



**MAMMA MIA!**  
THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF **ABBA**

**2025 CESC MUSICAL  
PRODUCTION  
HANDBOOK**



CRANBOURNE EAST  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

# What is the School Production?

Cranbourne East Secondary College produces a full-length musical each year fully-realised with sets, costumes and props. In recent years, the college has successfully produced High School Musical, Shrek the Musical and Matilda!

Last year, our 2024 College Production of High School Musical won “Best Song Award” in the Premier Division of Schools on Stage. This award acknowledged the talents and dedication of students who participated in the 2024 musical.

Students can be involved in the 2025 school production by joining the cast (lead roles, featured dancers and ensemble), orchestra (student band), crew or student creative team.

The college production requires dedication and commitment from all students involved to create the best show possible. While at rehearsals, students are expected to listen to instructions and participate in each section of the rehearsal to the best of your ability. You will ask questions when you would like clarification and you will offer to help others. Production is about building an environment where we support each other to be the best we can be.



# Benefits of Participation

- 1. Enhanced Creativity:** Being part of a school musical allows students to explore their creative side. They can develop their acting, singing, and dancing skills, fostering their creativity and self-expression.
- 2. Improved Confidence:** Performing in front of an audience can boost self-confidence. The experience of overcoming stage fright and receiving positive feedback can help individuals become more self-assured.
- 3. Teamwork Skills:** Musical productions involve a large cast and crew, promoting teamwork and cooperation. Participants learn to collaborate, depend on one another, and appreciate the importance of their individual roles in the success of the performance.
- 4. Time Management:** Balancing schoolwork with rehearsals and performances teaches valuable time management skills. Students must learn how to prioritize tasks and manage their schedules effectively.
- 5. Communication Skills:** Through memorisation, public speaking, and interpreting scripts, students can improve their communication skills. They learn how to convey emotions and messages effectively to an audience.
- 6. Long-lasting Friendships:** The bonds formed during musical productions can lead to lasting friendships. The shared experiences, challenges, and successes create strong connections with fellow cast and crew members.

**Participating in a school musical not only offers the chance to develop artistic talents but also provides a holistic learning experience that can positively impact various aspects of a student's life.**



# Synopsis

On a small Greek island, Sophie dreams of a perfect wedding – one which includes her father giving her away.

The problem? Sophie doesn't know who he is! Her mother Donna, the former lead singer of the 1970s pop group Donna and the Dynamos, refuses to talk about the past, so Sophie decides to take matters into her own hands. Sneaking a peek in her mother's old diaries, she discovers three possible fathers: Sam, Bill, and Harry. She secretly invites all three to the wedding, convinced that she'll know her father when she sees him. But when all three turn up, it may not be as clear as she thought! Told through the legendary music of ABBA, *Mamma Mia!* has become a worldwide sensation that has audiences everywhere dancing.



# How can I get involved?

## Ensemble:

You are in the onstage cast. You are one of the secondary characters. You are always working as a member of a group to sing, dance and act during scenes and musical numbers. You will not need to do anything by yourself, although there may be opportunities during rehearsals when we will ask for volunteers to do a featured section that you can put your hand up for.



## Leads:

You are in the onstage cast. You are one of the main characters. You will have solo lines and choreography where you will need to sing, dance and act during scenes and musical numbers by yourself.



## Featured dancer:

You are in the onstage cast. You are given more difficult choreography (dancing) in certain songs than in the ensemble. You may be in more musical numbers than the ensemble cast.



## Stage Crew:

You are in the backstage crew. You will assist in moving sets and props, and help with necessary costume changes. You will appear on stage to move pieces of the set during the show. You will not be required to attend rehearsals every week. However, must be available for all rehearsal and performance dates in term 3.



## Orchestra:

You are in the band that plays the music for the production that the cast sing along to. You will be required to attend rehearsals every week from Term 2. You will be required during production week and every live performance.



## Student Creative Team:

You are part of the creative team who assist the teachers in making the overall decisions for the show. Please see page entitled "Student Creative Team" for more information.

