

YOUTH ARTS

2025

SENIOR IMPACT ENSEMBLE

AUDITION PACK



54-56 NEIL ST, TOOWOOMBA

EMPIRE
THEATRES

EMPIRETHEATRE.COM.AU

PAST PRODUCTIONS

SENIOR IMPACT

STARCROSSED	2024
Static Air	2023
Going, Going, Gone!	2022
Off With Your Head!	2021
A Monster Unfinished	2020
We Come From Dalby (<i>Western Downs Ensemble</i>)	2020
The [REDACTED] New Clothes	2019
Of Myths and Monoliths	2018
{Cross My Heart}	2017
C H A L K	2016
Titus Was Here	2015
Talking to Brick Walls	2014/15
The Seedling Project	2013
Slut (by Patricia Cornelius)	2013
10 Down, 6 Across	2012
Blackrock (by Nick Enright)	2012
TLK, TXT, SPK	2011

JUNIOR IMPACT

Our Egg Named Larry	2024
Shack by George Kemp	2023
Charlie Pilgrim: or a Beginner's Guide to Time Travel (by Sam O'Sullivan)	2022
The Trolleys (by Sara West)	2021
Where in the World is Frank Sparrow? (by Angela Betzien)	2019
10 George Street	2018
Child(ish)	2017



ABOUT THE SENIOR IMPACT ENSEMBLE

Since 2011, The Empire Youth Arts IMPACT Ensemble Program has challenged the assumptions made about young people and their crucial role in our ever-changing world, and its future, through storytelling and performance.

IMPACT is an advanced performance-making theatre program. It offers young creatives an opportunity to share a story which speaks authentically and powerfully with the voice of young people, while presenting itself with the quality and care of professional theatre.

In 2025, we are looking for a Senior Ensemble of 8-14 young creatives (ages 15-20) who under the guide of Youth Arts Lead Grace Sankey, will together work collaboratively across six months to develop an original production for a two show performance season at The Empire's Armitage Centre.



THE CREATIVE TEAM



GRACE SANKEY LEAD CREATIVE

Grace (she/her) is a theatre maker, drama facilitator and currently works full time as the Youth Arts Lead at The Empire. A 2018 Graduate of The University of Southern Queensland with a Bachelor in Theatre, after a brief stint to Brisbane, Grace has been back in Toowoomba since 2024 collaborating with and teaching young regional artists.

She believes that every young person deserves equal access to high-quality artistic experiences and opportunities for development. Grace will lead the Senior IMPACT Ensemble, overseeing the devising process, writing and rehearsals with support from Assistants and our Creative Collaborator.



DAVID BURTON CREATIVE COLLABORATOR

David Burton is a writer from Brisbane, Queensland. He's the author of over thirty professionally produced plays, two acclaimed books, and has been a core part of some of Australia's most innovative theatrical projects. He's also a Dad and has a doctorate in community-engaged theatre, and his [weekly blog](#) has hundreds of loyal readers. In 2024, he was short-listed for the Queensland Premier's Drama Award.

The original Empire Youth Arts Director, David will be providing his expertise as a writer and theatre maker to the 2025 Ensemble. We are incredibly privileged and excited for this opportunity to create a new work with this expert creative.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

If you are a young person aged 15 - 20 living in the Toowoomba Region and surrounds with a passion for performing and telling stories, then you can apply for the Senior IMPACT Ensemble! Young people of all physical abilities, racial or cultural identities and levels of experience are invited to apply.

To apply for an audition, please complete the attached application form and return via email to youtharts@empiretheatre.com.au or in person to The Empire Ticket Office by 3pm Thursday 1 May, 2025.

AUDITION INFORMATION

The audition process will take place in two parts on one AUDITION DAY.

PART 1: GROUP AUDITION

All auditionees will attend a one hour group audition on **Saturday 3 May, 10am - 11am** at The Empire.

