

# WAAPA

Creative  
thinkers  
made here.

## 2024 Course Guide

- Aboriginal Performance
- Acting
- Arts & Cultural Management
- Dance
- Music
- Music Theatre
- Performing Arts
- Production and Design
- Screen Performance

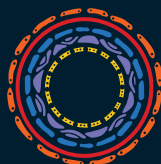


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## Creative thinkers made here.



ECU is committed to reconciliation and supports a Voice to Parliament being enshrined in the Australian Constitution. We recognise and respect the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' communities, cultures and histories. We also acknowledge and respect the Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our campuses are located.



[ecu.edu.au/about-ecu/indigenous-matters](https://ecu.edu.au/about-ecu/indigenous-matters)



Ranked in the world's top 100 universities under 50 years old.



The top public university in Australia for undergraduate teaching quality for seven years in a row.

# WAAPA at ECU

The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at ECU is one of the world's most celebrated performing arts academies.

WAAPA is recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of its graduates. It provides the most comprehensive range of performing arts training in Australia – both on stage and behind the scenes. Course entry is competitive, with an audition and/or an interview required as part of the application process.



Warana Prize and the Moldau  
Photo by Stephen Heath

## Executive Dean's Message



For over 40 years, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at Edith Cowan University has delivered internationally renowned performing arts training in acting, dance, music, music theatre, performance making, production and design, and arts and cultural management. WAAPA is a

place where artistry, creativity, self-expression and collaboration are encouraged and celebrated.

All of us here at WAAPA are committed to enabling our talented students to realise their artistic and creative ambitions. Much celebrated for helping to launch the careers of world-class entertainers such as Hugh Jackman, Francis O'Connor, Tim Minchin, Lucy Durack, Jai Courtney and Dacre Montgomery, WAAPA is also the place where hundreds of musicians, designers, technicians and performers have taken their first steps towards highly rewarding careers in the global entertainment, arts and culture industries.

WAAPA offers intensive practice-based training delivered by outstanding teaching staff. Our dedicated lecturers enable WAAPA's students to hone their skills, master their chosen discipline and prepare them to meet the ever-changing demands of a performing arts career.

Ensuring that our students are free to experiment and learn in a protected, supportive environment, WAAPA's comprehensive, high-quality training is underpinned by a student culture that is welcoming and positive. Having students from a wide range of creative disciplines under one roof offers incredible opportunities for cross-disciplinary cooperation, in which life-long friendships and artistic collaborations are forged.

These experiences will be further enhanced when WAAPA moves to ECU's new campus in the heart of Perth in late 2025. ECU City will be one of the most dynamic, innovative and technologically advanced university campuses in the southern hemisphere. In addition to a range of specialist facilities, this state-of-the-art building will include six world-class venues for WAAPA's 300-plus public performances a year.

So if you're passionate about pursuing a career in the performing arts, I invite you to use this guide to select the course that's right for you. Applying to study at WAAPA is highly competitive but for those who are successful, it is absolutely worth it.

**Professor David Shirley**  
Executive Dean, WAAPA

# The Wonderful World of WAAPA

## Pina Bausch Tribute an International First

In 2022, WAAPA's Dance students performed a contemporary dance season that paid homage to the influential German dancer and choreographer, Pina Bausch. *Icon: An Extraordinary Event*, presented three works that celebrated and explored Bausch's choreography, life and legacy. With support from the Minderoo Foundation, two long-standing members of Pina Bausch's acclaimed dance company Tanztheater Wuppertal were visiting artists at WAAPA, collaborating with the Dance students to remount Bausch's *Tannhäuser Bacchanal*. It was the first time this iconic work has been performed outside Germany, and was combined in a program with works from acclaimed Australian choreographer Meryl Tankard and WAAPA's own Michael Whaites.



'Icon: An Extraordinary Event'  
Photo by Stephen Heath

## Star Graduates

WAAPA graduates are in high demand and excel in their chosen professions, making a significant contribution to the performing arts and allied industries. Highly celebrated graduates include actors Hugh Jackman, Frances O'Connor, Sam Corlett, Shalom Brune-Franklin, Dacre Montgomery, Rachael Maza and Jai Courtney; comedians Jim Jeffries and Tim Minchin; opera singers Emma Matthews, Duncan Rock and Rachelle Durkin; music theatre stars Lisa McCune, Eddie Perfect and Lucy Durack; musicians Troy Roberts, Linda May Han Oh, Chris Dragon, Jessica Gethin and Meg Mac. WAAPA's Arts & Cultural Management, and Production & Design professionals can also be found working in arts organisations and companies around the world.

