

THE EMPIRE

YOUTH ARTS

2026

SENIOR IMPACT
ENSEMBLE

AUDITION PACK



PRESENTING PARTNER

CLIFFORD GOULDSON
LAWYERS

54-56 NEIL ST, TOOWOOMBA

EMPIRETHEATRE.COM.AU

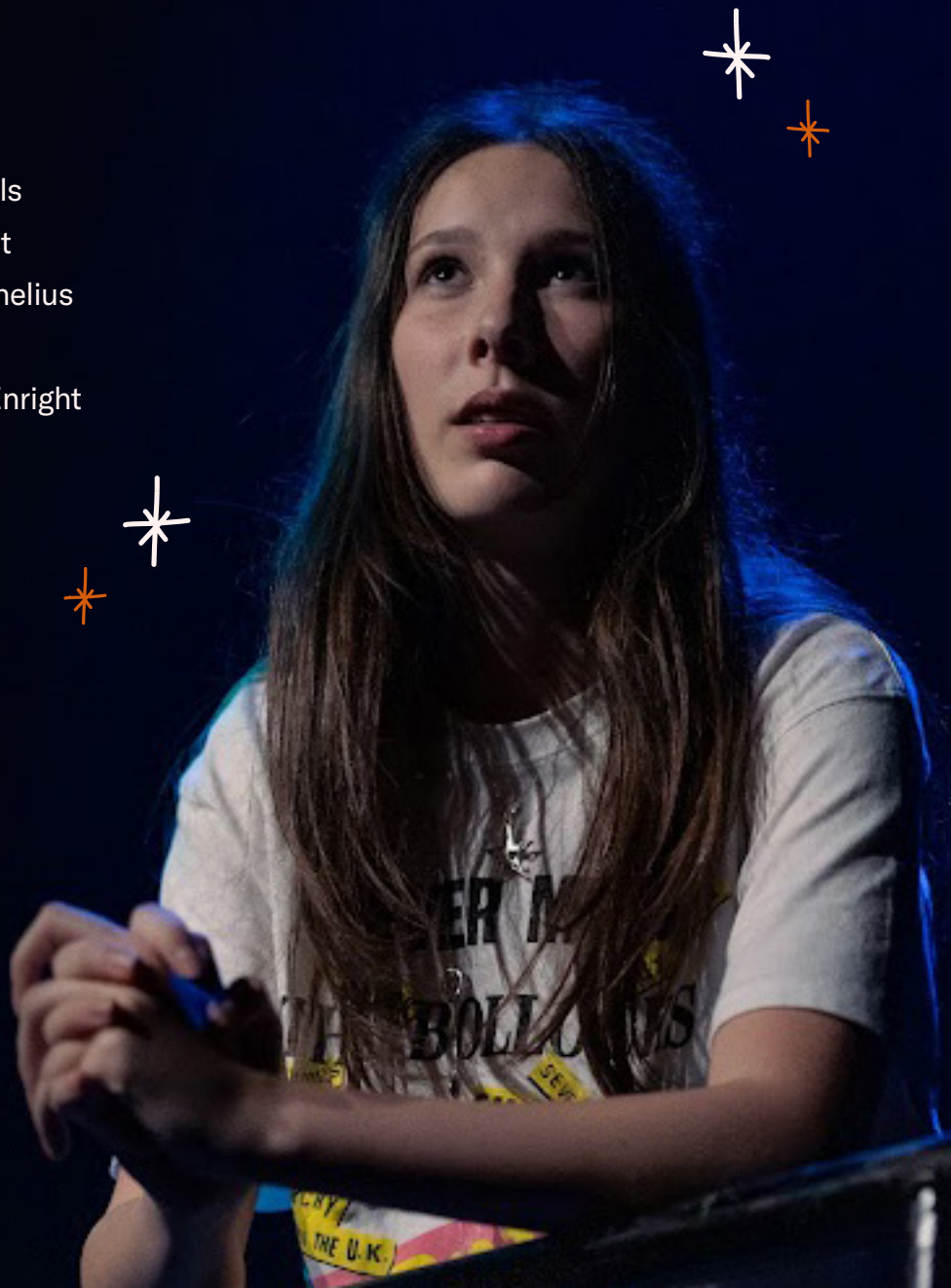
PAST PRODUCTIONS

SENIOR IMPACT

- 2025 When I Think of The End
- 2024 STARCROSSED
- 2023 Static Air
- 2022 Going, Going, Gone
- 2021 Off With Your Head!
- 2020 A Monster Unfinished
- 2020 We Come From Dalby
(Western Downs Ensemble)
- 2019 The [REDACTED] New Clothes
- 2018 Of Myths and Monoliths
- 2017 {Cross My Heart}
- 2016 C H A L K
- 2015 Titus Was Here
- 2014/15 Talking to Brick Walls
- 2013 The Seedling Project
- 2013 Slut by Patricia Cornelius
- 2012 10 Down, 6 Across
- 2012 Blackrock by Nick Enright
- 2011 TLK, TXT, SPK

