



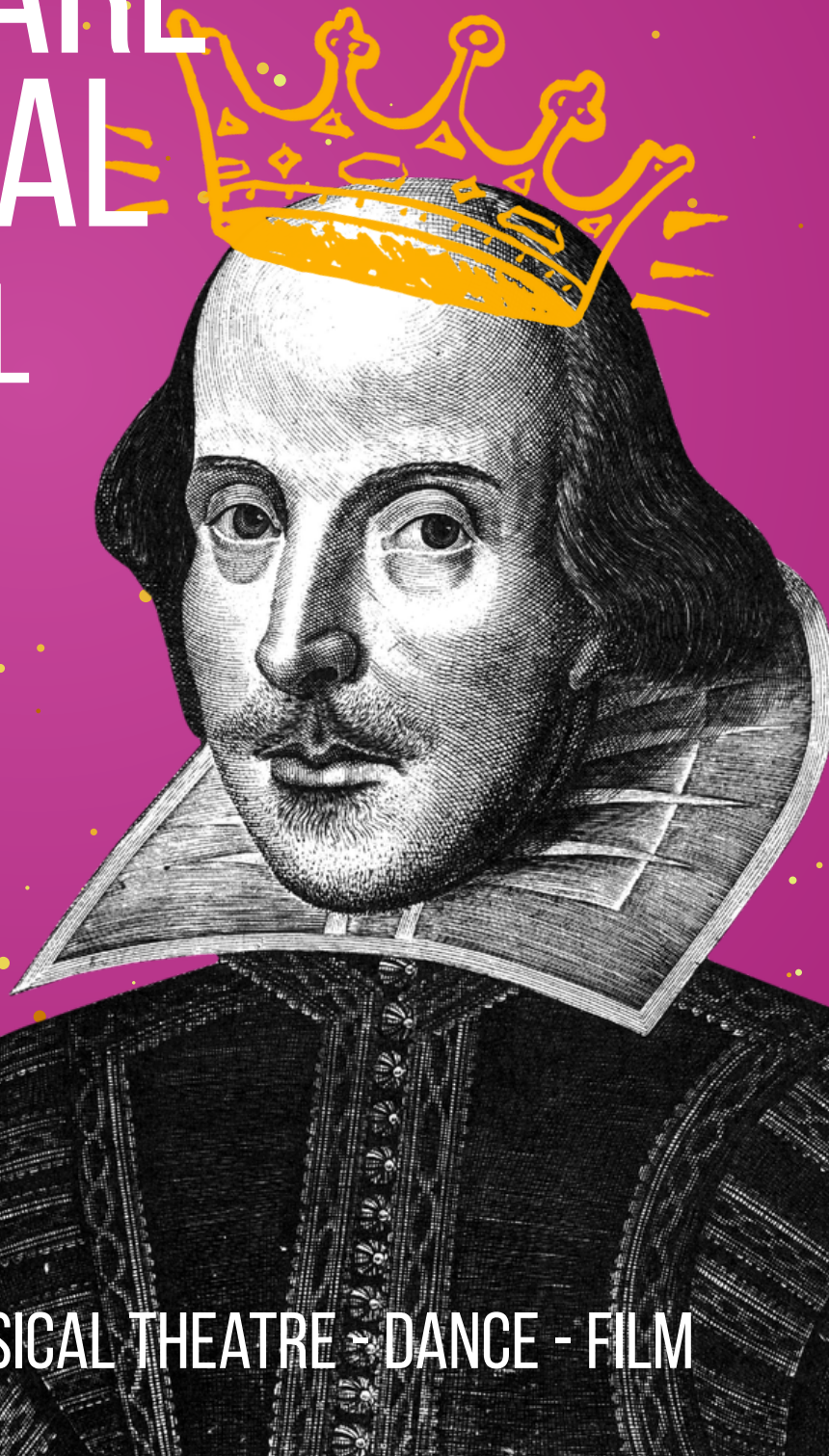
SPORT FOR JOVE
THEATRE CO.

presents

2026

SHAKESPEARE CARNIVAL GRAND FINAL

WIN THE
CROWN



ACTING - MUSIC - PHYSICAL THEATRE - DANCE - FILM

Welcome to the 2026 SHAKESPEARE CARNIVAL Grand Final

Welcome to the 10th anniversary of the Shakespeare Carnival!