## Cultural Collaboration with Leading Locals

WAAPA is proud to be working in close collaboration with many of Western Australia's leading cultural organisations, including Arts and Culture Trust, Black Swan State Theatre, West Australian Ballet, West Australian Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Opera, Perth Symphony Orchestra, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, The Blue Room Theatre, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Perth Festival, Fringe World Festival and Co: 3 Contemporary Dance Company.

## USA Adventure for Percussion Students

In late 2022, thirteen percussion students and senior lecturer Tim White travelled to Indianapolis to participate in the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. Imagine 5,000 percussionists in one place for four days of rhythm and mayhem... and the whole brilliant adventure was capped off with snow!



## Top National Researcher

Last year WAAPA's Dr Luke Hopper was named top in the nation in his research field by *The Australian*. The newspaper's annual Research Magazine nominated Dr Hopper as Field Leader in Drama and Theatre Arts in the category of Humanities, Literature and Arts. Dr Hopper uses sophisticated motion capture technology to better understand the biomechanics of dance to tailor advice to dancers in order to help them limit their injuries.

## WAAPA VET Courses Provide Pathways to Performing Arts Training

WAAPA is the perfect place to study for anyone seeking a career in the performing arts, entertainment, film and television industries. WAAPA offers nationally-recognised training for Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses across disciplines including Aboriginal Performance, Acting, Dance, Costume, Lighting, Music, Music Theatre, Production Design, Props and Scenery, Screen Performance, Sound, and Stage Management. No ATAR is required and entry is based on a successful audition and/or interview or folio submission. VET Student Loans (VSL) are also available for eligible Diploma and Advanced Diploma students.

## Classical Music Set To Soar

WAAPA's Classical Music program received a major boost in 2023 with the appointment of five dynamic new staff members: the extraordinary Darlington Quartet – violinists Semra Lee and Zak Rowntree, violist Sally Boud and cellist Jon Tooby – and the internationally renowned conductor Jessica Gethin. The four talented members of the Darlington Quartet are now leading WAAPA's Classical String program as WAAPA's Quartet in Residence, while Jessica Gethin has taken on the newly created role of Head of Orchestral Studies and Conducting, in charge of WAAPA's vibrant orchestral program.

**“The Darlington Quartet and Jessica Gethin are outstanding musicians, educators and role models, with the ability to inspire and guide students into the modern musical world,”** said WAAPA's Associate Dean of Music, Dr Jamie Oehlers. **“With WAAPA's new home being built at ECU's City Campus, and a new Bachelor of Music course designed for the musical world of the future, students can look forward to a world-class education in a world-class building. WAAPA Music is an incredibly vibrant place to study, with brilliant staff, great facilities and outstanding students.”**



## ECU City

Our new campus is an exciting development that will transform the city of Perth, delivering a world-class Creative Industries, Business and Technology precinct that brings vibrancy and energy to its surrounds.

ECU City will be home to:

- Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA)
- Founding Pianos
- Arts, Design and Communications
- WA Screen Academy
- Broadcasting
- Kurongkurl Katitjin, ECU's Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research
- Business and Law
- Technology programs from the School of Science
- University Pathway Programs

ECU City will represent the future of university education – urban, connected, integrated with business and community – and part of the lifeblood of a thriving city.

The world-class campus will be where passion meets performance, where commerce meets culture and where careers bloom.



Featuring a wide range of state-of-the-art performance venues, ECU City will harness digital technologies to deliver an immersive and connected experience that will put Perth on the world stage.

Situated at the doorstep of Western Australia's premier arts and culture precinct, students will have access to the world's best expertise and facilities.

**ECU City will open to students from 2026.**



To follow the journey, visit  
[citycampus.ecu.edu.au](https://citycampus.ecu.edu.au)

# Graduate Highlights

## Actor Turns Writer-director

Acting graduate Frances O'Connor, known for her starring roles in films such as *Mansfield Park*, *A.I. Artificial Intelligence* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, has turned writer-director with her feature debut, *Emily*, which premiered in January 2023. O'Connor's take on the life of Emily Bronte was critically acclaimed, being described as 'sensuous and spine-tingling'.



## Sound Engineer Tours the World

Just two years after finishing his WAAPA training, 2015 Sound graduate Christian Peterson started touring the world as a sound engineer with Cirque du Soleil. Three years and three shows later, Christian was Head of Sound and Production Stage Manager for the renowned contemporary circus company. In May 2022 Christian joined Twenty One Pilots as Systems Engineer and Crew Chief on the American alt-rock duo's ICY tour – a highlight being a gig at the historic Madison Square Garden in Manhattan, New York.



## Grammy Win for WAAPA graduate

Congratulations to WAAPA Jazz graduate, Linda May Han Oh who won Best Jazz Instrumental Album for *New Standards Vol. 1* at the 2023 Grammy Awards alongside fellow musicians Terri Lyne Carrington, Kris Davis, Nicholas Payton, and Matthew Stevens.



