

PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

2027

Education Program.

Where every young person
gets a stage, a spotlight and a
standing ovation.

ANNIE KIDS

TROLLS JR

SPAMALOT

BE OUR GUEST

IN THEIR WORDS

**“CentreStage
is my home,
my life, my
everything.”**

EMILY • CENTRESTAGE STUDENT

Largest

Theatre education program in Geelong

350+

Students in our community

VIT

Registered teachers in every class

Real shows. Real stages. Real young performers.



Every student performs. Every year. On a real stage, in real costumes, in front of a real audience — because that is how confidence is built.

Your journey into the world of theatre begins here.

Something remarkable happens when a young person steps into a rehearsal room for the first time. They arrive unsure. They leave taller. At CentreStage Performing Arts Academy, that transformation is the whole point — and we have watched it happen more than 350 times a year.

CPAA is now Geelong's largest theatre education program, and we have built it on one stubborn belief: **talent is everywhere, and opportunity should be too.** You do not need experience. You do not need to audition. You do not need to already be good at this. You need to want it — and we will take care of the rest.

Every single student performs in a real production, on a real stage, in front of a real audience. Not a select few. Everyone.

AS PART OF CPAA IN 2027, YOU WILL

- Learn and grow through tailored training and workshops designed and led by VIT registered teachers and industry professionals.
- Build your performance portfolio with experiences that strengthen your stage and creative skills.
- Take part in a full-scale musical and gain genuine insight into the industry.
- Receive membership of CentreStage Agency, included in your fees for the first time in 2027.
- Form lasting friendships with performers who share your passion.

At CentreStage we don't just teach theatre — we create a community where young people can discover who they are, what they love, and how far their creativity can take them. Welcome aboard. Your future in theatre starts now.



David Greenwood OAM

Managing Director

Vision & mission.

OUR VISION

Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises. At CentreStage we value new ideas, innovative team members and outcomes that will drive our team to become a truly iconic organisation that benefits the entire Geelong community.

OUR MISSION

CentreStage is driven by a desire to provide access to the arts, through musical theatre, to as many people in our community as possible. We support the inclusion of all people and offer opportunities to community groups to access the arts and attend our productions — including community service providers, people with disability, people in aged care, and local schools, clubs and partners.

WHAT SETS THE ACADEMY APART

Child safe, always

Every teacher, staff member and volunteer is screened, trained and bound by our Child Safety Code of Conduct.

Expert-led

Our program is designed and led by VIT registered teachers and industry professionals.

Geelong's largest

The region's biggest theatre education program, with the depth of opportunity only scale can offer.

New for 2027: agency membership included

Every enrolled student now receives membership of CentreStage Agency — normally valued at \$347 — at no additional cost, opening the door to professional television, film and commercial opportunities.

About the Academy.

CentreStage has long recognised the need for an educational platform tailored to the unique demands of both the Geelong and Australian theatre markets. Our mission is to deliver exceptional and measurable learning outcomes, developed by some of Geelong's most esteemed educators and performers.

The Academy meets the needs of young people aged 4 to 18, offering a programme that not only enhances performance skills but also instils theatre etiquette and practical skills such as costume and make-up, and provides opportunities to collaborate with leading theatre professionals.

This four-term tuition programme aligns with the school calendar, ensuring consistency and balance for students. Participants also enjoy attending large-scale musicals produced by CentreStage.

YOUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

TERM ONE

Skill development workshops in practical and stage craft with guest speakers, audition preparation, and attending *Frozen* plus a Q&A with the cast at the Geelong Arts Centre.

TERM TWO

Workshops in vocal technique, dance and stage craft. Casting and early rehearsals as students begin working towards their full-scale musical.

TERM THREE

Singing, acting and dance rehearsals, building the musical scene by scene and preparing showcase material for the end of year performance.

TERM FOUR

Full-scale musical performances across October and November, further workshops, audition preparation, and our showcase at Costa Hall.

What you'll see in your young one.

Parents rarely tell us about the singing. They tell us their child started putting their hand up in class. Ordered their own meal. Made a speech at a family birthday. Musical theatre trains the whole person, and the change usually shows up at home long before it shows up on stage.

Confidence

Performing asks for a small, supported risk every single week. Each one survived makes the next one easier.

Communication

Projecting, articulating, holding a room's attention and reading it — skills that transfer straight into classrooms and interviews.

Collaboration

A show only works if everyone shows up prepared. Students learn accountability to a group, not just to themselves.

Resilience

Not every audition ends in the hoped-for role, and things go wrong on stage. Students learn to recover and keep going.