The Shakespeare Carnival is all about getting people to take “the next step” - challenging yourself and improving bit by bit, learning all the skills that the live performing arts foster.

2026 marks a big step for Shakespeare Carnival, too. This year a new leader has picked up the crown and forged a path to bring this event to schools and students across the state: Gabriel Fancourt has become Carnival Captain and brought his impressive skills in producing and presenting to the role.

As always, it is the students that have brought the magic to the stage - with their hard-work and courage revealed when they step into the light and bring these works of rare insight and poetic brilliance to life for their audience. And this year has been no exception with inspirational performances bringing well-earned joy and the satisfaction of achievement to our talented Carnivaleers!

And so today we get to witness the culmination of a culture of striving for excellence in the 2026 Shakespeare Carnival Grand Final. Gabe and the whole team at Sport for Jove would like to thank you all for being here today – without an audience the stage is nothing – but we owe special thanks to all the teachers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to guide their students, to challenge their students, to open the world of growth that the performing arts provides to them.



And thank you to the students who have been developing literacy, leadership, communications, collaboration, creativity and resilience as they pushed themselves to improve and (hopefully) had an amazing amount of fun along the way.

Congratulations to all our performers for the way in which they have represented their schools and themselves as they have conjured bold moments of theatrical magic – everything we achieve is only made possible by the communities around us, and the 'glory' of your successes reflects upon them and the nurturing environments they provide.

I hope that your experiences here will teach you lessons that you can take with you for the rest of your life and have enriched your world in the unique way that Shakespeare's incredible artistry can. Good luck to everyone today!

**Jovially,
Chris "CT" Tomkinson
Carnival Director**



Meet our 2026 GRAND FINAL JUDGES

BLAZEY BEST



One of Australia's most versatile and accomplished actresses, Blaze most recently performed in Ensemble Theatre's *84 Charing Cross Road* and *The Glass Menagerie*; *A Model Murder* for the Sydney Festival and the Hayes Theatre production of *A Little Night Music*, as well as *Being Alive: The Music of Stephen Sondheim*. Other theatre highlights include *Amadeus* (Red Line Productions); *Sex Magick*, *Dogged* and *Strange Attractor* (Griffin Theatre); *In a Nutshell*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Troilus + Cressida*, *Richard III*, *The Comedy of Errors* (National and UK Tours), *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Servant of Two Masters* and *The War of the Roses* (Bell Shakespeare); *My Brilliant Career*, *Ivanov*, *Nora*, *Miss Julie*, *Wild Duck* (international tours), *Death of a Salesman* and *Medea* (Belvoir); *Gypsy*, *Miracle City* and *Only Heaven Knows* (Luckiest Productions); *Summer Rain*, *Wharf Revue*,

Arcadia, *Travesties* and *Troupers* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Fawlty Towers* (Michael Coppel); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Showtune Productions); *B-Girl* (Luna Hare) and *The Iliad Out Loud* (Sydney and Adelaide Festivals). Blaze has won Sydney Theatre Awards for her performances in *Ivanov*, *Miracle City* and *Medea*.

Blaze's work in films includes Brendan Cowell's *Ruben Guthrie*, *Ten Empty*, *West*, *Stealth* and *Powder Burn*. Her recent work in television includes the audience favourite *A Place to Call Home*, critically acclaimed *Rake*, *Janet King*, *The Killing Field*, *Home and Away*, *Between Two Worlds*, *Pieces of Her*, the ABC's *Significant Others* and *Plum*. She will soon be seen in ABC's *Shakedown*.

Blaze is currently starring as series regular 'Nadia Drozdova', in Stan Original series *Good Cop Bad Cop* for which she has received rave reviews, as well as the third season on Netflix's international hit *Heartbreak High*.