## Opera Highlights

Soprano Amy Manford has enjoyed many career highlights since graduating from WAAPA's Classical Voice program in 2013: performing the role of Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera* in London's West End; singing the Australian National Anthem for the 2021 AFL Grand Final; supporting superstar tenor Andrea Bocelli on his final Australian tour; and reprising her lead role in *Phantom of the Opera* for Opera Australia at the Sydney Opera House and Melbourne's Arts Centre in 2022.

## A Multi-disciplinary Artist

Theatre-maker, playwright and actor Grace Chow has blazed onto the Australian arts scene as a multidisciplinary artist since graduating with a Bachelor of Performing Arts in 2020. Among her many credits, she won the 2022 Griffin Award from Griffin Theatre Company for her play *The Promise Land*; was a finalist in the International Boynes Emerging Visual Artist Award; performed a world premiere with the West Australian Opera; and played Constable Cindy Cheung in ABC's award-winning hit series *Mystery Road: Origin*.

## New Breed Dancers

Three of the four emerging choreographers chosen for Sydney Dance Company's New Breed program for 2022 trained at WAAPA: Jenni Large (2010), Sophia Ndaba (2010) and Charmene Yap (2006). The New Breed initiative supports emerging Australian choreographers by commissioning and presenting new dance works, created with and performed by the SDC dancers.





Frances O'Connor on set of 'Emily'  
Photo by Deadline

## History Repeats

2011 Music Theatre graduate Andy Cook plays Gaston in Disney's musical *Beauty and the Beast*, which opened at Sydney's Capitol Theatre in June 2023. Fellow WAAPA alumnus Hugh Jackman played the same role in the original Australian production in 1995 – certainly a good omen for Andy's career!



## From Perth To Hollywood

Up-and-coming actor Sam Corlett was barely out of WAAPA when he was cast in *The Dry*, the 2020 Australian crime thriller starring Eric Bana. The 2018 Acting graduate went on to play Caliban in Netflix's *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, before stepping into the lead role of Norse explorer Leif Eriksson on the streaming service's *Vikings: Valhalla*, the third season of its hit History series.



## Rising Stars

Aboriginal Performance graduate Shaka Cook and Acting graduate Michelle Lim Davidson have been officially named as stars on the rise. They were chosen by the prestigious Casting Guild of Australia in its Rising Stars List for 2022, an annual selection of the top 10 emerging talent from around the country who are deemed to have what it takes to break out on the world stage.



## A Tutu Dream Comes True

Costume graduate Jessica Hodgkinson knew from an early age that she wanted to make tutus. After working as a dresser on the hit musical *Hamilton*, she was promoted to Head of Wardrobe for *Six the Musical* before landing her dream job at Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2021, where she is now responsible for supervising the build and maintenance of costumes during performance season – including tutus.

## Composer Wins ECU Award

Composition and Music Technology graduate Kevin Penkin was the recipient of ECU's International Alumni Award for 2022. The BAFTA-nominated musician has an impressive reputation as one of the world's best composers for Japanese animation and video games. His music has been recorded by orchestras all over the world and streamed by millions, has spawned youtube videos and Spotify playlists, and even inspired a podcast called 'We love Kevin Penkin'.

## Film-focussed Career

A passion for film took Arts Management graduate Rikki Lea Bestall from Perth to LA and then back again. Now CEO of Screenwest, Rikki Lea is helping to fund and support the development and production of film, television and interactive projects in WA – including the proposed \$100 million film studio due to be built at Whiteman Park by 2025.



'Frankenstein and the Lion of Nemea'  
Photo by Stephen Heath

## Aboriginal Performance

This course prepares Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to enter the performing arts industry as a theatre, film and television actor.

Over two full-time semesters, students undergo intensive training in acting and improvisation, dance and stage movement, voice and singing, script analysis and the audition process. All areas are performance based where workshops feed into rehearsal, and rehearsal feeds into performance. In addition to the highest calibre of daily

tuition from WAAPA's professionally acclaimed staff, students also have access to visiting and guest directors, actors and practitioners who are brought straight from the industry and into our workshops. Aboriginal Performance boasts a dedicated, fully equipped studio space.

Numerous graduates go straight into the industry establishing solid careers as professional actors and performers. Other graduates have gone on to further study in higher-level acting and dance training courses at WAAPA, National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA), and Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).



See more course information —  
[ecu.edu.au/waapa](http://ecu.edu.au/waapa)



“WAAPA prepared me for the industry in every way possible.”

