

THE EMPIRE

2027

EDUCATION BRIEFING

A selection of our upcoming
2027 performances



THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH

A NEW PLAY BY MARK ST. GERMAIN



DATE:

Friday 12 February



VENUE:

Empire Theatre



EDUCATIONAL LINKS:

English, History, Drama

The extraordinary true story of Eddie Jaku that redefines Happiness.

This deeply moving production brings **Anton Berezin** to the stage to tell the extraordinary true story of Holocaust survivor **Eddie Jaku OAM**, as adapted from his international bestselling memoir of the same name.

The Nazis took everything from Eddie—his family, his friends, and his country—but they did not take his spirit.

Eddie went on to dedicate his life to sharing his story, educating future generations, and championing kindness, tolerance, and compassion.



QUEENSLAND BALLET'S HAMLET

THE TRAGEDY YOU KNOW, REIMAGINED THROUGH DANCE



DATE:

Friday 19 & Saturday 20 February



VENUE:

Empire Theatre



EDUCATIONAL LINKS:

Dance, Drama, English

Set to sweeping music by Tchaikovsky and Saint-Saëns, this gripping dance drama transforms one of literature's greatest stories into an unforgettable theatrical experience.

Classical ballet technique meets visceral storytelling as Prince Hamlet navigates a world of grief, betrayal, revenge and moral uncertainty.

Driven by powerful ensemble choreography and compelling performances, *Hamlet* reveals the emotional intensity at the heart of Shakespeare's masterpiece.

Richly atmospheric and astonishingly human, it is a ballet that speaks as powerfully today as it has for generations.



THE GHOSTS OF MIDDLE YEARS PAST

BY GRACE SANKEY AND
SHELDON MCLOUGHLIN,
PRODUCED BY EMPIRE YOUTH
ARTS JUNIOR IMPACT ENSEMBLE



DATE:
Friday 23 & Saturday
24 April

Schools preview night 22 April at 6pm



VENUE:
Armitage Centre



EDUCATIONAL LINKS:
Drama (magical realism),
Years 7-10



AUDITIONS:
November 2026 for the
ensemble.
12 performers 10-14 years.

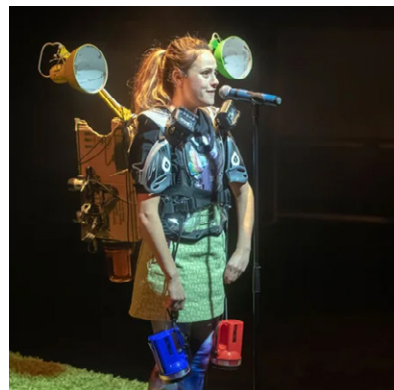
At Sunnyvale State High School, it's Fantastic Futures Week! Pioneered by the SRC duo of Taylah and Mikaylah, the week serves to help students discover their passions, plan their careers and take their first steps towards the rest of their lives.

For Billie, it's a nightmare.

While her friends Olivia and Dan, and her little sister Bailey embrace Fantastic Futures, excited to make their dreams a reality, Billie isn't ready to give up her childhood just yet.

When Billie stumbles across some interesting characters while hiding out in the abandoned demountables, she assumes they've been sent to convince her to join some unusual workforce, but their commitment to the bit is a little unsettling. In time she realises there's something more dark and sinister going on here, and it's all seems to be seeping from behind the guidance counsellors office door...

From the playwriting duo of *Our Egg Named Larry* (Junior IMPACT 2024) this new work of magical realism, satire and caricature invites young people and their adults to ask themselves; when is the 'right' time to give up on a childhood dream and who benefits when we do?



ROBOT SONG

BY JOLYON JAMES



DATE:
Wednesday 28 & Thursday
29 April

Funding dependent



VENUE:
Armitage Centre



EDUCATIONAL LINKS:
Primary school Years 3-6

When eleven year old Juniper May receives a petition signed by her entire class stating that she is 'the most hated person in the school' her life is thrown into complete meltdown. After exhausting all other avenues her parents resort to the only thing they have left, a giant singing robot.

Based on a true story, *Robot Song* illustrates the profound, transformative nature of creativity that when combined with unconditional love, becomes an unstoppable force. For Juniper, creativity opens doors into places she never knew existed allowing her, for the first time, to be defined on her own terms.

Robot Song is a deeply personal story. It shares an honest, intensely funny and often unconventional window into writer, director Jolyon James' experience parenting a child on the Autism Spectrum. The show poses and attempts to answer the question, how do we support, foster and celebrate difference in our children in the face of an increasingly rigid and homogenised world?