During this time, auditionees will engage in a number of collaborative, but simple drama games and activities. We want to see your natural skills for working with others, and your playfulness! Trust that this hour won't feel like an audition and more like a fun drama lesson!

PART 2: SOLO AUDITION

Auditionees will then book a 10-minute slot the same afternoon:

Saturday 3 May, 12pm - 5pm

Each Auditionee will be asked to prepare two pieces for this time, as detailed on page seven of this pack.

FEE DETAILS

The fee for this project is \$660 all-inclusive.

This fee will cover tuition, performance materials, and involvement in specialised workshops for the project.

Payment is only required if offered a role in the program. A payment plan is available if required.

Some financial assistance is also available, please email us to discuss options.

Auditionees will NOT be supervised during the audition day outside of the group audition. They are welcome to stay on The Empire grounds in the waiting areas or leave and return for their individual time.

SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sat 3 May	10am - 5pm	Audition Day
Mon 12 May	4pm - 6pm	Meet & Greet (parents invited at 5:50pm)
Mon 19 May	4pm - 6pm	Workshop
Mon 26 May	4pm - 6pm	Workshop with David Burton
Mon 2 Jun	4pm - 6pm	Workshop with David Burton
Mon 9 Jun	4pm - 6pm	Workshop
Mon 16 Jun	4pm - 6pm	Workshop
Mon 23 Jun	4pm - 6pm	Workshop
HOLIDAY BREAK		
Mon 21 Jul	4pm - 6pm	Workshop
Mon 28 Jul	4pm - 6pm	Workshop
Mon 4 Aug	4pm - 8pm	Rehearsal
Mon 11 Aug	4pm - 8pm	Rehearsal
Mon 25 Aug	4pm - 8pm	Rehearsal
Mon 1 Sep	4pm - 8pm	Rehearsal
Thurs 4 Sep	4pm - 8pm	Rehearsal
Mon 8 Sep	4pm - 8pm	Rehearsal
Mon 29 Sep	9am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
Tues 30 Sep	9am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
Wed 1 Oct	9am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
Thurs 2 Oct	9am - 4pm	Holiday Intensive Rehearsal
Tues 7 Oct	4pm - 8pm	Rehearsal
Mon 13 Oct	4pm - 8pm	Rehearsal
PRODUCTION WEEK		
Sun 19 Oct TBC	10am - 2pm TBC	Bump in / Run
MONDAY 20 OCT - DAY OFF		
Tues 21 Oct	4pm - 9pm	Tech Rehearsal
Wed 22 Oct	4pm - 9pm	Dress Rehearsal / Preview 7pm
Thurs 23 Oct	4pm - 9pm	Performance 7pm
Fri 24 Oct	4pm - 9pm	Performance 7pm
Mon 3 Nov	4pm - 6pm	Production Debrief

THIS YEARS PROVOCATION

AT THE END OF THE WORLD

The world's on fire—literally.

Headlines scream doom, politics are madder than MAFS, and every scroll on TikTok introduces a new thing to be worried about. No longer is a young persons biggest concern in life quick sand, but global disaster. Scientists say the world is on her last legs and the people set to inherit her are told to be silent, act their age and wait their turn.

When the cries for change fall on deaf ears, and helplessness starts to take over, what else is there to do but become histories most “unserious” generation?

Turn the cries to laughter, the protesting to posting, the madness into memes?

For the 2025 Senior IMPACT Ensemble, we're on a radical exploration of Gen Z's ability to transform a bleak reality into a wild meme-fueled rebellion.

Imagine a stage where the apocalypse isn't met with tears, but with reels, where every dark joke is a political mic-drop. Over six months, this fearless collective of 8-14 young creatives (ages 15-20) will dive headfirst into researching, writing, producing, and performing a play that flips the script on doom and gloom.

We're calling on you to blend dark satire with a political raw edge, turning the end-of-the-world narrative into a brilliant, celebration of our times.