Ian Michael  
WAAPA Aboriginal Performance graduate

# Acting & Screen Performance

## Acting

Studying acting at WAAPA is an inspiring and all-consuming experience. The three-year Bachelor of Arts (Acting) degree is a rigorous conservatoire program that will open the mind and ignite the imagination. We graduate actors who are confident, resilient, and prepared for a career in theatre, television, and film both nationally and internationally. The program is a full-time, studio-based, learning environment. Where students are encouraged to develop holistically as an actor through the integrated practice of acting, voice and movement in theatre and screen. The course is centred on the development of the self-determined contemporary actor, with a passion and drive to contribute meaningfully to the evolution of the art form and industry.

We celebrate and seek to nurture the diversity of stories and unique perspectives of each and every one of the students. All staff and visiting artists are dedicated to cultivating exceptional learning experiences that foster outstanding skill. Reflective of current industry practice and contemporary world views, the Acting course has an international reputation for excellence, built on the success of its many graduates over 40 years.

WAAPA also offers a one-year full-time course delivered under the Vocational Education and Training framework. The course caters to specific learners and seeks to equip students with a foundational understanding of the craft of acting. Students undertake a range of classes to deepen their understanding of their psychophysical instrument and apply their new knowledge into various performances. Graduates from the VET courses may seek ongoing study in Bachelor-level courses or move directly into the performing arts industry.

## Screen Performance

WAAPA also offers a one year, full-time Screen Performance course which focusses on acting for the screen in either film or television productions. Subjects include a range of performance skills including different acting techniques, improvisation, movement, voice production, auditioning and self-testing.

On successful completion of the course, students will have combined a basic knowledge of script writing, storytelling and film-editing in the context of screen performance; and understand the pre-professional skills necessary to successfully audition and perform for the screen. Graduates can confidently enter the industry as freelancers while further seeking professional representation or pursue further education at a higher level.



See more course information —  
[ecu.edu.au/waapa](https://ecu.edu.au/waapa)



“Graduating from WAAPA meant that I was able to tackle the industry and gain a strong understanding of who I was as a performer and creative.”

Kirsty Marillier  
WAAPA Acting graduate

# Arts & Cultural Management

WAAPA's Arts and Cultural Management graduates are versatile employees who are industry ready for exciting and challenging careers in the arts/entertainment industries.

The three year, full-time Bachelor of Arts (Arts and Cultural Management) degree has strong links with industry, and students undertake internships at organisations of their choice as a part of their coursework. Students regularly receive invitations for local work experience from companies such as WA Ballet, Perth Festival, Art Gallery of WA, Perth International Jazz Festival, Perth Comedy Festival and Fringe World, to name a few. The value for students is in building their networks and résumés during the course.

In their final year, students undertake an internship in an arts organisation of their choice, either local, national or international. Examples include Opera Australia, Sydney Festival, Sydney Theatre Company,

Brisbane Powerhouse, Australian Dance Theatre, Melbourne Music Week, Flickerfest International Short Film Festival (Sydney), Austin Film Festival (Texas), San Francisco Ballet, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), Lincoln Center (New York), Druid Theatre Company (Ireland), Gordon Frost Musical Producers, record companies and comedy festivals. Many take on permanent positions with their secondment companies.

WAAPA Arts and Cultural Management graduates hold senior management and marketing positions at prestigious arts and entertainment organisations and businesses throughout the world including Opera Australia, Bangarra Dance Theatre (Sydney), Belvoir St Theatre (Sydney), Bell Shakespeare (Sydney), Dubai Opera, Mullinars Casting, Sydney Opera House, The TATE UK, WA Opera, West Australia Symphony Orchestra, Black Swan State Theatre Company (Perth) and Arts and Culture Trust.



See more course information —  
[ecu.edu.au/waapa](http://ecu.edu.au/waapa)



Photo by Kathy Wheatley



“The Arts and Cultural Management course at WAAPA is fantastic.”

Alexander McKinnon  
WAAPA Arts and Cultural Management graduate



## Dance

Creativity, performance excellence, intensive training and classroom practice are central to the philosophy of the Dance department at WAAPA. Whether your focus is classical ballet or contemporary dance, WAAPA offers both vocational and degree programs to allow the individual to pursue their chosen career pathway. All courses are full time and range from one to three years duration. Pathways exist for students to articulate from their VET qualifications into the Bachelor of Arts (Dance) degree.

WAAPA dance teachers are committed to both performance and academic excellence, additional subjects offered include choreography, cultural studies, dance history, performance psychology and kinesiology. The training environment is inclusive and lays the foundations for the socially and politically aware performer, teacher, choreographer and/or independent practitioner.

Three performance seasons per year including opportunities to work with national and international visiting artists, ensure that our graduates are industry ready. Professional placements, short study tours (when available) and international exchange programs provide a local, national and international arts perspective.

