

GENERAL INFORMATION SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR 2008

COMBINED CHOIR

The choir is divided into Primary and Secondary sections. Schools are graded and allocated places according to musical balance and seating constraints. Numbers are such as to give more schools a chance and to ensure balanced vocal parts.

In the past the secondary choir has been on raised scaffolding at the back of the arena in one group and the primary choir in two blocks in audience seats on either side of the secondary choir. However, this may or may not be the case for 2008.

1. Combined Choir application forms must be received by **Thursday 20 March 2008**.
2. Audition is by video. Please present one piece – Primary video may be in unison, secondary schools must be in two or more parts as appropriate to the choir.
3. Choral videos are due on **Wednesday 2 April 2008**.
4. If you submitted a video for the Choral Concert Series to Ian Jefferson, Concerts Coordinator, in 2007, your video is sufficient for audition and will be passed on to the Schools Spectacular team. **When completing the application form, please tick the YES box provided if Ian Jefferson already has a video.**
5. Choir groups should number no more than **16**. Please audition only singers of the best standard in your choir as “out of tune” singers may jeopardise the chances of the whole group.
6. Exact numbers will be notified on acceptance.
7. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after **Friday 16 May 2008**.

COMBINED DANCE

A combined dance item involves groups of students from different schools performing the work of a selected choreographer. Teachers are responsible for rehearsing set choreography, which may be learned at combined rehearsals or from a video.

1. Application forms are due by **Thursday 20 March 2008**.
2. The initial audition is by video. Please present a dance or movement sequence that will allow the audition panel to assess students’ movement ability, performance quality and skills in spatial awareness.
3. Please pay attention to the quality of the performance on the video. The presentation should enhance the performers’ ability.
4. Dance videos are due on **Wednesday 2 April 2008**.
5. Dance groups must be of no more than **16** students.
6. It is possible that not all 16 dancers will be selected. Exact numbers will be notified on acceptance.
7. Schools presenting a small number of students may be asked to combine with other schools in order to aid choreographic requirements.
8. Students presented on your audition video should be the current students for consideration in Schools Spectacular 2008. **Footage of students from 2007 will not be considered.** Should there be any issues relating to this matter please feel free to contact Peter Cook, Dance Director 02 8512 1177.
9. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after **16 May 2008**.

INDIGENOUS DANCE ENSEMBLE

The Schools Spectacular has showcased Aboriginal students from many areas of NSW over a number of years. They have formed a vital part of the show and had an important presence in portraying their culture in a positive and integrated fashion. In the past this has taken a number of creative forms. The students have worked with many indigenous performing artists in the making of their items.

Whilst the standard of performance and integration into the show has increased over the years, a more coordinated approach is required to further develop the segment and also the way indigenous students are represented.

This year we are hoping to further extend the experience of many of the talented indigenous dancers by selecting a group through an audition process and enlisting a choreographer to work with them to formulate their segment in the show.

1. Indigenous Dance application forms and videos must be received before **Thursday 20 March 2008**. Please attach a photograph to the application form.
2. Audition is by video, which should contain a minimum of one performance item.
3. Please pay attention to the quality of the video. The visual presentation should enhance the student's performance.
4. Indigenous Dance Ensemble videos are due on **Wednesday 2 April 2008**.
5. Students who auditioned as part of their schools' Combined Dance application **DO NOT** need to submit a video **but MUST forward a completed application form**. If possible please describe where this student is in the video application/or what they were wearing in the Combined Dance audition piece.
6. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after **Friday 13 June 2008**.

BOYS DANCE ENSEMBLE

This year the School Spectacular is looking to create an ensemble of talented male dancers who have skills in hip-hop, popping or break dancing.

In order to be a part of this ensemble you need to submit a video audition where you need to be able to show us your best tricks. **Both individual dancers and small ensembles are eligible to apply for the ensemble**. If selected you will need to attend a number of rehearsals in Sydney and commit to all other major rehearsals and performances.

1. Boys dance ensemble application forms must be received before **Thursday 20 March 2008**. Please attach a photograph to the application form.
2. Initial audition is by video. Please present a dance (either individual or small ensemble) or movement sequence which shows your best tricks.
3. Please pay close attention to the quality of the performance on the video.
4. Boys Dance Ensemble videos are due on **Wednesday 2 April 2008**.
5. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after **13 June 2008**.

INSTRUMENTALISTS - ORCHESTRA AND STAGE BAND

The Spectacular Orchestra will work towards preparing approximately 90 minutes of material during an intensive rehearsal period. The repertoire will be varied, covering a wide range of classical and popular music styles.