# Nature of the Commitment

**Please ensure you and a parent read through this section carefully before signing up**

## **Time:**

Regular rehearsals will always happen on Tuesday afternoons from 3.15 – 5.30 pm. During Term 3, additional afternoon rehearsals will occur and the day on which these will occur will be confirmed in 2025. For leading cast, there will be **some** rehearsals on a second afternoon from 3.15 - 4.15. Weekly rehearsal schedules will be published in advance. It is important to check these schedules as some production members will not be needed every rehearsal.

It is an expectation that everyone is available for the call times as published on the weekly rehearsal schedules. We are always flexible when appropriate notification of absence is communicated well in advance. Any potential conflicts must be addressed and resolved immediately. It is a student's responsibility to organise work, sport, dance and other commitments around our schedule, particularly in Term 3. There is a further expectation that all cast members will prepare fully for each rehearsal and practice their songs, lines and routines regularly.

## **COST: \$70**

Members of production who pay this voluntary contribution will receive a production t-shirt and a USB with the filmed performance. This contribution also contributes to the operation of the production including, but not limited to; scripts, rehearsal material costuming, props, set, lighting, hire equipment and, promotional material.

Students in the cast may also be responsible for providing basic costume items (for example: jeans, singlets, T-shirts etc) and their own makeup if required.

Please discuss any concerns regarding cost with the production team, there are always solutions including payment plans.

## **Vocal Lessons:**

Students cast in lead roles and who pay the production contribution will be provided with complimentary vocal lessons through the CESC Instrumental Music Program.

# Key Dates



**Lead Auditions**  
**Monday 10th February**

**Featured Dancer Auditions**  
**Tuesday 11th February**

**Orchestra Auditions**  
**Tuesday 11th February**

**Ensemble Lunchtime Information Session**  
**Wednesday 12th February**

**First Cast Rehearsal**  
**Tuesday 25th February 3.15 - 5:30pm**

**First Crew Rehearsal**  
**Tuesday 22nd April**

**First Orchestra Rehearsal**  
**Tuesday 22nd April 3.15 - 5.30pm**

**Production Week**  
**Monday 25th August**

During Production Week, students will attend all-day rehearsals in the theatre rather than their classes. Attendance at production week is mandatory and is an OHS requirement. In this week, students will practice with set, lights and props

**Primary School Performances**  
**Tuesday 26th August**  
**Wednesday 27th August**

Students will perform a dress rehearsal in front of an audience of neighbouring primary schools during the school day.

**Show Dates**  
**Thursday 28th August 5pm - 10pm**  
**Friday 29th August 5pm - 10pm**  
**Saturday 30th August 2pm - 8pm**

Students must be available for all show dates.

# Characters

All roles are open to students of any gender/identity.

**DONNA SHERIDAN** (late 30s-early 50s): Free-spirited, former lead singer in a group called “Donna and the Dynamos” who now owns and runs a hotel on a Greek island. A strong feminist who also has a zany and vulnerable side. (mezzo-soprano) E3-A5

**SOPHIE SHERIDAN** (18-20s): A very special young woman who is determined to find the romance and happiness she feels eluded her mother. Has a wild, zany spirit even though she pursues a conventional marriage. (pop soprano) F#3-E5

**SKY** (20s): Sophie’s fiancé. Athletic – has given up his life as a successful young businessman in order to make over Donna’s taverna and marry Sophie. (high baritone) Eb3-D5

**TANYA** (late 30s-early 50s): A former singer in the “Dynamos”. Rich, sophisticated, acerbic, funny, and witty. (mezzo-soprano) E3-E5

**ROSIE** (late 30s-early 50s): A former singer in the “Dynamos” who now writes for and runs a feminist press. She’s confident, strong, and funny on the outside but shy underneath. Kooky and fun, good comic actress, bit of a clown. (mezzo-soprano) E3-D5