WAAPA dance graduates have become renowned performers and creators, leaders in community arts and advocates for equitable arts practice.

→ See more course information — [ecu.edu.au/waapa](http://ecu.edu.au/waapa)



Photo by Stephen Heath



“The training I received at WAAPA embraced my individuality and sent me into the industry with the skills and confidence to carve my own path.”

Genevieve O'Keeffe  
WAAPA Performing Arts graduate

# Music

Music in the 21st century is a melting pot of styles – jazz, contemporary, classical and traditional music from around the world is regularly blended to create new and exciting pathways for individual expression. At the same time, modern technology enhances and enables us to think innovatively about the ways we create music. Though the musical industry has changed radically over the past two decades, most music courses haven't. We recognise that in order to stand out from the crowd in the current world of music, artists need to not only master their chosen instrument, but also be original. It is this originality that we strive to nurture at WAAPA.

Studying music at WAAPA enables you to find your voice, your music, and your style. The first two years of the course focus on developing fundamental skills to enable an understanding of the inner workings of music performance, theory and composition, while the final two years allow you to explore and innovate in any style that inspires you.

If your passion is bebop saxophone, R&B vocals or orchestral violin, then you can still follow that direct pathway through the entirety of the course. However, if you're a cellist who loves jazz, is fascinated by loop stations, EDM and composition, or any other combination of styles and techniques you can imagine – there is now a pathway for you.

Music students from all disciplines will come together throughout the semester to explore topics like performance psychology, home recording, music business skills, the current Australian musical landscape, and more. In the second half of the course there are multiple elective slots, where students can choose classes from any music stream, as well as unique classes like technology enhanced performance, rhythm studies, music and community, conducting, and more.

## WAAPA offers the following disciplines:

- Classical Performance
- Composition and Music Technology
- Contemporary Performance
- Jazz Performance
- Music Artist
- Music Education



Photo by Stephen Heath

# Classical Performance

Students receive individual lessons, specialised masterclasses and workshops, and classes in music history, aural skills, harmony, pedagogy, career skills and performance psychology. Students also take to the stage as soloists and perform in ensembles ranging from symphony orchestra, wind orchestra, fully-staged opera and music theatre productions; through to chamber music, early music, art song, cutting-edge new music, world music, as well as music for dance and drama. There are also specialist ensembles for strings, wind, brass, percussion, voice, piano, saxophone and guitar. The classical course brings together outstanding students with inspirational staff, providing students with an extraordinary range of performance opportunities, plus all the training they need to create careers as professional musicians. Vocal students also have specialist classes to study acting, languages and movement skills.

# Composition and Music Technology

Offers streams in classical, electronic, film, popular and jazz music, as well as sound art installation. The ethos of the composition program centres on practical learning through performance and collaboration. At every stage, students collaborate on projects in the dance, film, video, electronic arts, gaming and theatre departments. All students study recording, mixing, mastering and online networking, as well as comprehensive composition approaches for the 21st century. The Composer in Residence program provides access to a range of visiting artists and students are provided with opportunities to engage with industry throughout the course. In addition, all students are involved in the performance of electroacoustic music through the ECUatorial and Aletheia student ensembles, and are encouraged to work with music performance majors for the performance of their works.



“WAAPA is absolutely the best place to come if you want to be a performer.”

Ariel Postmus  
WAAPA Music (Classical Performance) graduate



*'Alchemy: Jazz Meets the Orchestra' 2022*  
Photo by Stephen Heath

## Contemporary Performance

WAAPA's contemporary performance program is committed to producing industry ready, world-class performers. Notable alumni include Tim Minchin, Meg Mac, Dulcie and Carla Geneve. This intensive performance-based major centres on ensemble studies, where students develop advanced instrumental and performance skills on their chosen instrument (vocal, guitar, bass, keyboard, drum-set). Students receive individual lessons, attend instrumental workshops and are a part of a repertoire-intense, performing ensemble. Additional ensemble-based performances with composition students allow for creative work to be undertaken. Other classes include arranging, history, theory, rhythm, aural, improvisation and second study. Performances are undertaken regularly throughout the course and the final year culminates in a professional recital.

## Jazz Performance

Recognised as one of the strongest jazz degrees in the southern hemisphere, this major has produced many nationally and internationally renowned jazz musicians since its inception over thirty years ago. The strength of the course lies in the focus on live-performance outcomes that encourage creativity and individuality at every stage. Repertoire and improvisation skills are central, and are taught in a scaffolded manner alongside engaging academic units within each year of the degree. All students participate in a variety of ensembles; from big bands to jazz trios, and explore a diverse range of swing styles, modern grooves and everything in between. The jazz performance major has a global outlook; incorporating a visiting artist schedule of interactions and workshops that are second to none, international study tours and exchange opportunities, whilst priding itself on award-winning faculty staff, collectively holding immense professional knowledge that is on offer and available to students year-round.