If you're ready to set the stage on fire—figuratively please—and prove that even in the face of collapse, joy is our ultimate act of defiance, then this project is for you.



SOLO AUDITION

The IMPACT Ensemble is all about giving the region's most exciting, curious, and passionate young artists an opportunity to be both seen and heard, as they make their impact on our local performing arts scene.

In addition to seeing your talent, we are also interested in you, your creativity and your curiosities. We want to see your imagination and your instincts for playful storytelling, your abilities for team work and collaboration, and your true, authentic self!

You will have just 6 minutes to share with us BOTH of the following two tasks:

TASK 1

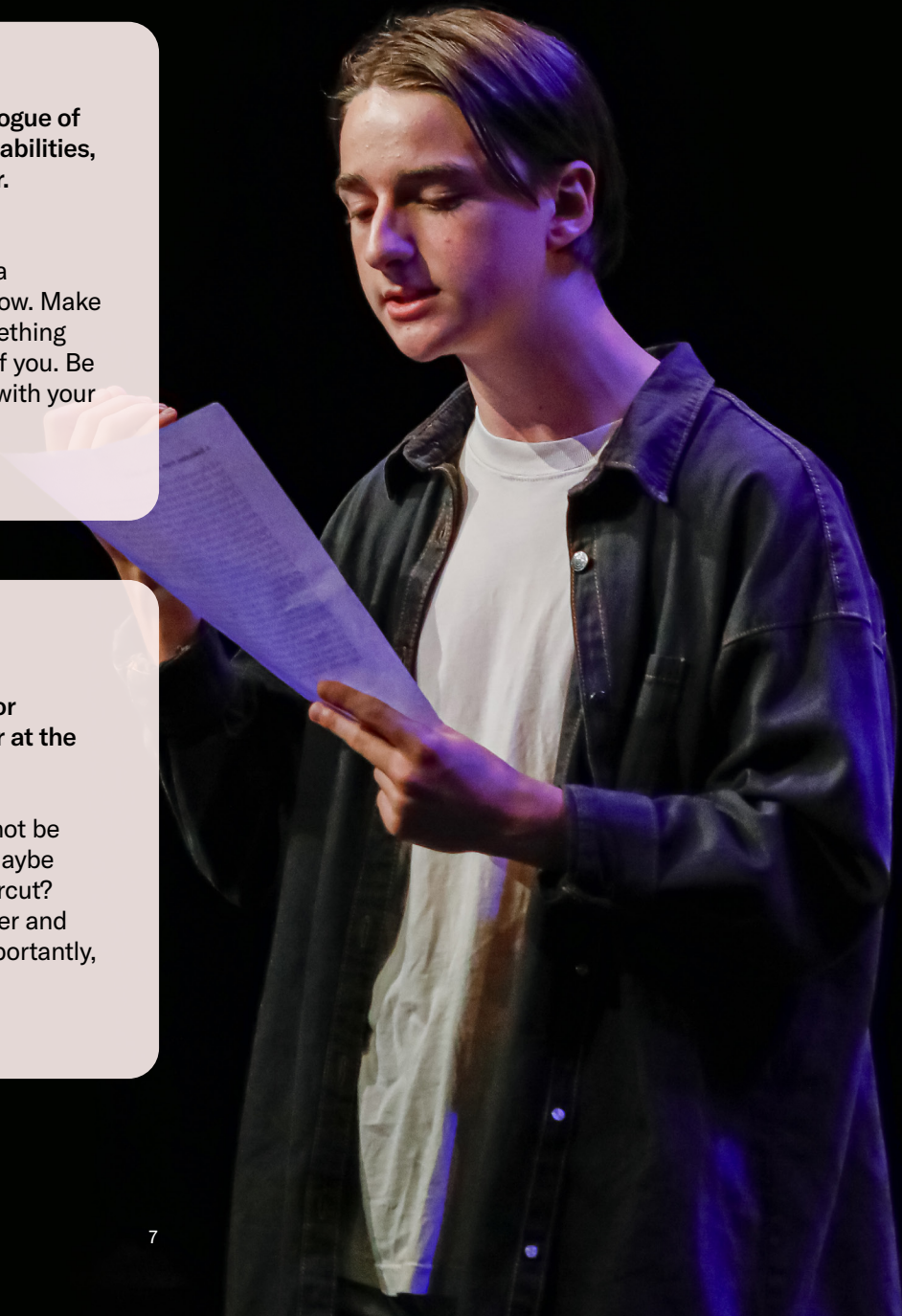
Perform a published short monologue of your choice that showcases your abilities, instincts and style as a performer.

