AUSTRALIAN Musical Theatre Festival SHARE THE STAGE 2026

24 MAY

INSPIRE

AMTF SCHOOLS PROGRAM

2026

19

2026



In 2O23 I had the privilege of taking fifteen musical theatre students from Adelaide to the Australian Musical Theatre Festival in Launceston.

What a time was had!

Every workshop, performance, program and masterclass on offer was soaked up and adored by all.

The calibre of faculty and headline acts was unequivocally world class.

Networking opportunities and inclusivity was second to none.

I would absolutely encourage any educator to have their students attend ...

We will definitely be back!

LIA COX

TEACHER

(ADELAIDE]





Welcome

Having taught at the inaugural Festival, then programmed the past five Festivals, I know first-hand how this vibrant event brings together many of my greatest loves. Aside from the magnificent disciplines of Music Theatre, Singing, Acting and Dancing, the festival is a place of collaboration, conversation, and connection. At the heart of this, is the desire to 'find your own voice' through teaching and learning.

Over five days in May, Launceston will be seen anew through a celebration of story and song, of industry and community.

I have personally long held a dual career as a professional director alongside the world's most sacred profession, teaching. Having taught at NIDA, WAAPA, and now as the Head of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), I have worked with students and teachers of all ages in all settings, seeking the most effective ways to inspire and create.

In 2026, the Australian Musical Theatre Festival has evolved.

This is a reimagining of the program based on our collective experience, your feedback and a unique opportunity to Share the Stage. Through rehearsals for a musical presentation, we will continue to support students and teachers with practical, skills-based learning, culminating in an experience allowing you to perform alongside Australia's best.

It does not matter how experienced you are, the Australian Musical Theatre Festival is open to all.

Just bring along a curiosity and a hunger for the magic that is Musical Theatre, and you'll find a warm welcome and a wealth of opportunities for learning and growth.

The team and I look forward to welcoming you!



About

The Australian Musical Theatre Festival, which takes place in Launceston, Tasmania, from 20 — 24 May, is a major event for everyone interested in the performing arts.

The hotly anticipated Festival offers incredible opportunities for teachers and students to get involved in this welcoming, creative, everenthusiastic, and family-friendly art form.

Over the years we have continued to tailor our program to combine emerging musical theatre students with our brightest stars. And 2026 is our most ambitious year yet! This year the classes become rehearsals and the rehearsals culminate in a performance of a boutique musical, reconsidered for an immersive venue. Students can participate in a production led by the country's finest, watch shows, perform in public and meet new musical theatre-loving friends.

And it's excellent value for money!





An exciting evolution

The 2026 festival marks an exciting evolution of our school program, where learning takes place in a rehearsal room and culminates in a public performance of a complete musical, with students applying those skills onstage, alongside our most celebrated stars.

Festival Artistic Director, Tyran Parke and some of the nation's best teachers will lead rehearsals patterned on professional practice. This experiential learning model involves a cycle of experiencing, reflecting, and applying knowledge, making learning more engaging and improving retention.

Students will also have the opportunity to observe and learn from industry-leading performers while working alongside them.

Festival stars will also offer additional masterclasses. And of course, students will have discounted access to shows across the festival.

The school program is designed to be accessible, relevant and, of course, loads of fun!

Teachers are welcome to enter inside the rehearsal room and audit a professional team in the creation of a musical for performance, linking real-world application of Acting through Song and Dance, with opportunities to debrief.

This exciting engagement, linking learning through to performance, is unique to the Festival and will support both studio teaching as well as managing productions.

Who is it for?

We welcome groups from schools, private performing arts academies and even individuals (conditions apply).

We also welcome teachers seeking professional development.

What are you getting?

Australian Musical Theatre Festival 2026 Schools Program offers:

An experience of live performance, held and supported through professional staff

Inspiring experiences that build capacity and creativity.

Curriculum-relevant, experiential learning from classroom to performance, led by some of Australia's best musical theatre artists and teachers.

A program that makes it as simple as possible for students of any ability to join in.

Access to a safe, welcoming art form that is sure to have a positive impact on students.

Connections with other staff, students and schools from around Australia.

An unmatchable way to help students flourish through creativity and socialising.

Incredible value for money – we've kept down the costs so you can be there.











Bookings

This program is for groups from schools, private performing arts academies and even individuals.

There are no minimum numbers for booking, but groups with ten or more students attract discounts.

For individual bookings, AMTF requests a supervising teacher or parent be present for any student under 18 years old. Please contact us directly to discuss this.

We also offer a package for teachers attending without students but seeking professional development. Any teacher who brings students also has access to this program.

2026 Package Options

The pricing model is a little different in 2026 due to the new style of program delivery.

For prices, see the table below.

