

**WESTERN  
EDGE**

# **2023 SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**Creating space for student  
expression & connection**



**Our Schools programs are supported by the Department of Education and Training**

# ABOUT WESTERN EDGE

Western Edge is a not-for-profit arts organisation, working with young and emerging artists from the western suburbs of Naarm (Melbourne) to tell their own stories, with their own voice, in their own way.

Working across three core programmatic areas (Schools, Community and Professional Development), we create opportunities for young creatives to explore self-expression, learn new artistic practices, gain on-the-job employment, and develop as artistic and cultural leaders.

Since being established in 2005, we have engaged:

- Over 7,500 young people and over 30,000 audience members
- Delivered 180 free creative programs
- Created over 900 employment positions for marginalised artists

## ABOUT OUR ARTISTS

Our Schools programs and workshops are guided and facilitated by our Lead and Support Artists, who work in the creative industries as professional actors, theatre-makers, writers, sound designers, musicians and more. Our young and culturally diverse artists reflect the communities of Melbourne's West in which they work, and many even began their journey with Western Edge through our Schools or Community programs.



### → Contact Us

[info@westernedge.org.au](mailto:info@westernedge.org.au)

1 Market Street, Newport,  
Victoria 3015

03 86584052



- **Deliver learning outcomes in English, The Arts, Critical and Creative Thinking, and Ethical and Intercultural Capabilities**
- **Build students' confidence in learning**
- **Increase student attendance and engagement**
- **Foster pride within the school community**
- **Improve students' wellbeing**
- **Model possibilities and pathways**

**.... and more**



## **IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCIES**

Since 2005, Western Edge has delivered school programs that support Victorian students in creating original, transformative performances. Emphasising social connection and safety, our sessions build student engagement and learning outcomes, and often represent students' first theatre-making experience.

As part of our In-School Residencies, students work with experienced industry artists and a professional production crew over a period of 10 to 20 weeks to co-design and create a large-scale performance outcome.

Our Schools programs are based in research-based arts pedagogy, combining artistic excellence with deep learning. Our sessions are led by a team of Lead and Support Artists who reflect the school community and specialise in creating culturally safe learning spaces.

We work with teachers and school staff to build an arts culture from the ground up, increasing engagement with the school community and improving attendance figures.

# **TIME'S TICKIN'**

## **VICTORIA UNIVERSITY SECONDARY COLLEGE**

**Our partnership with Victoria University Secondary College (VUSC) grows from strength to strength, from fourteen students in our first year (2016) to over fifty students in our fourth year (2019).**

**After going online during the 2020-2021 COVID lockdowns, Western Edge returned to the school for in-person sessions in 2022, working with students to devise and create the original production – “Time’s Tickin’: A Forgotten Euphoria”.**

**Guided by Lead Artist Rexson Pelman and Support Artists Michael Logo, Kuda Mapeza and Patience Pyne, as well as Writer Amarachi Okorom, students weaved together a variety of satirical, dystopian scenes that reflect on a youth culture that is overly reliant on TikTok and social media.**

**Students showcased the performance across two nights, to a sold-out audience.**

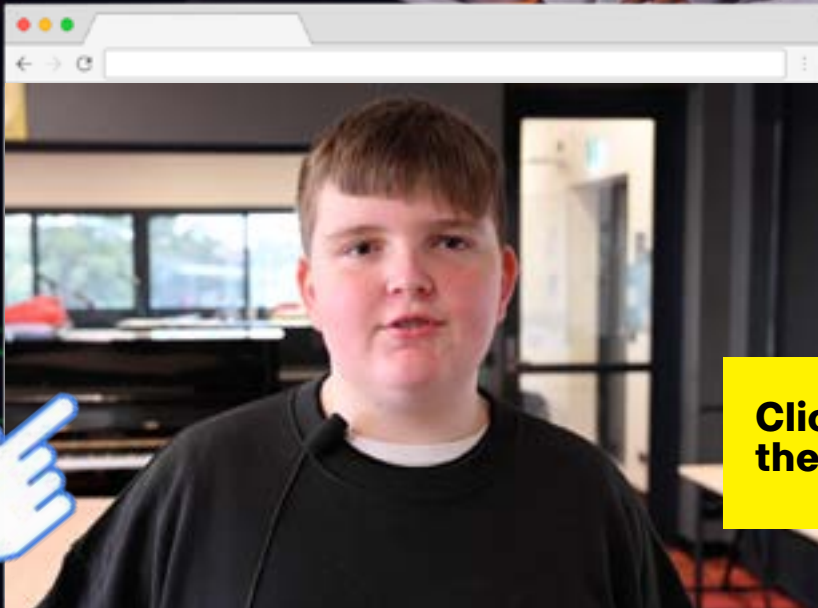






**“It connected me with so many different people that I never would have met before.”**

**VUSC student, 2022**



**Click-through to watch: VUSC students share their experiences with production**



Past In-School Residencies

**ROMEO & JULIET**  
**MANOR LAKES**  
**SECONDARY COLLEGE**  
**2019**



**ORPHEUS & EURYDICE**

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY**  
**SECONDARY COLLEGE**  
**2019**





**“Seeing students enjoy themselves and being able to express themselves was amazing and rewarding.”**

VUSC teacher, 2019

**“I was moved seeing my daughter projecting her confidence.”**

Manor Lakes parent, 2019



## Short programs



# FEE-FOR-SERVICE WORKSHOPS

Meeting core learning outcomes is central to our short programs. We work closely with teachers to adjust content to meet specific subject and unit needs. We also work with each school team to ensure the workshop is accessible and culturally responsive for all students.

In these workshops, students will watch some of Melbourne's most exciting actors deliver key scenes, and then work with the actors to adapt the scenes into contemporary settings and speech, reflecting the universal themes of the play through the lens of their own lived experience. These workshops will help expand students' understanding of the themes and characters, and prove that Shakespeare can be for everyone!

Contact us for more pricing structures and/or consultation for bespoke workshop needs.

## EXAMPLES

In-Syllabus Workshops:

**Othello (Shakespeare)**

**Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare)**

Drama Workshops:

**There's No "I" in Improv**

**Lion King**

**Stanislavsky**