**SAM** (35-early 50s): May be Sophie’s father. Left Donna 20 years ago because he was engaged to another woman. Charming, successful architect. (baritone) D3-Ab4

**HARRY** (35-early 50s): May be Sophie’s father. British financier, wealthy, buttoned-up, and conservative but trying to reconnect with his freer, youthful self. (high baritone/tenor) C#3-F#4

**BILL** (35-early 50s): May be Sophie’s father. A travel writer with no possessions or strings. Goodnatured, always ready for adventure. Funny. (baritone) Bb2-F#4

**LISA** (18-25)

Sophie’s friend who arrives to be a bridesmaid. Very energetic and kooky. (mezzo-soprano) G3-Db5

**ALI** (18-25)

Sophie’s friend. Impulsive and fun. Should contrast to Lisa and Sophie. (mezzo-soprano) G3-D5

**PEPPER** (20s)

Sky’s friend. Helps run the hotel. Charming, loves women, always flirting. high baritone/tenor) A4-F5

**EDDIE** (20s)

Another friend of Sky and hotel worker. Laid-back, easygoing. (high baritone/tenor)



# Musical Numbers

## Act One

- Overture/Prologue – Sophie
- Honey, Honey – Sophie, Ali & Lisa
- "Money, Money, Money" – Donna, Tanya, Rosie, Pepper & Company
- "Thank You for the Music" – Sophie, Sam, Harry & Bill
- "Mamma Mia" – Donna & Company
- "Chiquitita" – Donna, Tanya & Rosie
- "Dancing Queen" – Donna, Tanya & Rosie
- "Lay All Your Love on Me" – Sky, Sophie & Ensemble
- "Super Trouper" – Donna, Tanya, Rosie & Ensemble
- "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight)" – Ensemble
- "The Name of the Game" – Sophie & Bill
- "Voulez-Vous" – Company

## Act Two

- "Entr'acte" – Orchestra
- "Under Attack" – Sophie & Company
- "One of Us" – Donna
- "SOS" – Donna & Sam
- "Does Your Mother Know" – Tanya, Pepper & Company
- "Knowing Me, Knowing You" – Sam
- "Our Last Summer" – Harry & Donna
- "Slipping Through My Fingers" – Donna & Sophie
- "The Winner Takes It All" – Donna
- "Take a Chance on Me" – Rosie & Bill
- "I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do" – Sam, Donna & Company
- "I Have a Dream" – Sophie

## Encore

- "Mamma Mia" – Company
- "Dancing Queen" – Donna, Tanya, Rosie & Company
- "Waterloo" – Company

# Cast Audition Material

If you are hoping to have a lead role in the production you must attend a solo audition. This will be organised during the school day and will appear on your Compass.

At the audition, you will be required to sing a song and perform a monologue for your preferred character from the list below.

We are looking for students who are prepared, confident, expressive and enthusiastic.

If you are unsuccessful in receiving a lead role, you will have a place in the ensemble.

## Vocal Auditions

Please prepare the song for your preferred role. If you are interested in multiple roles please prepare 1 of the songs.

Rehearsal Track, Audition Track and Sheet Music for each audition song are in their relevant folders on the google drive.

[Donna/Rosie/Tanya](#) - Dancing Queen - Bars 1-46

[Sophie](#) - Under Attack - Bars 1-35

[Ali/Lisa](#) - Honey Honey - Bars 1-17

[Male Presenting Characters](#) - Knowing Me, Knowing You - Bars 1- 41

## Acting Auditions

Please prepare the monologue for your preferred role. You do not need to memorise the monologue.

The monologue for each character are in their relevant folders on the google drive.

Please use this link to access the google drive:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gte-vDOUKTKEYiWYTq8w3NZt1XR3n\\_8g?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gte-vDOUKTKEYiWYTq8w3NZt1XR3n_8g?usp=sharing)

You need to use your CESC email address to access this folder.