Empathy

Playing someone else's life is practice at understanding it. Character work builds genuine perspective-taking.

Focus & discipline

Learning lines, holding choreography and taking direction builds attention and follow-through that schools notice.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

Behaviour	A large randomised study across 42 schools and 10,548 students found expanded arts education reduced disciplinary infractions by 3.6 percentage points.
Writing	The same study measured a 13% of a standard deviation improvement in writing achievement.
Compassion	Students showed an 8% of a standard deviation increase in compassion for others, alongside higher school engagement and college aspirations.
Literacy	A meta-analysis of 80 studies found classroom drama improves story recall and understanding, reading achievement, oral language and writing.

Held to the same standard as a school.

We are a theatre company, but we are an education provider first — and we hold ourselves to educational standards, not hobby-club ones.

MULTI-AWARD-WINNING

Geelong Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards

Business Excellence Hall of Fame inductee, and winner of Small Business of the Year, the Corporate Social Responsibility Award, Youth Entrepreneur of the Year, and twice the Health & Wellbeing Promoting Workplace Award. Rare recognition for an arts organisation, and a reflection of how the Academy is run.

Department of Education guidelines

Our teaching practice, planning and child safety procedures follow Victorian Department of Education guidance, delivered by a team led by VIT registered teachers and industry professionals.

SWPBS teaching style

We teach using School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support — the same framework used across Victorian schools. Expectations are taught explicitly, positive behaviour is recognised, and students are supported consistently by every teacher in every room.

Inclusive development

Every student is met where they are. Adjustments for neurodiverse students, students with disability and EAL learners are ordinary practice, not special cases.

Digital child-safe platforms

All communication runs through **Studio Pro** and **Seesaw** — monitored, parent-visible platforms. No private messaging between staff and students, ever.

Why it matters to you

It means the person teaching your child is qualified and accountable, the way they are managed in the room is deliberate and consistent, and every message about your child passes through a platform you can see. Excellence on stage starts with rigour off it.

Term dates & fees.

Classes run on Saturdays across all four Victorian school terms. Fees are invoiced once per term, always with several weeks before the due date, so families can plan ahead.

TERMS

TERM	PERIOD	FOCUS
Term one	30 Jan – 20 Mar 2027	Workshops, audition prep, excursions
Term two	17 Apr – 19 Jun 2027	Casting, vocal and dance technique
Term three	17 Jul – 11 Sep 2027	Full rehearsals, showcase prep
Term four	9 Oct – 4 Dec 2027	Production season and Be Our Guest

We do not rehearse on Victorian public holidays, or on a Saturday that falls within a long weekend — that is, when the public holiday lands on the Friday before or the Monday after.

INVOICING & PAYMENT

TERM	INVOICES ISSUED	PAYMENT DUE
Term 1 2027	w/b 3 Jan · current students w/b 27 Jan · new students	Mon 8 Feb 2027
Term 2 2027	w/b 22 Feb 2027	Mon 29 Mar 2027
Term 3 2027	w/b 10 May 2027 Includes CPAA show T-shirt	Mon 28 Jun 2027
Term 4 2027	w/b 9 Aug 2027 Includes volunteer opt-out fee, if applicable	Mon 20 Sep 2027
Term 1 2028	w/b 3 Jan · current students w/b 27 Jan · new students	Mon 8 Feb 2028

2027 registrations open

Sunday 4 October 2026. Classes commence Saturday 30 January 2027.

2028 registrations open

Monday 4 October 2027. The \$38.50 registration fee is payable at the time of registration.

Events, forms & milestones.

Every form is sent by email and through Studio Pro with a clear response date.

TERM ONE EVENTS

Headshots — plain white background	First three weeks of classes
Permission slips issued (Google Form) For Pako Festa and the <i>Frozen</i> excursion	Sat 6 February 2027
Permission slips due	Sat 20 February 2027
Pako Festa — performing a song from <i>Frozen</i>	Sat 27 February 2027
<i>Frozen</i> excursion & cast Q&A	Sat 6 March 2027

SHOW T-SHIRTS

T-shirt forms issued	Sat 24 April 2027
Responses due	Sat 8 May 2027
Invoiced with Term 3 fees	Mon 10 May 2027

FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer forms issued	Sat 17 July 2027
Responses due	Sat 31 July 2027
Opt-out fee invoiced with Term 4 fees	Mon 9 August 2027

PERFORMANCES

Annie Kids • Junior Troupe	Sat 16 & Sun 17 October 2027
Trolls The Musical Jr • Middles Troupes split across weeks one and two	Sat 23 – Sun 31 October 2027
Spamalot Young@Part • Seniors	Sat 13 – Sun 21 November 2027
Be Our Guest • Costa Hall	Sat 4 December 2027
Term four concludes	December 2027

Put them in the calendar now

Every date above is confirmed and printed on the calendar included with your registration. Performance times, call times and venue details follow by email and in Studio Pro closer to each season.