In addition to the Spectacular Orchestra, a Stage Band may be formed, which will play all stage band repertoire included in the performance.

1. Players for these groups apply on the nomination form enclosed in this information.
2. Applications for the stage band and orchestra close on **Friday 1 August 2008**.
3. Auditions will be held on **Friday 26 September until Sunday 28 September 2008**.
4. As the rehearsal period and subsequent performances occur after the HSC exams, talented Year 12 instrumentalists are encouraged to audition.

FEATURED ARTISTS

This category includes vocal and instrumental soloists, small vocal and instrumental ensembles, backing vocalists, rock bands, circus performers and other performers with special talents.

1. Featured artist application forms must be received before **Thursday 20 March 2008**.
 2. Initial audition is by video, which should contain a minimum of one performance item. It is advised to provide two contrasting pieces.
 3. Performance presentation as well as vocal and instrumental talent will be considered.
 4. Please pay attention to the quality of the video. The sound and visual presentation should enhance the soloist's performance. Check the quality.
 5. Featured Artist videos must be received by the close of business **Wednesday 2 April 2008**.
 6. Students who performed as featured artists in the 2007 Spectacular or who have been accepted into the 2007/2008 Talent Development Project, do not have to send a video but **MUST forward a completed application form**. When this application is received, these students will automatically be eligible for a live audition.
 7. After initial video auditions, selected students will be invited to attend a live audition. Live auditions will be held on **Monday 19 - Wednesday 21 May 2008**.
 8. Featured Artists will be notified of the live auditions after **Thursday 1 May 2008**.
- Note: If selected as a vocalist in the School Spectacular, students may be asked to perform as a soloist, as part of a small vocal ensemble or as a backing vocalist.**

FOYER ENTERTAINMENT

School stage bands, other bands and performance art groups are encouraged to nominate for foyer entertainment spots. At least six outstanding groups will be selected to perform 15 minute brackets of their own choosing to the large and receptive foyer audiences.

1. Application forms are due by **Thursday 20 March 2008**.
2. The initial audition is by video.
3. Foyer Entertainment videos are due on **Wednesday 2 April 2008**.
4. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after **Friday 13 June 2008**.

STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Teachers who are interested in being a part of the team that is involved in bringing the spectacular to life are encouraged to apply for a position on the stage management team.

1. Teachers interested in working as members of the Stage Management Team are invited to indicate their interest by completing and returning the attached form by **Thursday 20 March 2008**.
2. Please list your experience.
3. Teachers applying for the stage management team may also apply for the choreographic team.
4. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after **Friday 13 June 2008**.

CHOREOGRAPHIC TEAM

Teachers who are interested in being a part of the team that is involved in bringing the spectacular to life are encouraged to apply for a position on the choreographic team.

1. Teachers interested in working as members of the choreographic team are invited to indicate their interest by completing and returning the attached form by **Thursday 20 March 2008**. Please list your experience and styles in which you are proficient to choreograph.
2. **Choreographers please note that a video of your work may be requested.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR 2008

TEACHERS' BRIEFING

All teachers with students in the show are requested to attend a teachers' briefing on **Friday 22 August 2008**. At this meeting, teachers will be briefed about the show and any relevant organisational details. Teachers will also be provided with a comprehensive Teachers Information Pack.

It is **crucial that teachers attend** this meeting if possible.

STAFFING AT SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

Schools should be aware that if you have groups of students in more than one category (e.g. a group in choir and a group in dance), schools must provide a **teacher to supervise each category** (e.g. a teacher for dance and a separate teacher for choir). Entry points for categories are different locations across the centre and require supervision at each entry point.

COSTUMES

The Schools Spectacular Costume Designer will design costumes. There is no subsidy for costumes but every effort is made to keep costs to a minimum.

There is a possibility of a small additional cost per student for special effects that may be used during the finale.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

Performers travelling **more than 80km one way** will be eligible for a small travel subsidy. Please remember that this is measured in a straight line and **NOT by road distance**. Forms will be included in the Teachers Information Pack distributed at the teachers' briefing in August.

TELEVISION BROADCAST

Please note that only edited highlights of Schools Spectacular are shown in the Television Broadcast. These highlights are selected by the broadcaster. We have no input to the televised version of Schools Spectacular.

WEBSITE

Successful schools will be given a log on to the "Teacher's Information Page" on the Schools Spectacular website upon acceptance. This web page will have up to date information as well as all teacher handbooks to download throughout the year.