ISABELLA MILKOVITSCH



Isabella Milkovitsch is a highly dedicated and ambitious Director and Producer. Isabella holds a First Class Honours degree in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Sydney and currently works as Assistant Producer at Sydney Theatre Company and Producer at Sport for Jove Theatre Company. She is also a freelance Director, working across the independent theatre sector and high schools. Isabella's directing credits include: *Dancing at Lughnasa* (New Theatre), *BiPolar Express* (Sydney Fringe), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (co-Directed alongside Damien Ryan), *The Real Inspector Hound*, *Knock Knock* and *The Day the Internet Died* (International Grammar School). As an Assistant Director Isabella worked alongside Cristabel Sved on Sport For Jove's production of

Betrayal and she has worked regularly at the New Theatre on shows such as *Twelfth Night*, *Banging Denmark* and *Shakespeare in Love*. Isabella independently produced *Much Ado* at Flight Path Theatre (Attractive, Not Model Attractive). Isabella began her career as Stage Manager; for Sport for Jove she stage managed *Romeo & Juliet* (tour), *Macbeth* (tour), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Summer Season) and *Timon of Athens* (Summer Season).

Emily McKnight is a Sydney-based actor, musician and voice-over artist.

Her theatre credits include *Comedy of Errors* and *As You Like It* (Sport for Jove), *Lady Macbeth* in *Macbeth* (Sport for Jove and SheShakespeare), *A Christmas Carol* (Ensemble Theatre), *TickTickBoom* (Subtlenuance), *Gravity Guts* (Company of Rogues), and touring nationally with *Poetry in Action*. Her television credits include *Jay's Jungle* (Ambience Entertainment) and *Black Comedy* (ABC). Emily is also a voice-over artist and the voice of the audio tour at the Hyde Park Barracks Museum, Sydney.

She writes and presents children's and educational performances for orchestras across NSW, including the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Youth Orchestras, and is the creator and host of the podcast *An Actor Survives*.

Emily is a teaching artist, and regularly works with organisations such as the Sydney Opera House, Sport for Jove and Australian Theatre for Young People, teaching theatre for students of all ages.

As children's performer Emily Who, Emily has released five albums, appeared on ABC Kids Listen, and won Best Children's Performer NSW at the 2023 What's On 4 Kids Awards. In 2024 she represented Australia at the Visoni Children's Festival in Bologna, Italy.

EMILY MCKNIGHT



2026

MASTERCLASS PROGRAM

Group Devised

Matilda Ridgway

Music

Drew Livingston

Ensemble Scene

Damien Strouthos

Dance

Siobhan Lynch

Film

Alexander
Lee-Rekers

Physical Theatre

Julia Cotton

Duologue

Miranda
Middleton

Meet our 2026 MASTERCLASS TUTORS

JULIA COTTON



Movement Teacher, Choreographer, Director

Julia began her career with The Australian Ballet, later joined Australian Dance Theatre and was a founding member of visual performance group Etcetera. She has choreographed for dance companies, for opera and for drama including Company B Belvoir, Sydney Theatre Company and Theatre of Image.

Julia taught at NIDA for 15 years first with esteemed movement teacher Keith Bain OAM and then on his retirement she became Head of Movement for the Acting Department and the post-graduate Movement Studies course. She was also acting Head of Movement at WAAPA in 2012-13.

Since leaving NIDA in 2010 Julia worked on The Book of Everything for Company B Belvoir and Theatre of Image's Little Beauty for the National Portrait Gallery. She directed Backstage at the Ballets Russes for the National Gallery of Australia and worked and performed with centenarian Eileen Kramer from 2015 till 2025. She also continued teaching both at Actors Centre Australia and at Sydney Acting School. Julia currently teaches for the NIDA Acting Course as well as for the NIDA Corporate Performance Program.

In 2016 Julia completed a Master of Creative Arts-Research degree at the University of Wollongong.



DREW LIVINGSTON



Over the last fifteen years Drew has worked as an actor all over Australia in productions both large and small. Most notably as Harry in Mamma Mia! The Musical, Tony in Billy Elliot the Musical, and most recently he featured in Melbourne Theatre Companies highly acclaimed production of My Brilliant Career. Drew also has an extensive list of Shakespeare credits with both Sport for Jove Theatre and Bell Shakespeare.

As a composer Drew has written songs and music for some of the countries most respected theatre companies; most notably Bell Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and Henry V for which he won a Sydney theatre award and was nominated for a Greenroom award for his compositions and vocal arrangements.