JUNIOR IMPACT

- 2025 Soul Trading by Kate Walder
- 2024 Our Egg Named Larry
- 2023 Shack by George Kemp
- 2022 Charlie Pilgrim: or a Beginner's Guide to Time Travel by Sam O'Sullivan
- 2021 The Trolleys by Sara West
- 2019 Where in the World is Frank Sparrow?
by Ange Betzien
- 2018 10 George Street
- 2017 Child(ish)



ABOUT

SENIOR IMPACT ENSEMBLE

Since 2011, The Empire Youth Arts IMPACT Ensemble program has challenged the assumptions made about young people and their crucial role in our ever-changing world, and its future, through storytelling and performance.

The Senior IMPACT Ensemble program offers young creatives aged 15-20 and based in the Toowoomba Region*, the opportunity to devise, write and rehearse an original theatre production under the support and guidance of industry professionals. Entry into the program is based on both a solo and group audition.

Rehearsals take place weekly across May - October and the final outcome is presented as a public two-show season on The Armitage Centre stage. IMPACT is a space where life long friendships are forged, doubts are beaten and young voices are put under the spotlight.

It's hard but fulfilling work, designed to push young artists ready to start making their mark on the creative industry.

We invite budding young actors, writers and theatre lovers with all levels of experience to apply.

In 2026, Senior IMPACT, supported by Clifford Gouldson Lawyers, will devise a new work inspired by a classic children's story...



The 2025 Senior IMPACT Ensemble + Creative Team

THIS YEAR'S
INSPIRATION

PETER PAN AND WENDY
BY
J.M. BARRIE

First appearing in J.M. Barrie's 1902 novel *The Little White Bird*, Peter Pan's story later took full flight on stage in 1904 before being novelised as *Peter and Wendy* in 1911. More than a century later, children still are told the story of the boy who will never grow up.

Since it's first telling, Barrie's story has been retold, adapted and reimagined across stage and screen, stemming from that original tale of childhood: its imagination, its freedom and its fleeting nature.

As Wendy, John and Michael leave the safety of their nursery to follow Peter into his rule-bending world, we are invited to question what it really means to grow up, including the things we lose - and gain - when we do.

Peter and Wendy's story famously puts eyes on that precipice between childhood and the what comes next. This year, we want to work with young people nearing that very precipice. The Empire Youth Arts is looking for a group of 8-15 young

creatives (ages 15-20) ready to take flight and discover what kind of Neverland we may soar to in 2026.

Through an investigation of Barrie's original work, its many adaptations, and the world young people are growing up in today, the ensemble will devise and perform a new interpretation of this timeless story.

With a strong focus on physical theatre and movement-based storytelling, the ensemble will build their version of Neverland through imagination, collaboration and the body.

Are you ready to follow the second star to the right, and straight on till morning with us? **Apply now.**



MEET THE CREATIVES

PRODUCTION INFO

Senior IMPACT welcomes all young people 15-20, regardless of experience, gender, race or physical ability to apply for this production.

*Applicants must be based in the Toowoomba region or close surrounds, including Dalby, Warwick or Lockyer Valley. All rehearsals take place at The Empire, Toowoomba.

It's important to note that Senior IMPACT is far more than just a rehearsal process. Ensemble members play a vital role in the building of the original work, including researching, devising and writing, all under the guidance of our Creative Team. Through the process, participants will gain invaluable skills in theatre making,

physical theatre and actors craft as they work towards the two-show public season. Please review the rehearsal schedule on the following page carefully prior to applying. Commitment to this project is of a high priority and applicants should be prepared to attend all sessions if successful.