Robot Song is a genuine family show. It is joyful and full of hope. It is for any child who has ever felt isolated or pushed to the margins and any parent desperate for tools to help. The show employs cutting edge digital technology, startling animatronics and a beautiful original musical score.



THE BOGONG'S SONG

A CALL TO COUNTRY BY BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE



DATE:
Tuesday 3 August



VENUE:
Empire Theatre



EDUCATIONAL LINKS:
Primary School Years
K-3, Early childhood, First
Nations perspectives

What guides you through the darkness when you've lost your way? A whisper on the wind. A shimmer in the stars. A moth in flight.

When a brother and sister turn out the lights for the night, they are swept into a world of imagination — a portal to their Dreaming. Seeking an elusive Bogong Moth, they journey into an extraordinary world where Country shares its secrets. In this place, the past speaks through stars, trees, and grasses. Healing begins in the silence between breaths.

A rich blend of storytelling, shadow puppetry, dance, and song created especially for children aged 5+ and their families. As the children open their hearts to the stories of their ancestors, we are all invited to experience connection to Country and discover that even the smallest creatures have a vital role to play.



DRACULA

BY BRAM STOKER, ADAPTED BY SHAKE & STIR



DATE:
Friday 13 August
Funding dependent



VENUE:
Empire Theatre



EDUCATIONAL LINKS:
Drama, English, Literature

When young lawyer Jonathan Harker journeys deep into the Carpathian Mountains, he is unprepared for the strange welcome awaiting him at Castle Dracula.

Trapped within its walls and at the mercy of his mysterious host, Jonathan soon discovers he may be more than a guest – he may be the main course!

Bram Stoker's legendary gothic nightmare returns – bolder, bloodier and unleashed on a thrilling new scale. The original season sold out in record time and now, the Count is back for a second bite...



PERMISSION GRANTED

CREATED BY TOM THUM AND TNEE DYER
AND DIRECTED BY JASON KLARWEIN

DATE:
Friday 10 September

VENUE:
Armitage Centre

EDUCATIONAL LINKS:
Primary School years 3-6,
Lower High School years
7-9, Music

Join global beat-boxing phenomenon Tom Thum and keys wizard Tnee Dyer in *Permission Granted*, a 50 minute musical show for children aged 6-14.

Transform everyday noises into mind-blowing beats. Witness beat-building in action against a dynamic visual aesthetic, as children blast the noise-o-meter, drop samples into the golden mic, and dive deep into their voice boxes to discover a whole new world in a playground of sound.

Tom and Tnee make music engaging and accessible by giving audiences the cheat codes to turn any sound into music, and by equipping young minds with expressive tools and the courage to use them.



LA CENERENTOLA (CINDERELLA)

MUSIC BY ROSSI AND PRODUCED BY
OPERA QUEENSLAND

DATE:
Friday 17 September

VENUE:
Empire Theatre

EDUCATIONAL LINKS:
Music

This light opera is a tale of heart and humour full of clever disguises, unlikely heroes, a midnight ball and the kindness of one very determined young woman.

There are plenty of laughs, thanks to the antics of Magnifico and Dandini, a pair of scheming stepsisters, and a mix-up at the ball.

Add some dazzling singing and you've got a night at the opera offering the rare and joyous conclusion that fairytales really can come true.



SENIOR IMPACT ENSEMBLE

PRODUCED BY EMPIRE YOUTH ARTS
SENIOR IMPACT ENSEMBLE

DATE:
Friday 8 & Saturday
9 October

VENUE:
Armitage Centre

EDUCATIONAL LINKS:
Ancient History, Drama

In 2027, the Senior IMPACT Ensemble will research, devise, write and present a new original work inspired by Greek Theatre Works/Myths.

OTHER DATE CLAIMERS AND NOTES



EMPIRE YOUTH ARTS SHAKESPEARE PRODUCTION

Monday 11- Friday 15 January, sign up in December 2026.



SURGE DANCE DAY

Dance workshops - Tuesday 16 February.



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Auditions January/February, performances are 25 June - 4 July.



QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Celebrates 80 years in 2027. Dates and information to be confirmed.



CAMERATA: QUEENSLAND'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Dates and information to be confirmed.



QUEENSLAND THEATRE COMPANY

Dates and information to be confirmed.

QUESTIONS?

BOOKINGS & TICKETING ENQUIRIES:

Administration Manager

Helen Oldham

helen@empiretheatre.com.au

07 4698 9930

PERFORMANCE ENQUIRIES:

Program & Engagement Manager

Jeanette Wedmaier

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YOUTH ARTS ENQUIRIES:

Youth Arts Lead

Grace Sankey

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SIGN ME UP!

Click here to register your interest in
any (or all) of these events!

THE EMPIRE

