

9 WHO SHINE

From symphonies to the stage and dance to design, these nine arts students are pursuing passions and putting their creative talents on show

REACHING FOR THE STARS

YEAR 11 St Catherine's School student Lilla Barrington has always loved the performing arts and was this year accepted into the Melbourne Theatre Company's Youth Ambassador Program with 14 other year 11s across Victoria.

"I grew up with dance, which I still do now, and I think that aspect of performing definitely had an impact on my love for the acting aspect," Lilla says.

"At St Catherine's I am lucky enough to have experienced various opportunities to perform in different kinds of productions. One of my all-time favourites that I have done is the 2022 school musical Urinetown."

She is currently rehearsing for this year's senior play, *Children of the Black Skirt*.

"After I've graduated, I hope to attend university overseas, particularly in New York to study acting and then to hopefully pursue it as a career," Lilla says.

"I am mainly aiming towards film and television as that area has always inspired and encouraged me, and I have so many idols whom I look up to within that industry."



SYMPHONY OF LOVE

THE Hamilton and Alexandra College year 12 house and music captain Millie Davidson formed a love of music from a young age and started playing viola when she was nine.

"I was first truly inspired by music and the possibilities when I was accepted as principal viola for the Queensland Youth Orchestra JSE," Mille says.

"It was my first experience playing in a large orchestra with a conductor in the city and from this moment on I fell in love with playing and performing."

She holds an Associate of Music Australia (AmusA), is a current member of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra-Flagship (3rd year) under a scholarship awarded to regional students by the EH Flack Trust, has played in the Melbourne Youth Orchestra PGYO ensemble and volunteers as a tutor for the Melbourne Youth Junior Strings.

"I love experiencing the nerves, excitement, pride and sense of achievement when I perform, whether it be on The Hamilton and Alexandra College stage, at Hamer Hall, Sydney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne Recital Centre, Queensland Performing Arts or in the Community," Millie says.

Millie has played side by side with members from the Australian String Quartet, Flinders Quartet, Orchestra Victoria and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. For four years she has been a member of the John Noble Quartet Program, and played in the Ballarat Symphony and Port Fairy Music Festival Orchestra.



A CALLING FOR THEATRE

SINGING was Joe Appleton's first love, followed closely by acting.

The talented Ballarat Grammar year 12 vice-captain from Creswick intends to study Music Theatre and pursue a career in the performing arts industry.

He has a long list of credits to his name already, including winning the Bell Shakespeare Scholarship. He was nominated for two Musical Theatre Guild of Victoria Awards for his performance in *Rent* and had lead roles in school productions for four years.

"I feel that it is my calling," Joe says. "To entertain and distract people from their own lives for an hour or two."

"I love when audiences get so engrossed in the telling of stories, making them laugh and cry, an emotional journey. I love witnessing the growth of a piece, beginning with the initial research and experimentation, right through to the buzz of opening night and then the following chaos, hilarity and friendships."



LEADING THE WAY

FOURTH-GENERATION Scotch College student Lachlan Clark has embraced every facet of school life since moving from the family farm at Hay in NSW to board in Melbourne.

Appreciating the structure and opportunity that living on campus provides, Lachlan sees his role as boarding captain to be about encouraging involvement, embracing new challenges and stepping out of one's comfort zone.

One aspect of his time that has been pivotal to Lachlan's love of his Melbourne school is his involvement in Scotch's annual drama productions. He has been involved in every major production throughout his years at Scotch.

The year 12 student and boarding captain says it has been great being part of such a special community.

"Last year was *West Side Story*, which was amazing and so completely different to anything I have done before," Lachlan says.

"This year we are doing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and once again there is a new challenge, taking on Shakespeare."

While undecided about his future plans, Lachlan, who plays the guitar, won't rule out continuing his love of drama and music after school.