Interested in a role off stage such as writing, stage management or directing? Email your expression of interest directly to grace@empiretheatre.com.au

THE CREATIVE TEAM



GRACE SANKEY LEAD CREATIVE

Grace (she/her) is a theatre maker, drama facilitator and The Empire's Youth Arts Lead. With a Bachelor in Theatre and a history of her own as a Youth Arts student, Grace has been back in Toowoomba since 2024 collaborating with young regional artists.

Grace strongly believes in the value of arts education and that every young person deserves equal access to high-quality artistic experiences and opportunities for development. Grace will lead the 2026 Senior IMPACT Ensemble, overseeing the devising process and directing rehearsals. She's particularly excited to revisit her passion for Physical Theatre and movement as a part of this year's project.



JACK MULLINS CREATIVE COLLABORATOR / LEAD WRITER

Jack (he/him) is a developing Toowoomba theatre maker, writer, creator and producer dedicated to staging new works by Toowoomba locals and for Toowoomba locals. He wrote *THE HAND THAT FEEDS*—a play which Jack was lucky enough to independently stage across two seasons in 2024 and 2025.

Jack's career started because of the IMPACT Ensemble. Having IMPACTed from 2017 to 2022—including 2017's FIRST ever Junior IMPACT Ensemble and including a couple of Assistant Directing and Writing gigs along the way—Jack is beyond happy to be coming back to the Senior IMPACT Ensemble to work alongside the astounding young people the program attracts. The Youth Arts team is incredibly excited for this opportunity to create a new work with one of our very own alumni!

2026

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Please note this schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the ensemble and production but all efforts will be made to be consistent with this original guide. July holiday attendance is optional - but recommended. Attendance during September holidays and show week is mandatory. Participants should be prepared to attend all Monday sessions, but we understand things occasionally pop up.

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Mon/Tues 11/12 May	4pm - 8pm	Audition Days
Mon 18 May	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Meet & Greet (parents invited at 6:20pm)
Mon 25 May	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Workshop
Mon 1 Jun	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Workshop
Mon 8 Jun	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Workshop
Mon 15 Jun	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Workshop
Mon 22 Jun	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Workshop
Fri 10 July	10am - 4pm	Holiday Writers Intensive - Optional Attendance
Sat 11 July	10am - 4pm	Holiday Writers Intensive - Optional Attendance
Mon 13 July	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Workshop
Mon 20 July	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Workshop
Mon 27 July	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Workshop
Mon 3 Aug	4:30pm - 7:30pm	Rehearsals
Mon 10 Aug	4:30pm - 7:30pm	Rehearsals
Mon 17 Aug	4:30pm - 7:30pm	Rehearsals
Mon 24 Aug	4:30pm - 7:30pm	Rehearsals
Mon 31 Aug	4:30pm - 7:30pm	Rehearsals
Mon 7 Sept	4:30pm - 7:30pm	Rehearsals
Mon 14 Sept	4:30pm - 7:30pm	Rehearsals
Tues 29 Sept	10am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
Wed 30 Set	10am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
Thurs 1 Oct	10am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
Fri 2 Oct	10am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
Sat 4 Oct	10am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
PRODUCTION WEEK		
Mon 5 Oct	DAY OFF	
Tues 6 Oct	DAY OFF	
Wed 7 Oct	4pm - 9 pm	Tech Rehearsal
Thurs 8 Oct	4pm - 9pm	Dress Rehearsal
Fri 9 Oct	4pm - 9pm	Performance 7pm
Sat 10 Oct	4pm - 9pm	Performance 7pm
Mon 19 Oct	4:30pm - 6:30pm	Production Debrief

AUDITION INFORMATION

APPLICATION INFO

IMPACT is a space for young artists who are curious, creative and eager to push the boundaries of youth theatre. No prior acting or theatre experience is required.

To apply for an audition, please read all the following information then complete the attached application form and return via email to youtharts@empiretheatre.com.au by no later than **3pm Wednesday 6 May, 2026**.

FEE DETAILS

The fee for this project is **\$660 all-inclusive**. This fee will cover tuition, performance materials, and involvement in specialised workshops for the project.

Payment is only required if offered a role in the program.

Payment plans are available and with thanks to The Book Tree, one fully-subsidised place will also be available.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to discuss financial support options prior to your audition, including partial scholarships.

AUDITIONS INFORMATION

The Audition Process will take place in 2 parts on either Monday 11 or Tuesday 12 May.

PART 1: Group Audition

All auditionees will attend a 45 minute group audition before their solo at 4pm- 4:45pm. During this time, auditionees will engage in a number of collaborative, but simple drama games and movement activities. We want to see your natural skills for working with others and your playfulness. This time will feel more like a fun drama class than an audition, so come feeling relaxed and confident! Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes for moving around.

