

Media Release

Monday 21 September 2015



MTC Welcomes 25 Students for Annual Drama Scholarship

Today **Melbourne Theatre Company** welcomes **25 students** from around Victoria for its annual **Youth Scholarship Course**.

The week-long course is provided free of charge and tailored to students who would not normally have access to extra-curricular drama programs due geographic, economic, educational or personal barriers.

The selected students, aged 14-16 years, are nominated by their schools to participate in the drama performance program which is led by an expert team of teaching artists and focuses on activities that encourage self-expression, confidence building, collaboration and creating ensemble-based work.

The course culminates in a showing of their week's work for family, teachers and special guests on the last day of the program.

MTC Executive Director Virginia Lovett said, 'Year after year the Youth Scholarship Course provides young people in need with a unique experience that has real impact on their lives and ability to express themselves. The course is a key aspect of our annual Education Program that reaches thousands of students throughout Victoria, and it is thanks to our generous donors and support from our partners that we can continue to offer these life-changing education programs.'

MTC's Head of Education and Families Suzie Thomas said, 'This program is unlike any other on offer from a theatre company in Victoria and we are proud that the course is now in its fourteenth year. The course creates opportunities for young people to express themselves and have a voice through drama, and to connect with like-minded peers from around the State. It's also a chance for them to just be kids and have fun in the school holidays, which is something out of the ordinary for many of our participants who are facing life challenges beyond their years. It is an inspiring week for the students and MTC, and we always look forward to seeing the students' transformation throughout the course.'

In 2015, this program is generously supported by **The Lady Mayoress' Charitable Foundation** and students from regional areas have been provided with accommodation by **Brady Hotels** who are kindly supporting the program through the provision of free accommodation.

For more information about the **Youth Scholarship Course** and other **MTC Education** programs visit mtc.com.au/education

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