If you need assistance accessing these documents, email  
[Stephanie.Dimitriou@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Stephanie.Dimitriou@education.vic.gov.au)

# Orchestra

Proficient musicians have the opportunity to perform as part of the orchestra. The orchestra will perform all of the music for the duration of the performance. The orchestra will be made up of a mixture of student musicians and professional musicians.

The following instruments are required for Mamma Mia!:

Bass  
Drum  
Guitar  
Keyboard  
Percussion  
Brass  
Woodwind

If you play a different instrument but would like to be involved in the production, please speak to/email Mr Matthew Jones.

## Audition Material

Please prepare the following excerpt of the song on your chosen instrument.

The sheet music can be found on the google drive:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YcmFhPvbMbQEmqzrt4ijl1GGciOH-O-g?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YcmFhPvbMbQEmqzrt4ijl1GGciOH-O-g?usp=drive_link)

# Student Creative Team

The Student Creative Team is a group of **Year 10 - 12** students who will shadow teachers in their creative roles. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how to produce and create a musical. Students will be responsible for creating a portion of the musical. You are able to be a part of the ensemble **and** a member of the student creative team, however it is not possible for you to be a lead role and a member of the student creative team. Members of the Student Creative Team should expect to be present at the required weekly rehearsals (this may differ per role) and there may be additional time commitment required (though this will be mainly kept to lunchtimes).

**Director:** The director is in charge of everything that happens on stage which includes blocking (where the actors move), props used, and the overall meaning of the performance. This person will need to be a great communicator, as well as someone with a creative eye. As a student director, you will be responsible for directing 1 - 2 scenes and assisting Ms Dimitriou on the direction of the whole musical.

**Music/Vocal Assistant:** The Musical Director is responsible for teaching the songs to the cast. This person will need to have a good ear for music and have prior singing or instrumental experience. As a student music/vocal assistant, you will be responsible for running small group music rehearsals and assisting Mrs Stirling. There is the option of operating sound during show or playing with the orchestra.

**Choreographer:** The choreographer is responsible for creating the dance routines for the musical. This person will need to have prior dance experience and be a great communicator. As the student choreographer, you will be responsible for choreographing 1 - 2 dance routines and assisting Ms Jemmeson throughout the rehearsals.

**Lighting Designer:** The lighting designer is responsible for creating and programming the lights to enhance the musical. This person will need to have good attention to detail and problem solving skills. As a student lighting designer, you will be responsible for designing 1 - 2 scenes and operating the lights during the performances.

**Costume Manager:** The costume manager is responsible for designing costumes for the musical, selecting costume pieces and organising costumes throughout the performance. This person will need to be organised and creative. As a student costume manager, you will be responsible for assisting Ms Dimitriou with the above tasks. You do not need to sew or create costumes for the show.

**Stage Manager:** The stage manager is responsible for managing the backstage area and the organisation of props and sets coming on and off the stage. This person will need to be organised and good at problem-solving. As the student stage manager, you will be responsible for organising crew to take items on and off the stage, organising the props table, and assisting Mr Andersen.

# Auditions

## Lead Roles

Before the audition: You will do some research into the show and decide on what character you think you would be most suited to perform. You will then learn the selected song and monologue for that character and rehearse how you will perform this.

During the audition: You will sing the song you have prepared with the instrumental track (you singing without anyone else) and perform your monologue. You should sing and act in character. We want to see your acting as well as your singing abilities.

After the audition: You may receive an email requesting that you attend a call back audition. The cast list will then be announced on the date listed. Your name will be listed on the cast announcement.

## Ensemble

All students are welcome to be a part of the 2025 college production. To be a member of the production all you need to do is to sign-up and attend a lunchtime information session. You are then automatically a member of the cast.

## Featured Dancer

This audition will take place at senior lunchtime. You should wear your PE uniform to ensure you can move freely. You will be taken through a warm-up before being taught a short section of choreography. You will be allowed to ask questions as well as rehearse the choreography a few times. You will then perform this in small groups.