PART 2: Solo Audition

Auditionees will then book a 10-minute slot the same afternoon between 5pm-8pm. Each Auditionee will be asked to prepare 2 pieces for this time, as detailed on the following page.

A NOTE FOR PARENTS:

Auditionees will NOT be supervised during their Audition Day outside of the Group Audition.

They are welcome to stay on The Empire grounds in the designated waiting areas or leave and return for their individual time.

TIPS TO HELP YOU SUCCEED

SOLO AUDITION

In addition to seeing your talent, we are also interested in learning more about you, including getting an insight into your creative brain, your instincts and the things that excite you!

You will have just five minutes to share with us two contrasting pieces:

TASK 1:
PERFORM A PUBLISHED SHORT
MONOLOGUE OF YOUR CHOICE
THAT SHOWCASES YOUR ABILITIES,
INSTINCTS AND STYLE AS A
PERFORMER

TIPS:

Make sure your text is from a published play, or a movie or tv show.

Make the most of this choice being something that showcases the best version of you and contrasts your second piece.

Be confident, bold and unapologetic with your presentation.

TASK 2:
PRESENT A SELF-DEvised
MONOLOGUE, POEM, SONG,
SPEECH, DANCE OR MOVEMENT
PIECE IN RESPONSE TO ONE OF THE
PROVIDED QUOTES FROM
J.M. BARRIE'S ORIGINAL TEXT

TIPS:

Follow your instincts, trust your gut, surprise us!

We aren't testing your writing, acting, singing or dancing skills here, but instead we want an insight into how you think, feel and respond.

All children, except one, grow up. They know that they will grow up, and that

...spring-cleaning time, except
Peter comes for Margaret and takes her to the Neverland, where she tells him stories about himself, to which he listens eagerly. When Margaret grows up she will have a daughter, who is to be Peter's mother in turn; and thus it will go on, so long as children are gay and innocent and heartless.

THE END

swallowed a clock which goes tick tick tick so before it can reach me I hear the tick and bolt. He laughed, but in a hollow way. 'Some day,' said Smee, 'the clock will run down, and then he'll get you.' Hook wetted his dry lips. 'Ay,' he said, 'that's the fear that haunts me.'

"Pan, who and what art thou?" he cried huskily.

"I'm youth, I'm joy," Peter answered at a venture, "I'm a little bird that has broken out of the egg."

This, of course, was nonsense; but it was proof to the unhappy Hook that Peter did not know in the least who or what he was,

that smile on his face an a drum beating within him. It was saying, 'To die will be an awfully big adventure'

SENIOR IMPACT ENSEMBLE 2026

THE EMPIRE

Application forms must be returned via email by no later than 3pm, Wednesday 6 May 2026.

youtharts@empiretheatre.com.au

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT'S NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

SCHOOL & GRADE *(or work/other study)*

APPLICANT'S EMAIL

For under 18s

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME


PARENT/GUARDIAN NUMBER

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL

For over 18s

APPLICANT'S NUMBER

EMERGENCY CONTACT



PLEASE ATTACH A
RECENT PHOTO HERE

OR DIGITALLY ATTACH TO YOUR
EMAIL SUBMISSION

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE/ SPECIAL SKILLS/ FUN FACTS (if you would like to attach an additional page of material or CV please do so.)

RELEVANT MEDICAL INFORMATION (Please include any medical conditions, injuries, allergies relevant to the audition process)

ANYTHING ELSE TO NOTE? ANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS?

Please indicate your preferred audition day/s:

MONDAY 11 MAY

TUESDAY 12 MAY

If selected for the Junior IMPACT Ensemble,
please indicate how you would like to pay:

PAY FEE IN FULL

PAYMENT PLAN

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
REQUIRED

I ACKNOWLEDGE THERE IS A FEE TO PAY TO TAKE PART IN THIS PROGRAM, AND A COMMITMENT TO MAKE THE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE AS IT CHANGES DEPENDING ON THE PRODUCTION'S NEEDS. I ALSO GRANT PERMISSION FOR IMAGES AND VIDEO OF MY CHILD/ MYSELF TO BE CAPTURED AND SHARED FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADVERTISING THE PRODUCTION AND PROGRAM.

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE *(Required for Applicant's Under 18 years)*