You can find a more detailed description of what is included in each package later in the brochure.

Package	Student	Teacher	# of sessions
Performance Program	\$150	\$50	8 + Performance
Teacher (PD only)	No students	\$150	8+
Masterclass Only	\$25	\$20	Masterclass (by Session)

Discounts

If you book a group of 10 or more students you'll receive a 10% discount.

For every 10 students you book one teacher attends the program free.

BOOK YOUR GROUP NOW

(click here)





Performance Program

This program is for students and teachers attending as part of a group or students attending independently.

Students will:

- Participate in 8 rehearsal sessions for the musical (2.5 hours per session)
- Perform in 1 public performance of the musical
- Have discounted access to 3 masterclasses as an auditor
- Have access to discounted add-on performances each night (including Saturday)

Teachers will:

- Observe 8 rehearsal sessions plus a chance to debrief with session leaders
- Get a ticket to attend the public performance of the musical
- Get free access to 3 masterclasses as an auditor
- Have access to discounted add-on performances each night (including Saturday)

Professional Development

This program is for teachers who attend without students for professional development.

Teachers will:

- Observe 8 rehearsal sessions plus a chance to debrief with session leaders
- Get a ticket to attend the public performance of the musical
- Get free access to 3 masterclasses as an auditor
- Have access to discounted add-on performances each night (including Saturday)

Masterclass Only

This package is for groups that cannot attend the full performance package.

Attendees will get:

- Access to the 3 masterclasses as an auditor (on a per-session basis)
- Access to discounted add-on performances each night (including Saturday)
- Access to any additional performance opportunities.





Add-On Events

We also offer add-on tickets for groups attending the school program at reduced prices.

As these sessions have limited capacity, we recommend you book fast.

See the table below.

Add-On Event	Price	Capacity
Chamber Musical (Wed 20th)	\$15	75
Chamber Musical (Thu 21st)	\$15	75
Guest Artist Solo Show (Thu 21st)	\$20	50
Major Musical (Fri 22nd)	\$15	100
Boardway Showstoppers (Sat 23rd)	\$25	100
Masterclasses x3 (Perf. Prog add-on)	\$25	100

Bookings with a paid deposit will be given priority when assigning add-on tickets.

Masterclasses

A Masterclass will be held at 1.00 pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the festival week.

There will be limited space to attend these classes and performance program attendees will have priority.





Chamber Musical

The Opening Night promises to be one to remember! After the success of It's Only Life, Songs for a New World, and Tell Me on a Sunday, the Festival welcomes all participants to enter into a world of music and story through a special performance of an Australian musical.

WED 20TH & THU 21ST, 7.00PM - ALBERT HALL

COST: \$15

Guest Artist Solo Show

For any group that attended The Chamber Musical on Wednesday, we have a special chance to see one of our headliners' solo shows in an intimate setting.

THU 21ST, 7.30PM - DUCANE BREWERY

COST: \$15

DuCane Brewery is family-friendly, and we have appropriate protocols in place, including access without passing through the bar area.

Major Musical

This is the result of the school program rehearsals and will be an exciting performance. It is available as an add-on performance for students not in the cast of the show. Given the limited audience and to ensure we keep space for performer's parents and supporters performers will not be able to be in the audience.

FRI 22ND, 7.00PM - THE ARK (ON THE SQUARE)

COST: \$15

Youth Karaoke

Everyone is invited to sing. Bring your backing track and put your name in the hat.

SAT 23RD, 2.00PM - ALBERT HALL FOYER

COST: FREE

Broadway Showstoppers with the TSO

Experience the magic of musical theatre in a breathtaking concert featuring the greatest hits from Broadway and the West End. The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, along with exceptional vocalists, brings to life timeless melodies and transports you to the heart of your favourite musicals.

SAT 23RD, 7.00PM - ALBERT HALL

COST: \$25

Sunday

There are shows on Sunday at Clarendon House (30 minutes from Launceston). We can arrange group tickets on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us.

COST: TBC









Booking Conditions

A 15% deposit (non-refundable) is payable to secure your booking.

We recommend booking as soon as possible with the group you can confirm. If you want to bring more students later, just let us know. Any additional discounts will be added retrospectively.

The balance is payable four weeks before the festival (and is refundable if the festival is cancelled).

Bookings are first-come, first-served, but paid bookings will be given priority when confirming add-on event tickets.

Changes & Refunds

The festival engages staff based on the bookings we receive from schools. Once you've booked and the deposit is paid, we plan for that number of students and consider those spaces in our limited program filled.

We understand that students sometimes bow out. Any significant reduction in numbers enormously impacts the long-term viability of the program.

Because of this:

We work on the expectation that your booking will be paid in full.