## Music Artist

WAAPA offers nationally-recognised qualifications in this area, which prepare students for entry into the music industry as a songwriter and/or original music performer. Students will gain the knowledge and skills required to communicate and collaborate with other educated musicians. The stream focuses on creative original music, song writing, collaboration, performance preparation, studio recordings and music production techniques. Students develop fundamental knowledge along with an understanding of essential stylistic elements, vocabulary and the ability to translate their musical ideas.

## Music Education

Offered in conjunction with ECU's School of Education, this course focuses on classroom music teaching with students specialising in either classical, jazz or contemporary music. Students have the option to complete a minor in instrumental music teaching and conducting/ensemble direction, and can also undertake electives in primary and early childhood music teaching. Under certain circumstances, students may undertake crossover units from other streams.



See more course information —  
[ecu.edu.au/waapa](http://ecu.edu.au/waapa)



Photo by Stephen Heath



'Mack & Mabel' 2022  
Photo by Stephen Heath

## Music Theatre

WAAPA's internationally recognised Music Theatre programs provide graduates with the skills and experience to pursue sustainable and diverse careers in the performing arts. Music Theatre students are trained by WAAPA's world-class teaching staff whose expertise has been honed through extensive professional practice. Students can expect a rigorous, contemporary approach to practice and learning that challenges them to reach their full potential.

WAAPA offers two full-time courses in Music Theatre: The three-year Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre) and the one-year CUA50220 – Diploma of Musical Theatre.

The Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre) degree comprises intensive technical and practical training in the areas of singing, dance, acting and musicianship. The detailed study of these core skill areas is complemented by a suite of elective options that allows students to tailor their learning experiences in their final year through further study of dance and choreography for music theatre, an introduction to stage direction, acting techniques for film and TV, or professional voice.

Students have regular opportunities throughout their degree to apply their practical skills and creativity to in-house and public staged productions in collaboration with leading industry creatives and colleagues from WAAPA's Music and Production & Design departments. In their final year, all students undertake industry-readiness training: practicing audition skills, developing a digital portfolio, and preparing a final showcase to launch their careers post-graduation.

The diploma is a full-time, one-year intensive course focussed on skill-building and creativity. Students receive in-depth technical training in the areas of acting, dance, voice and theory, combined with devising, entrepreneurial and theatremaking skills geared towards the multidisciplinary demands of today's industry. WAAPA's Diploma of Musical Theatre has multiple performance opportunities, and an exciting range of graduate pathways into the industry, or further conservatoire-style training.



See more course information —  
[ecu.edu.au/waapa](https://ecu.edu.au/waapa)



**“My WAAPA years were the best three years of my life.”**

Lucy Maunder  
WAAPA Music Theatre graduate

# Performing Arts

The Bachelor of Performing Arts provides students with sound knowledge of the performing arts and has strong links to industry. It seeks to build on the creative abilities of students and encourages creativity through practical inquiry. The course combines theoretical and technical knowledge of the performing arts through a series of core units with a major available in Performance Making.

## Performance Making

This major explores original, self-devised and collaborative approaches to creating, producing and presenting independent contemporary performance projects. Students study the devising of text, character, story and physical performance, and apply these skills to a series of projects of group devised, site specific, directed and puppetry performance.



See more course information —  
[ecu.edu.au/waapa](https://ecu.edu.au/waapa)



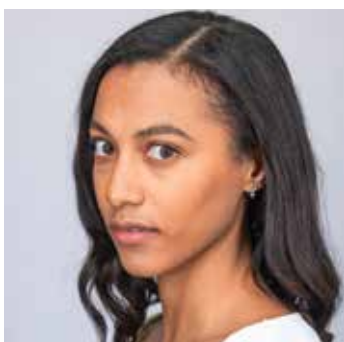
'Folds'  
Photo by Stephen Heath



'Tilt'  
Photo by Stephen Heath



'Ghosted' 2022.  
Photo by Stephen Heath



"I travelled to Perth from Sweden because of WAAPA's Performing Arts course. It's unlike anything I could find at home."

Linnea Tengroth  
WAAPA Performing Arts graduate

# Production & Design

WAAPA offers nationally-recognised qualifications in this area, providing students with a diverse selection of 'on-the-job' theatrical experiences. Students have access to simulated industry training in the design, construction and management of the Academy's annual repertoire of concerts and performance seasons, utilising WAAPA's diverse range of venues, as well as numerous external performance spaces.