Drew has also worked extensively with Sport for Jove Theatre company writing original music for The Libertine, As You Like It, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest and Twelfth Night. He also wrote original songs and lyrics for Sport for Jove and Hot House Theatre's The River at the End of the Road. Other productions include Titus Andronicus for Cry Havoc and for Bell Shakespeare's The Players/Actors at Work.

In 2014 Drew and his writing partner and wife, Naomi, released an album So Long Lives This featuring original songs based on sonnets by William Shakespeare, which reached as high as number five on the Australian iTunes folk charts.

Drew also co-wrote the play The City which enjoyed a highly successful season at the Sydney Opera House

Siobhan Lynch is a Sydney-Based multi-disciplinary artists specialising in Contemporary Dance. She trained at Sydney Dance Company (2019/2021) graduating with an Advanced Diploma in Elite Performance as well as completing a Diploma of Musical Theatre at The National Institute of Arts (NIDA) in 2020. In her performance career thus far she has worked with major leading Australian dance companies and independents such as Australasian Dance Collective, Opera Australia, Stephanie Lake Company, The Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company and more. Most recently Siobhan toured to Mexico Contemporary Festival and will perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

SIOBHAN LYNCH



ALEXANDER LEE-REKERS

Alexander Lee-Rekers [he/him] is a writer, producer, director and educator working on unceded Gadigal land. He is a graduate of AFTRS, the University of Sydney and NIDA, where he completed his Masters of Writing for Performance in 2017. Credits include: 'Split the Party' (Rochambeau, 2025); 'The Brown Bag Canteen' (Jopuka/Red Tree); 'The Linden Solution' (KXT bAKEHOUSE); 'Lights in the Park' (ATYP, The Joan); 'Van Festival of Live Art audiences and public alike. She is the Head of Movement at the Actors de Maar Papers' (Old 505 Theatre); 'Hanging With' (The Walt Disney Company); 'Norm's' (KXTeethcutting); 'Intersection: Chrysalis' segment "The Witch In The Window" (ATYP, Griffin); and 'There Will Be A Climax' (An Assorted Few, Old Fitz)



In 2022, he was awarded the Red Tree Commission for his play 'The Brown Bag Canteen'. He was also a recipient of the ATYP Foundation Commission in 2018 for 'Lights in the Park', as well as a participant of the company's 2017 National Studio

MIRANDA MIDDLETON



Miranda Middleton is an award-winning theatre-maker with a Master of Fine Arts (Directing) from the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA). She has been a recipient of the Sandra Bates Director's Award at the Ensemble Theatre and a MinterEllison Future Director at Melbourne Theatre Company. Miranda was nominated for a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Direction of a Musical for Bright Star and a Green Room Award for Outstanding Direction of an Independent Musical for The Grinning Man. Miranda's most recent directing credits include: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Bright Star (Sport for Jove Theatre Company); Into the Woods (Elder Conservatorium of Music); In Her Own Words (Sydney Festival); The Grinning Man (VASS Productions/Salty Theatre); The Eisteddfod (Old Fitz Theatre).

As Associate Director: My Brilliant Career (Melbourne Theatre Company); King of Pangea (King's Head Theatre, London). As Assistant Director: Candide (Opera Australia); The Lovers (Bell Shakespeare); Master Class, The Queen's Nanny (Ensemble Theatre). Miranda will direct the new musical Paper Stars for British Youth Music Theatre in 2026.

MATILDA RIDGWAY

Theatre: As Actor: Sydney Theatre Company: The River, Rules for Living. NORPA: Prima Facie. Belvoir: Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Master and Margarita, Jasper Jones. Belvoir 25A: The Edit. Furious Mattress. Bell Shakespeare: Coriolanus, Hamlet, Henry IV. Ensemble Theatre: The Norman Conquests Trilogy, Proof, Seminar, My Wonderful Day, Brooklyn Boy, Ruby Sunrise. Sport for Jove: Merchant of Venice, Midsummer Nights Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, Crucible and A Doll's House. As Director: Bell Shakespeare: Just Romeo and Juliet, Just Macbeth.

Film: As Actor: Disclosure, June Again. Short Film: Proof of Love, Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow, The Guests. As producer: Cosmo's.

TV: Bump, Hiding, Fam Time. Audiobook Narration: Wed By the Wayside.