We will not refund the deposit unless exceptional circumstances exceed your control.

If the festival is cancelled, we'll refund your money.

If you cannot bring the total number of students indicated in your booking, please contact us immediately, and we'll discuss the situation.

schools@amtf.org.au





Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Tuesday 19th	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Major Musical Rehearsal 1
	2:00 - 5:00 PM	Major Musical Rehearsal 2
Wednesday 20th	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Major Musical Rehearsal 3
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Masterclass 1
	2:30 - 5:00 PM	Major Musical Rehearsal 4
	7:00 - 8:15 PM	Optional Add-On Show
Thursday 21st	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Major Musical Rehearsal 5
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Masterclass 2
	2:30 - 5:00 PM	Major Musical Rehearsal 6
	7:30 - 9:00 PM	Optional Add-On Show
Friday 22nd	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Major Musical Technical Rehearsal
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Masterclass 2
	2:30 - 5:00 PM	Major Musical Dress Rehearsal
	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Major Musical Performance
Saturday 23rd	12:30 - 1:30 PM	Free Workshop / Forum
	2:00 - 3:30 PM	Youth Karaoke
	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Optional Add-On - Some Enchanted Evening

AUSTRALIAN MUSICAL THEATRE FESTIVAL SHARE THE STAGE 2026

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Major Musical Rehearsals

Rehearsals for this years 'Major Musical' will be led by festival Artistic Director Tyran Parke, with support from an industry-leading Musical Director and Choreographer.

The rehearsal process will give your group the opportunity to work across the three key disciplines of Musical Theatre: dancing, singing, and acting and integrate them into a public performance.

There will be graduated skill levels to ensure everyone can participate comfortably.

The material will be sent out prior to arrival - estimated mid February - from which to prepare. Choreography and music will be sent via recording with a breakdown of how to learn the material.

Groups can either decide to contribute a song in its entirety or fit into the group songs, as prescribed by the director.

Additionally, there will be daily Masterclass sessions between rehearsals from Wednesday - Friday. There will be a limited opportunity to receive coaching, and auditions will be advertised in 2026.

These sessions are deliberately less active, allowing students to rest while learning other skills.

A rehearsal schedule will be published just before the festival to help participants prepare for each session.

As with any production, the content of these sessions may change as required. The times are fixed.

The show chosen has limited design elements and any expected production support will be minimal and communicated well before the festival.

Teachers will be invited into the rehearsal process with debrief sessions planned to best interrogate the approaches to learning so that it can be emulated within their own communities, schools and studios.

The evolution of our education program into a public performance provides access to some of Australia's best creatives in a process that will invigorate, challenge and delight.





Additional Performance Opportunities

The 'major musical' serves as the primary performance opportunity; however, there will be other opportunities.

Individual Auditions

If your group members are interested, they can audition for small roles in the production and other festival events. Auditions will be advertised in 2026.

Youth Karaoke

We are running an exciting karaoke session on Saturday (after the performance is complete). This is a name-in-the-hat chance for anyone to sing in front of their peers.

We are holding this in our Diva Den club in the foyer of the Albert Hall, giving students a chance to experience cabaret style performance.

Anyone who wishes to participate needs to bring a backing track for the song they wish to sing.

Masterclasses

Our Festival Masterclasses are a great chance for students to learn the secrets to success from a Festival Headliner.

In 2026, there will be a variety of sessions touching on different skills.

Masterclasses are spread throughout the week to allow students to apply their learning. These sessions are deliberately less active, allowing students to rest while learning other skills. Students are welcome to bring drinks and snacks.

For these classes, there are two levels of engagement:

Participants who receive coaching from the teacher and Auditors who learn by watching the participants work with our teachers.

All students in the school program are invited to attend as an auditor. Opportunities to be selected as a participant are also available.

Due to high demand, interested students must submit an audition and be selected.





amtf schools program





Booking Travel

We encourage you to encounter as much of the Festival as possible and, as such, encourage early booking of flights and accommodation to best serve your engagement and maximise the magic.

Our team can help you navigate the festival program and requirements for lights and accommodation for your group.

Please visit our website for information about travel and acommodation options.

Important Information

10% discount for 10 or more students per booking

1 teacher free of charge per 10 students

15% deposit is payable on booking (non refundable exceptions may apply).

Balance is payable 4 weeks prior to the festival (refundable if the festival is cancelled)

Bookings are open via

www.amtf.org.au/about/schools-program

BOOK YOUR GROUP NOW

(click here)

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amtf.org.au

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Australian Musical Theatre Festival

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@australianmusicaltheatrefest

YOUTUBE

Australian Musical Theatre Festival

If you have any questions about the program or making your booking please email the team at schools@amtf.org.au.