TIPS: Make sure your text is from a published play, or a movie or tv show. Make the most of this choice being something that showcases the best version of you. Be confident, bold and unapologetic with your presentation.

TASK 2

Write and present a self-devised monologue, poem, song, speech or movement piece from a character at the end of their world.

TIPS: The end of the world might not be Armageddon or the apocalypse. Maybe it's an awful break-up or a bad haircut? Showcase your creativity as a writer and storyteller with this task. Most importantly, have fun performing and sharing!



SENIOR IMPACT ASSISTANT CREATIVES

Interested in the world beyond the stage?
The ins and outs of putting on a production? The IMPACT Ensemble provides opportunities also to young people (15-20) interested in other areas of theatre making, such as directing, stage management, design and of course, playwriting!



ASSISTANT WRITERS



This year we will be looking for an Assistant Writer/s who will work closely with the Director Grace Sankey and Creative Collaborator David Burton, to collate and shape the content written by the Ensemble.

Writing sessions will be negotiated outside of the rehearsal times. Assistant Creatives may or may not be a part of the performing ensemble. This can be negotiated.



HOW TO APPLY:



1. Read the Senior IMPACT Ensemble pack and submit the application form directly to grace@empiretheatre.com.au
2. Include in this email an example of your past writing, this can be in the form of a monologue, short story or scene no longer than 2 pages, as well no more than 100 words on why you would like to be the Assistant Writer for Senior IMPACT 2025.
3. Applicants will then be asked to also attend the group audition and book a solo audition where they will prepare ONLY Task 2 (unless applying also as an actor).

Please note, the Assistant Creative/ Writer role is a volunteer role. The enrolment fee may not be applicable if not performing. Assistant Creatives are expected to available for the rehearsal times outlined.

Application forms must be returned to The Empire by **3pm Thursday 1 May**
via Email or the Ticketing Office.

youtharts@empiretheatre.com.au
The Empire Ticket Office, 54-56 Neil St, Toowoomba

APPLICATION FORM

PARTICIPANTS NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

SCHOOL & GRADE

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

CONTACT NUMBER

EMAIL

EMERGENCY CONTACT



PLEASE ATTACH A
RECENT PHOTO HERE

OR DIGITALLY ATTACH TO YOUR
EMAIL SUBMISSION

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE/ SPECIAL SKILLS (if you would like to attach an additional page of material or CV please do so.)

MEDICAL INFORMATION (If applicable - relevant conditions, injuries, allergies, dietary requirements etc.)

ANYTHING ELSE TO NOTE? ANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS WITH THE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE?

If selected for the Junior IMPACT Ensemble,
please indicate how you would like to pay:

PAY FEE IN FULL

USE PAYMENT PLAN

REQUIRE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

I ACKNOWLEDGE THERE IS A FEE TO PAY TO TAKE PART IN THIS PROGRAM, AND A COMMITMENT TO MAKE THE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE AS IT CHANGES DEPENDING ON THE PRODUCTIONS NEEDS. I ALSO GRANT PERMISSION FOR IMAGES AND VIDEO OF MY CHILD TO BE CAPTURED AND SHARED FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADVERTISING THE PRODUCTION AND PROGRAM.

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE