

ICARUS

SENIOR DRAMA PROJECT



Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, Brisbane Girls Grammar School acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which our campuses stand, the Turrbal, Jagera and Kabi Kabi Peoples, and all Indigenous people in our School community. We honour and respect their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching and learning. We are grateful for thousands of generations of care for Country and seek to walk in solidarity with the First Peoples of our nation for reconciliation, justice and healing.







BEYOND THE WINGS



The Senior Drama Project occupies a unique space within the co-curricular Drama program.

It sits between our Drama Studio club and a Drama Production, offering students the opportunity to participate in a substantial creative project while maintaining a more flexible and manageable rehearsal commitment. While productions often require extensive rehearsal schedules and large-scale technical elements, the Senior Drama Project prioritises artistic exploration, ensemble collaboration and creative experimentation.

In 2026, this project was developed using Queensland Theatre's The Scene Project, one of the state's leading drama education initiatives. Each year, Queensland Theatre commissions an original script exclusively for participating secondary schools and provides professional learning opportunities for teachers. Students are then invited to create their own interpretation of the work, exploring how performance choices can shape meaning and audience experience.

While many schools share their 15-minute interpretations at Outcome Days, our ensemble chose a different path. ICARUS presented more than 50 disconnected scenes, inviting each creative team to shape the material into their own theatrical experience. Inspired by the script's possibilities, we expanded beyond the original format, creating a 45-minute performance unique to our ensemble. Working alongside the original text, emerging student playwright, Zoe Stannard, developed a series of original interludes that bridge the episodic scenes, connecting the work through the perspectives of contemporary teenagers and establishing a cohesive narrative journey.

The result is a work that combines the collaborative spirit of The Scene Project with the ambition of a production - an opportunity for students to create adventurous theatre, take creative risks and develop as confident young artists.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

One of the great joys of this project has been working with such a committed ensemble of young artists.

Unlike a traditional school production, which often works towards a fixed interpretation and polished final product, ICARUS invited us to embrace experimentation, collaboration and discovery. The script arrived not as a finished destination, but as a starting point. Together, the cast explored its possibilities, questioned its ideas and brought their own perspectives to the work.

With a cast of nineteen performers, every student became an essential contributor to the creative process. Through discussion, improvisation, movement exploration and moments of unexpected inspiration, the performance grew into something uniquely our own. We ended up shaping the episodes by linking them through how teenagers encounter the myth of Icarus and grapple with what it means within their own lives. As each teenager interprets the story through a different lens, the myth is reimaged in a distinct theatrical style, voice and aesthetic. The audience is therefore invited to experience not one interpretation of ICARUS, but many. Together, these perspectives celebrate the rich experimentation at the heart of the original work while forging a cohesive and uniquely BGS interpretation.

The myth of Icarus is often remembered as a cautionary tale about flying too close to the sun. Yet throughout this process, I have been struck by its celebration of courage: the courage to create, to take risks and to trust others enough to soar alongside them.

I am incredibly proud of what this ensemble has achieved. Their creativity, resilience and willingness to embrace the unknown have made this project a genuine joy. I hope you enjoy the result of their work as much as I have enjoyed watching it take flight



Sharni Folland
DIRECTOR

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director

Sharni Folland

Coordinator of Co-Curricular Drama

Emma Churchland

Interlude Writer (teenager sections)

Zoe Stannard (11H)

Video Designer

Jeremy Gordon

Sound Designer

Andrew Oxford

Lighting Designer

Cam Cahill (alumnae '21)

Photographer

Jade Ellis

Grammar Techies

Lucinda Allen (10G)

Izzy Blanchard (9R)



CAST

Olive Aspinwall
Charlotte Balfour
Amelia Barber
JoJo Catt
Sophia Collins
Isla Cowls
Josie Fearon
Juliette Keeley
Charlotte Keating
Rose Macallister

Emily Manzie
Madeleine Martin
Alexandra McCredie
Lucy Petersen
Florence Randall
Cecilia Richards
Maddie Skoien
Zoe Stannard
Lydia Wan





ICARUS – reworked



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FLY?



INSPIRED BY THE ANCIENT GREEK MYTH OF ICARUS, 'ICARUS - REWORKED' IS A BOLD CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION OF AMBITION, FREEDOM, RISK, FAILURE AND HUMAN POSSIBILITY. COMMISSIONED BY QUEENSLAND THEATRE AS THE 2026 SCENE PROJECT SCRIPT, THE WORK BRINGS TOGETHER FOUR ACCLAIMED QUEENSLAND PLAYWRIGHTS-DAVID BURTON, MERLYNN TONG, MAXINE MELLOR AND MADDIE NIXON-TO REIMAGINE A FAMILIAR STORY THROUGH MULTIPLE VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES.

THIS IS NOT A RETELLING OF THE MYTH IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE. INSTEAD, THE PLAY UNFOLDS AS A SERIES OF POST-DRAMATIC SCENES THAT ASK NEW QUESTIONS OF AN OLD STORY. WHO GETS TO FLY? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PUSH BEYOND OUR LIMITS? IS FALLING ALWAYS A FAILURE? THROUGH MOVEMENT, STORYTELLING, ENSEMBLE WORK AND STRIKING IMAGERY, ICARUS - REWORKED PRESENTS MULTIPLE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MYTH, INVITING AUDIENCES TO SEE THE STORY THROUGH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES WHILE CONNECTING ITS THEMES TO THE CHALLENGES, DREAMS AND POSSIBILITIES OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE.

AS ICARUS REACHES TOWARDS THE SUN, WE ARE REMINDED THAT EVERY LEAP INTO THE UNKNOWN CARRIES BOTH DANGER AND WONDER.



CREATIVES

VIDEO DESIGNER

Jeremy Gordon is a stage manager, programmer and designer who studied at Griffith University and is based in Brisbane. A regular collaborator with companies such as Shake & Stir theatre company, Counterpilot, indelibilityarts and Little Red Company, Jeremy has worked on shows in every state and territory in Australia for over a decade from Yeppoon Little Theatre to Sydney Opera House. In 2022, for his work over the previous two years, he received the QUT Creative Industries Backstage Award at the Matilda Awards.



LIGHTING DESIGNER



Cam Cahill is an emerging multiskilled creative based in Meanjin, currently studying to receive their Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting) with QUT. Adept across multiple mediums, Cam is always looking to explore new disciplines and further hone their practice as an artist/performer. Cam has begun to dive into the world of production, some highlights are joining Vena Cava Productions as Head of Marketing, and operating sound for Pip Theatre's Toucan Festival (2025). Cam is excited to take on this new project, and make their debut as a lighting designer with the upcoming senior project, ICARUS.

SOUND DESIGNER

Andrew Oxford is an emerging interdisciplinary theatre maker based in Meanjin with a passion for design. He is currently working as a composer/sound designer on multiple theatre and film projects in Brisbane. His latest sound design/composing work includes the Matilda award nominated FUSE by Anabella Gregory and Crow's Nest by the Velvet Collective and the Travelling Rose theatre. Andrew also recently won the Best Music award at the Brisbane 48hr Film Festival for his work on Stabbington by No Comment Productions.





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Principal, Ms Jacinda Euler Welsh, for her unwavering support of co-curricular Drama and for encouraging our students to spread their wings and soar.

Emma Churchland, my steady wings throughout the process, for her expertise, creativity, and constant encouragement.

Jade Ellis, for capturing every ascent, every triumph, and every shining moment through their photography.

Ms Suzie Ferry, for arting the set and creating a poster worthy of flight.

The Communications and Events Team, for helping Icarus take wing and expertly guiding our audience to the performance.

The Facilities, Security, IT, Media and Grounds Teams, for providing the support that kept everything aloft behind the scenes.

To all parents, guardians, friends and family, thank you for helping our cast soar, supporting them through rehearsals, and encouraging them to reach for the sun.







BRISBANE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**Brisbane Girls Grammar School has an
EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE, A FIRE ALARM & EXIT
ROUTES**

**In case of an alert, attendees should remain calm, look for the
closest EXIT sign in GREEN, comply with any directions given
by organisers and move in an orderly fashion.**