WAAPA's professionally staffed and equipped workshop and wardrobe facilities, along with lighting and sound studios, gives students immediate 'hands-on' access to all production development, construction and staging processes associated with the most up-to-date industry expectations and practice.

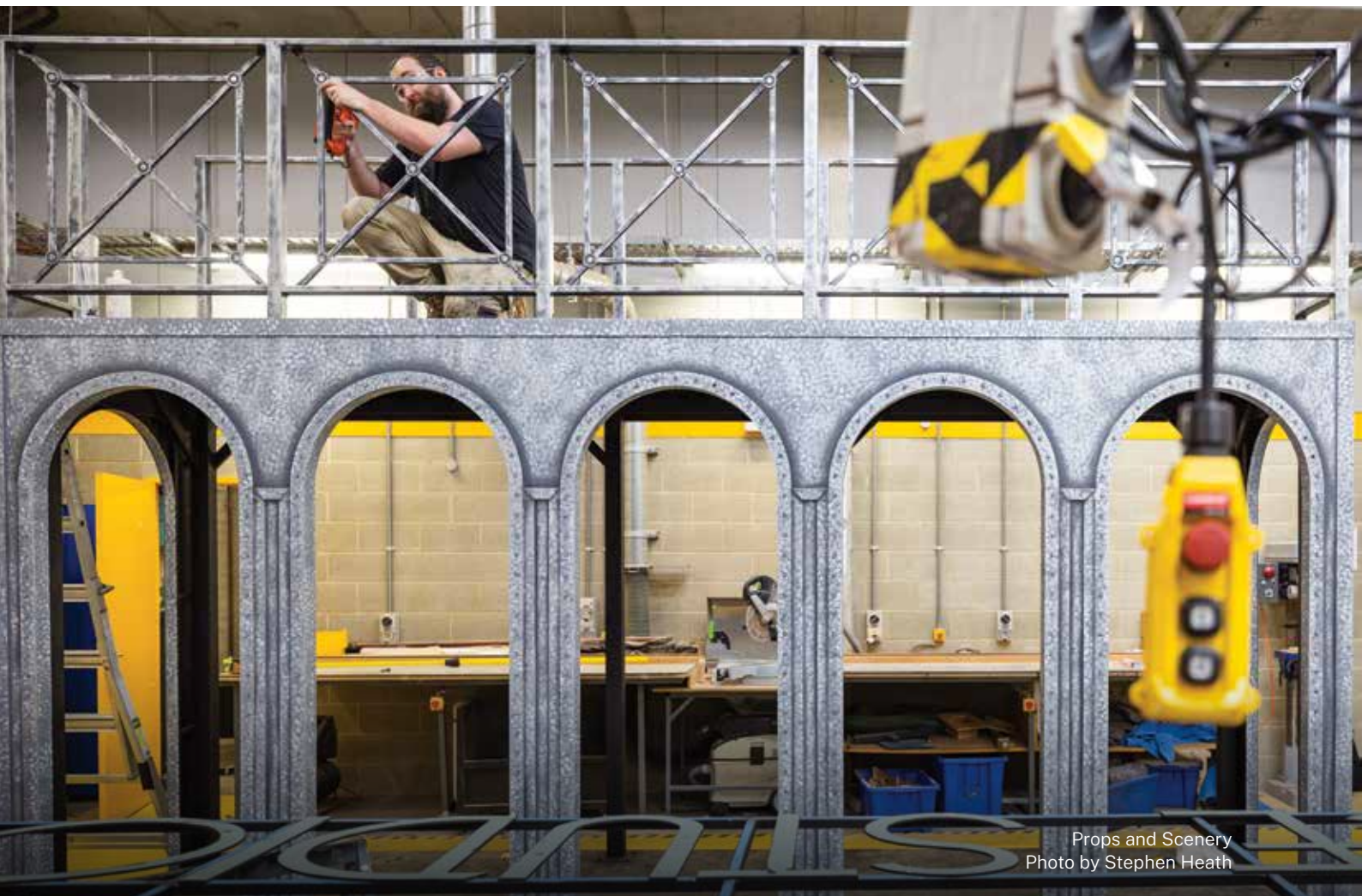
Incorporating an exciting mix of national and international professional directors, teachers and supervisors, WAAPA's year-long season of theatre, music theatre, opera and dance performances, plus jazz, classical and contemporary music concerts, gives WAAPA graduates the winning edge in preparation for a seamless transition into a wide range of careers within the creative and technical industries, both nationally and abroad.