## Orchestra

This audition will take place on Tuesday 11th February. Please prepare the excerpt provided on your chosen instrument. This can be found on the google drive:

## Stage Crew

All students are welcome to be a part of the 2025 college production. To be a member of stage crew all you need to do is to sign-up and attend a lunchtime information session in Term 2. Then you will automatically be a part of the crew.

## Student Creative Team

In order to apply for the student creative team, you must:

- Complete the Student Creative Team google form stating your interest and experience.
- Prepare for your interview (requirements differ depending on the position - please see information on Google Form attached)
- Attend the interview during Week 9 of Term 4, 2024.

## Call Backs

A call back audition is a group audition. You will be asked to sing the song you had prepared for your original audition again. You will then be paired with other characters and given a short section of script to perform together. A call back audition is sometimes required to better understand how you will work with other cast members and the believability of your character's relationships on stage.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **If I don't receive a callback does that mean I did not get a lead role?**

If you do not receive a callback this does not mean that you have been unsuccessful in receiving a lead role in the production. The production team may not need to see certain characters again based on the performance in the original audition.

## **What if I can't make the audition time?**

If you want to audition for a lead role however you are unable to attend the audition time set for you please email Ms Dimitriou as soon as possible to arrange an alternative time. It may also be possible to submit a video audition in exceptional circumstances.

## **Am I required at every rehearsal?**

You should ensure you do not have a clash with your outside-of-school commitments. You should try your best to organise any one-off medical appointments etc to be outside of our rehearsal times. If you are unavailable for a rehearsal because you are sick or on a holiday this is understandable however it is important to let the production team know of your unavailability in advance. If you miss multiple rehearsals without communicating with the production team your place in the production cast may be discussed.

## **What level should I be to play in the orchestra?**

Grade 3 - 5 AMEB or equivalent

## **I can't access the google drive?**

Please use your CESC email address to access materials in the google drive. You can speak to IT if you do not know what this email address is. If you are still unable to access the drive, please email [stephanie.dimitriou@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:stephanie.dimitriou@education.vic.gov.au).

## **Who do I talk to if I have questions?**

If you have any questions, please email them to the relevant staff member listed on the 'Meet the Team' page. If you are not sure who to talk to, the best person to talk to is Ms Dimitriou.

Her email is [stephanie.dimitriou@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:stephanie.dimitriou@education.vic.gov.au)

# Links

**Sign Up to audition for ensemble, lead role, featured dancer, crew and/or orchestra:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFoZxBfbWaKfD8UEwoobLfXGEzWx\\_7h5obqnlf-Q5LOD3-bg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFoZxBfbWaKfD8UEwoobLfXGEzWx_7h5obqnlf-Q5LOD3-bg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Sign up to interview for the Student Creative Team:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSSmCO4duVCHij-n5AMcN6yy8hKawXBLCRL9YWZGrPZn-9Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSSmCO4duVCHij-n5AMcN6yy8hKawXBLCRL9YWZGrPZn-9Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Lead Role Audition Material:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gte-vDOUKTKEYiWYTq8w3NZt1XR3n\\_8g?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gte-vDOUKTKEYiWYTq8w3NZt1XR3n_8g?usp=drive_link)

**Orchestra Audition Material:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YCmFhPvbMbQEmqzrt4ijl1GGciOH-O-g?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YCmFhPvbMbQEmqzrt4ijl1GGciOH-O-g?usp=drive_link)

**Student Creative Team Interview Material:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mMFtxBpdSMLm1yYqv5NioPOL15fhkdj1?usp=sharing>

# Meet the Team



Hannah Fisher  
Assistant Principal

Hannah.Fisher@education.vic.gov.au



Stephanie Dimitriou  
Head of Production

Stephanie.Dimitriou@education.vic.gov.au



Sian Stirling  
Musical Director (Vocals)

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Jessikah Jemmeson  
Choreographer

jessikah.jemmeson@education.vic.gov.au



Matthew Jones  
Musical Director (Orchestra)

matthew.jones2@education.vic.gov.au



James Andersen  
Stage Manager

james.andersen@education.vic.gov.au