



Mercedes College

A S P I R E E X C E L L E A D

26 November 2018

Dear 2019 Year 7 Students and Parents

Girls have been given information and audition forms today at the Year 6 Orientation Day about the 2019 DramaDance Festival. Your daughter has indicated that she is interested in auditioning for this Festival. The Festival is a House event that involves Year 12 leaders directing and choreographing drama and dance and competing against other Houses at the House Performing Arts Festival to become Champion DramaDance House for 2019.

How it works:

Houses will undertake a drama and dance performance with the theme "Girl Power". Each house has selected a storyline and will rehearse throughout Term 1, to perform on Monday 8 April 2019 at the Perth Concert Hall. Storyline choices are:

- Cooper: "Medusa" – the timeless myth of Medusa; commonly known for her grotesque part-human part-animal nature and taste for destruction. But how did she come to be?
- Frayne: "Women through Time" – follow Rosie in her dream as she explores the powerful women in past generations and how they overcome troubles and triumphs.
- McAuley: "Working Class" – a woman isn't granted the opportunity to write for the newspaper that she works at, leaving her no choice but to take matters into her own hands.
- McDonald: "The Legend of Gōnglǚ" – a girl struggles to build her powers in a society where boys have control over the four elements.
- Serisier: "A Twisted Tale" – an alternative version of the classic children's fable; *Little Red Riding Hood*. In this story, Ruby is no damsel in distress when the wolf surprises her at her grandmother's house.
- Wright: "The Paper Bag Princess" – a flipped around fairy tale where the Princess rescues the Prince.

Current Year 7 – 10 students who are already at the College are auditioning in the last week of Term 4 and 2019 Year 7 auditions will be held on **Monday 4 February from 3.30 - 4.30pm (their very first day of school)**. Unfortunately, this is the only day available to audition Year 7 students, as rehearsals begin on Wednesday 6 February.

What to wear:

To audition, Year 7 girls need to bring clothes suitable to move/dance in. We suggest sports uniform, no dance shoes required. Dance wear is acceptable. Girls are to come to the PAC after school on Monday 4 February and they will change in the PAC dressing room. (Please name all uniform and any clothes that come to school.) Year 12 leaders will be at the audition.

What will happen at the audition:

Girls doing the acting auditions will be required to either read from a script or do a short simple improvisation for the Year 12 leaders after having a chance to practice it, and girls doing the dance auditions will be taught 2-3 counts of 8 of choreography, have a chance to practice it and then perform for the Year 12 leaders. It would be preferable that parents pick up their daughters from the College after these auditions rather than the girls travel home on public transport, as to do this, they will need to change back into their uniform. Please pick them up from Catherine's Garden, which is adjacent to the PAC. Girls need to bring the completed Audition Form (with photo) with them to the audition. Audition forms are also available on the College Website.

While we encourage and support the Year 7 students getting involved in this Festival, it should be noted that cast sizes are quite small (15 actors and 15 dancers from Years 7 – 11) and it is only possible to cast a very small number of Year 7 students. Understandably, this can lead to disappointment for many girls.

C O M P A S S I O N E X C E L L E N C E J U S T I C E I N T E G R I T Y S E R V I C E



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Year 7 students are encouraged to get involved, try out and earn house points for auditioning, but if they are not cast they should remember that there will be other opportunities later in the year and throughout their years at the College.

Within the House Performing Arts Festival, there is also a House Choir Festival that is run at the same time as DramaDance and there is no audition for this. Girls will hear about this when they begin school in 2019. There will be many opportunities for girls to become involved in co-curricular events as Year 7 students.

Rehearsals:

Girls can audition for both Dance and Drama but can only be cast in one discipline; this is because rehearsals for Drama and Dance occur at the same times. If cast, girls must be available for their house's rehearsal afternoon as listed below:

- **Cooper** – Thursdays 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- **McAuley** – Wednesdays 3pm – 5pm
- **Serisier** – Mondays 3.30pm – 5pm
- **Frayne** – Wednesdays 3pm – 4.30pm
- **McDonald** – Wednesdays 3pm – 5pm
- **Wright** – Mondays 3.30pm – 5pm

Where public holidays fall on these days, catch-up days will be negotiated. It should be noted that there is a Sunday rehearsal on 3 March from 12.30pm – 5.30pm. There will be a rehearsal on the Home Study Day, Tuesday 5 March 9.00am – 3.30pm. There will also be a full dress rehearsal on Thursday 4 April from after school until 9.00pm in the PAC. **Girls MUST be available for all rehearsals and must stay for the duration of each rehearsal. This is a significant commitment and girls should consider other commitments they already have before they audition for this event.** All rehearsals are at school and venues are rotated to give all houses access to mirrors and suitable floor spaces. All rehearsals are supervised by Mentor Teachers but are taken by Year 12 DramaDance Festival leaders.

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday 6 February 2019.

Year 7 students will know whether or not they have been cast on Tuesday 5 February via a phone call to student/parent from Miss Hunt that evening. Successful auditionees will then be required at the first rehearsals the next afternoon.

Performance Date:

The Performance date for this Festival is Monday 9 April 2018 at 6pm, the last week of Term 1, at the Perth Concert Hall. This performance is a House Performing Arts Festival, which combines House DramaDance Festival and House Choir Festival. Girls may be in both Festivals, as rehearsals do not clash.

If you have any further questions, please email me at ehunt@mercedes.wa.edu.au

Thank you and good luck to your daughter.

Miss Emily Hunt
DramaDance Festival Coordinator

Mrs Kathleen Cocks
Head of Learning Area - The Arts