Production Design  
Photo by Stephen Heath



Sound  
Photo by Jon Green



Props and Scenery  
Photo by Stephen Heath



Costume  
Photo by Stephen Heath

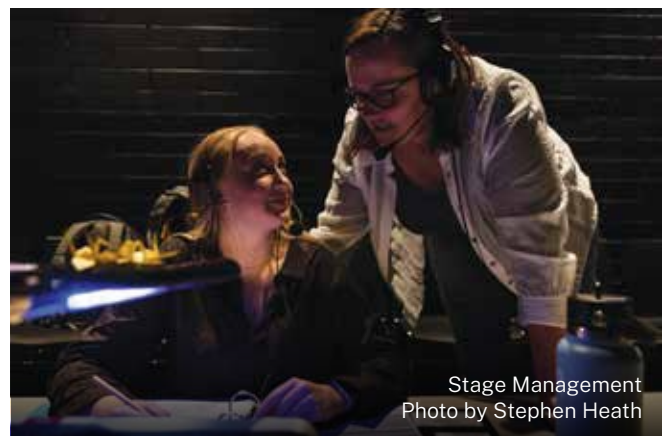
The Production and Design program at WAAPA offers two distinct streams:

## Production Arts

This nationally recognised qualification prepares students with a range of knowledge and skills to enter the performing arts industry. This stream may appeal to those who have an interest in design, props, scenery, and set construction and costume construction, and similar aspects of production. The course is structured to provide skills and experience consistent with the growing needs of the entertainment industry. Students work as directed on productions mounted by WAAPA and begin by assisting, until sufficiently skilled, to perform designated tasks.

## Technical and Live Performance

This nationally recognised qualification prepares students with a range of knowledge and skills to enter the performing arts industry. This stream may appeal to those who have an interest in lighting, stage management, sound, and similar aspects of production. The course is structured to provide skills and experience consistent with the growing needs of the entertainment industry. Students work as directed on productions mounted by WAAPA and begin by assisting, until sufficiently skilled, to perform designated tasks.



Stage Management  
Photo by Stephen Heath



“Throughout my time at WAAPA I have learnt how to complete any task that is presented to me in a calm and professional manner.”

Alek Tufilli  
WAAPA Props and Scenery graduate



Lighting  
Photo by Stephen Heath

# Worldwide WAAPA Stars

Many WAAPA alumni have found global fame in their chosen disciplines. In fact, there are too many to list here. Every year, our new graduates begin the same journey these people have taken, prepared for some hard work, but also aiming for the stars.



**Dacre Montgomery**  
Actor



**Daina Reid**  
Director



**Eddie Perfect**  
Actor, Writer, Comedian



**Emma Matthews**  
Soprano



**Ewen Leslie**  
Actor



**Hugh Jackman**  
Actor, Singer, Producer



**Jessica Gethin**  
Conductor



**Jimi Bani**  
Actor



**Linda May Han Oh**  
Jazz Bassist  
and Composer



**Lisa McCune**  
Actor, Singer



**MEG MAC**  
Singer-songwriter



**Meow Meow**  
Cabaret and  
Theatre Performer



**Michelle Lim Davidson**  
Actor



**Rachael Maza**  
Actor and Director



**Shalom Brune-Franklin**  
Actor



**Tim Minchin**  
Comedian, Actor,  
Writer, Musician

# Applications and Admissions

## Applying for WAAPA courses

All applicants for courses at WAAPA must complete an online application form which can be accessed via

→ [ecu.edu.au/waapa](http://ecu.edu.au/waapa)

An application fee applies.

Applications for WAAPA courses (excluding the Bachelor of Music) are not accepted through ECU's Experience Based Entry Scheme.

## Admissions information

WAAPA offers a wide range of courses from Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificates, Diplomas

and Advanced Diplomas, through to Higher Education Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees.

Admission to all WAAPA courses is by audition and/or interview.

Admission to programs at WAAPA also requires applicants to meet ECU's standard university admission requirements.

Applications for WAAPA courses are open from July to September the year prior to course commencement.

## Interviews, auditions and folios

All WAAPA courses require applicants to complete an interview and/or audition, or submit a folio of work, as part of the selection process.

For more specific information about interviews, auditions and folios, visit [waapa.ecu.edu.au](http://waapa.ecu.edu.au)

## RTO Provider

RTO Provider 4756



Photo by Stephen Heath

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this publication is correct at the time of production. The information is subject to change from time to time and the University requests the right to add, vary or discontinue courses and impose limitations on enrolment in any course. The publication constitutes an expression of interest and is not to be taken as a firm offer or understanding. This publication is intended for Australian citizens and permanent residents only. Some information contained in this publication may not be applicable to international students.

**GREENING ECU:** Edith Cowan University is committed to reducing the environmental impact associated with its operations by conducting its activities in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. This includes implementing strategies and technologies that minimise waste of resources and demonstrate environmentally sensitive development, innovation and continuous improvement.





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