Awards: 2018 Flickerfest Short Film Award for Best Performance in an Australian Short Film (Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow). 2015 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role in an Independent Production (A Doll's House). Training: Ensemble Studio, Atlantic Theatre Company New York, SIT Company New York, École Philippe Gaulier Paris. Pronouns: She/Her



DAMIEN STROUTHOS



Damien Strouthos is a founding member of Sport for Jove Theatre Company and a WAAPA graduate. Over the past 15 years, he has worked extensively in theatre, performing with Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Bell Shakespeare, and Sport for Jove. In 2017, he was nominated for a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Actor. On screen, Damien is known for The Twelve (Foxtel), The Tourist (HBO Max/BBC), Pieces of Her (Netflix), Transfusion (Stan), Last King of the Cross (Paramount+), and One Night (Paramount+).



GRAND FINAL AGENDA



Sunday 21 June

9.30am	Welcome
9.40-10.10am	Dance
10.10-10.40am	Duologue
10.40-11.20am	Ensemble Scene
11.20-11.35am	INTERVAL
11.35-11.55am	Physical Theatre
11.55-12.30pm	Group Devised
12.30-1.30pm	LUNCH
1.30-1.50pm	Music
1.50-2.25pm	Smart Film
2.25-2.45pm	JUDGES ANNOUNCEMENT
2.45pm	Close

CARNIVAL CATEGORIES

DANCE

APGS

Zara Frousalias, Talyn
Pale-Eli

Troilus & Cressida

OLMC PARRA

Angelina Lavandero,
Isabella Lavandero,
Kayleigh Rose Angara

Romeo & Juliet

Penrith Selective

Harriet Bowen, Eden
Jones, Ella Wang

*A Midsummer Night's
Dream*

PLC Armidale

Sophie Clendinning,
Lucinda Clendinning,
Annabella Wysel

The Tempest

St Columba

Bronte Hollins,
Annabelle Hinds

Macbeth

St Mary's Star of the Sea

Elizabeth Knight, Prue
Gradzka, Layla Ostermeyer,
Zoe Matthews, Lucy Vu,
Ava O'Donnell, Abigail
Cooley, Ireland Condon,
Mia Dimovski, Charlotte
Peterson

Julius Caesar

DUOLOGUE

James Fallon

Eva Tilson, Emily
Richards

*Two Gentleman of
Verona*

PLC Armidale

Kithmi Jayaratne, Rebecca
Mang

Macbeth

PLC Sydney

Evalyse, Lauren
Glastras

Richard III

Plumpton

Tyrese Arriaga, Shivani
Joshi

The Merchant of Venice

WHSPA

Indie-Belle Clayton, Vogue
Caitlin

Othello

William Clarke College

Emmeline Savenije,
Lucy McElveney

Macbeth

ENSEMBLE SCENE

Abbotsleigh

Aaliya Fisher, Rithika
Vinoth, Sasha Ndiritu,
Scarlett Rose

Macbeth

St Mary's Star of the Sea

Hannah Mason, Georgia
Rose Micevski, Sadie
Bushby, Hannah Mason,
Juliette Ayers, Sailor
Holland, Maddison Murphy,
Adelaide Jukes

As You Like It

Catherine McAuley

Amelia Conomy, Bianca
Poumale, Calista Soriano,
Ishaani Ghosh

Othello

James Fallon

Eva Tilson, Emily Richards,
Daphne Pinson, Emelia
Brain

Twelfth Night

St Paul's College Kempsey

Sharni Maree Crossley,
William Perry, Jayden
Bolton, Olivia Rafton

Othello

St Vincent's

Frances McGee, Bella
Leedham, Katja Moritz,
Eleni Papachristos,
Maddison Tapp, Erin
Fowler, Amelie Medniuk,
Abs Davey

Julius Caesar

MUSIC

Abbotsleigh

Caitlyn Saurajen, Natalie
Hoang

Macbeth

OLMC Parra

Carina Sang (Composer),
Anni Cheung, Erin Lee,
Serin Lee, Celine Nguyen,
Isabelle Liew, Kiris Van

Romeo & Juliet

PLC Armidale

Rebecca Mang

Romeo & Juliet

St Columba

Josie Weatherby, Lexie
Fowler, Charlie Finnecy

Hamlet

PHYSICAL THEATRE

Sydney Girls HS

Amy Du, Corbin Franco,
Lisa Shi, Bella Bo, Chelsea
Liong, Carina Li, Eleanor
Cassie, Tamira Zhou

