre Company looks to foster growth through involvement while creating an environment where unique and creative vision is applied to productions with passion, dedication, fearlessness and inclusion.

St Leonard's College Hart Theatre Company's vision sees a future in which the expression of dramatic art is embraced and encouraged in the spirit of professional theatre. The Hart Theatre Company is a place where performance skills are tools for communication and the theatrical outcomes of lateral thinking bring applause.



2021 Roma Hart Award



I thank my lucky stars that I was so involved in The Hart Theatre Company.

When I came to St Leonard's in year 4, my little 10-year-

old self was astounded by the production standards and performances. I knew that 'on stage' was where I needed to be.

I got involved in private drama, singing lessons and dance classes and then was selected for a small role in the 5/6 musical. Year 7 rolled around, and I was prepared, as ever, for my audition for *Peter Pan* but I didn't get a part. I was crushed. I sat in the audience and longed to be up there singing and dancing my little heart out.

We also bought tickets to see the Middle School play, *Romeo and Juliet*. I didn't know anyone in the cast and had only really seen musicals before. I sat in the audience absolutely stunned. I was so impressed by

how incredibly moving and entertaining 15 students acting on a stage in jeans and white t shirts, with just four white boxes as the set, could be. I knew I had found my people and each year thereafter I was part of The Hart Theatre Company plays.

I want to thank Mr Armstrong for his bold and ambitious productions and for helping me to understand that performing is not all about the bells and whistles (although sometimes it helps).

In year 10, I was also encouraged to join the Tech Crew and work behind the scenes. For someone so obsessed with the theatre industry, this was a dream come true. When I wasn't on stage, I was clicking buttons and follow-spotting, working as part of the hair and make-up teams, watching each production, and loving every minute!

The productions I performed in and worked on at St Leonard's College have undoubtedly been the most incredibly memorable parts of my schooling experience and the thing

I will miss the most. I have met so many like-minded individuals and lifelong friends. I have felt nurtured and supported by every staff member in the drama department and Hart Theatre Company. I cannot thank them enough for allowing me to discover my passion for performing and cementing my future aspirations in the field.

To any young person needing that little extra encouragement... show up to auditions, bring a friend or go alone. Give it your best shot and know that if you keep persisting, someone will recognise you.

It means so much to me to receive the Roma Hart Theatre Award for 2021. Being part of the Hart Theatre community was a real turning point for me and I know I will never turn back. This was truly such a valuable and unique experience which really allowed me to learn and develop as an actor and person.

Grace King
2021 Roma Hart Award
Recipient



Take Your Seat in Our Performing Arts History



The Leonardian Centre resides at the very heart of our College, uniting Leonardians of today and tomorrow in the celebration of the performing arts, inspiring our community, and enriching our College culture.

We invite members of the community to make a donation to our seat naming campaign. Donations of \$1,000 to the seat naming campaign will be recognised with a named plaque on a seat in the Leonardian Centre.

Name a seat in recognition of:

- A loved one - partner, children, grandchildren, parent or grandparent
- A couple
- A family
- A graduating St Leonard's College student
- An alumni member
- A favourite mentor or teacher

How to name your seat

- Donate online at stleonards.vic.edu.au > Foundation > Seat Naming Campaign
- Contact our Foundation office on 9909 9569 or email foundation@stleonards.vic.edu.au

Your meaningful gift to our seat naming campaign is tax deductible*.

* Full terms and conditions available at stleonards.vic.edu.au



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