Hamlet

Catherine McAuley

Afreen Mahmud, Auriella
Eid, Emmanuella
Anajemba, Geet Gorkhali,
Hrishita Shedge, Lilly
Grasso, Raylene
Mascarenhas, Sophie Saad,
Alana Oei, Gabrielle
Tamayo

Othello

St Mary's Star of the Sea

Sophie Chard, Mia
Kuzmanovski, Ezabelah
Miller-McIntyre, Aasha
Philippa, Cassandra Reay,
Felicity Baker, Sophia
Hodges, Sophia Gveric

Twelfth Night

PLC Armidale

Tilly Shearim, Sybella
Manson, Kithmi Jayaratne,
Ella McKinnon, Sophia
Marchant

Macbeth

GROUP DEVISED

Trinity Grammar

Harry Brown, Dominic
Cavallaro-Zoghbi, Ben
Loane, Oliver Cardiff

Macbeth

St Mary's Star of the Sea

Sofia Santarelli, Elodie
Hutchins, Heidi Petersen,
Emily Keir, Ella Di Martino

Various

St Columba

Anneliese de Braun,
Katherine Wallace, Isla
Moss

Hamlet

St Paul's College Kempsey

Emily Walton, Olivia
Rafton, Emily Woods

Haunting Macbeth

OLMC Parra

Anni Cheung, Lily Hale,
Lauren Loulach, Alyssa
Menin, Sheryl Monteiro,
Isabelle Tannous, Kathleen
Ticic

*Much Ado About
Nothing*

Plumpton

Andrewya Vasiliadis,
Armin Riahi, Evelyn Rory
Fant, Ewen Neoh, Tyrese
Arriaga, Shivani Joshi

Various

SMART FILM

PLC Armidale

Anna Blake, Hannah Swain,
Georgina Blake, Tahlia
Burney

Twelfth Night

WHSPA

Michaela Burgess, Indigo
Woelfle, Olivia Pinto, Belle
Green

Twelfth Night

St Columba

Charlie Finnecy, Xavier
Yates

Plumpton

Charlette Lo-Presti,
Jaxon-Thomas Mcneill,
Lily Stojanovski, Raebher-
Tyrell Villania, Holleigh
Smith

Romeo & Juliet

St Mary's Star of the Sea

Ananya Shekhar, Florence
Johnson, Milla Upton

Hamlet/King Lear

Abbotsleigh

Amber Liou, Briar Qiu,
Emma Wong, Hana Lee

King Lear

St Vincent's

Mirabella Bastock, Chloe
Tessier

Macbeth



THANK YOUS

The Shakespeare Carnival Grand Final would not happen without the support of the following individuals, all of whom volunteered their time to make this event a success:

Photography

Yvette Elizondo (Yves.Scene.Co.)

Videography

Tristan Baker (BAM Studios)

Event-Day Support

Isabella Milkovitsch

Emily Saint Smith

Chris Tomkinson

Thulitha Senervirathne

Dinitha Senervirathne

Naomi Belet

Venue

Seymour Centre

And last but most definitely not least, the amazing teachers from all our participating schools.

SPORT FOR JOVE'S EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sport for Jove is dedicated to giving schools a wide range of Shakespeare learning resources and strategies to keep these plays current, engaging and relevant for today's youth.

Each year, we curate a program of live performances, HSC symposiums, junior and senior school workshops and incursions, to support NSW students in English, Drama and beyond.

"The performances, set, and directorship of the production was of exceptional quality. I was thankful that my students were able to experience high-quality theatre in the flesh. As a regional school it is valuable to have this resource, consistently, to this level of production."

OWEN COWLEY, TEACHER, NOWRA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



To learn how we can help with your educational pathways,
contact our team at info@sportforjove.com.au

“HOW FAR THAT LITTLE CANDLE THROWS HIS BEAMS!”

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE



Sport for Jove is an independent theatre company that relies heavily on the generosity of our audiences.

Your support allows us to continue to deliver education initiatives like the Shakespeare Carnival. Consider making a tax deductible donation to Sport for Jove this EOFY.

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