Three musicals. One extraordinary year.

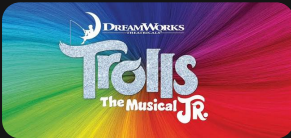
Not a class recital. Not a school assembly. Three fully-staged musicals with real sets, real costumes, a live audience and a curtain call your family will never stop talking about.



Annie Kids*

JUNIORS • 4-7

Leapin' lizards! One of the best-loved musicals of all time, reimagined as a bright thirty-minute adventure for our youngest performers. Annie is a plucky orphan determined to find her family, escaping the wicked Miss Hannigan and winning the heart of Oliver Warbucks. With *Tomorrow*, *It's the Hard-Knock Life* and *Easy Street*, it is a story about optimism and the family you choose.



Trolls The Musical Jr.*

MIDDLES • 8-12

Based on the DreamWorks film, this joyously colourful musical follows the relentlessly optimistic Poppy and the grumbling Branch as they journey beyond their village to rescue their friends. Packed with pop anthems including *Can't Stop the Feeling!*, it celebrates friendship, difference and finding your own kind of happiness — with featured moments for every performer.



Spamalot*

SENIORS • 12-18

Lovingly ripped off from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, this riotous send-up follows King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table on their absurd quest — via killer rabbits, taunting Frenchmen and a very demanding Lady of the Lake. The Young@Part edition keeps every ounce of the anarchic wit, crowned by *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*.

* Titles are preliminarily approved and held for CentreStage, and remain subject to change. If a professional production announces an Australian tour, these titles may be updated in line with our licensing arrangements.



Every class. Every student. One enormous stage. A Disney-inspired celebration at Costa Hall — and the night your child realises what they are capable of.

Costa Hall

Deakin Waterfront, Geelong

Every class

Juniors to Seniors, one bill

Term four

The finale of the year

Be Our Guest brings together the music that generations have grown up with — the sweeping ballads, the show-stopping ensemble numbers and the villains we love to boo. Each troupe takes on repertoire suited to their age and stage, and the full Academy comes together for the finale.

Performing at Costa Hall is a genuine milestone. Students step onto a professional concert stage, work with a full production team, and experience the scale of a major venue — and the sound of a house that seats more than a thousand people.

Main-stage experience

A professional concert hall with a full crew, calling sheet and technical rehearsal schedule.

Repertoire for life

Disney material is audition gold. Students finish the year with polished, versatile numbers in their book.

One showcase, one community

Be Our Guest is the only night of the year when every CPAA student shares a stage. Families, alumni and our mainstage company come together to celebrate the whole Academy at once.

Find the right class.

One morning a week. No audition, no experience needed, no one left in the wings. In 2027 the Academy focuses entirely on our Saturday troupes, so every ounce of our teaching strength goes into your child and the show they are building.

Junior Troupe

AGES 4-7

A two-hour Saturday morning class with multiple breaks. Students learn stage space, improvisation, theatre etiquette, singing, dancing and acting, and build friendships that last a lifetime. In 2027 the Junior Troupe works towards **Annie Kids**, plus the Be Our Guest showcase.

Middle Troupe

AGES 8-12 • GRADES 2-6

A three-hour Saturday rehearsal with a choice of four class times. Students develop stage craft, improvisation, theatre etiquette, singing, dancing and acting while working towards a major musical. In 2027 the Middle Troupes stage **Trolls The Musical Jr.**

Senior Troupe

AGES 12-18 • GRADES 7-12

A three-hour Saturday rehearsal with a choice of class times. Students refine performance technique across singing, dancing and acting, and take on more demanding material and responsibility. In 2027 the Senior Troupes stage **Spamalot**.

Not offered in 2027

Dance classes, private singing lessons and private vocal and piano lessons are not part of the 2027 program. Talent Agency private coaching continues separately — visit centrestageagency.org.au.

Simple, inclusive pricing.

At CentreStage we believe theatre training should be high quality, accessible and cost effective. Our fee structure stays deliberately simple: one fee per term, with no hidden surprises — no extra tuition charges, no additional tech rehearsal costs and no unexpected production fees.

In 2027 your fee delivers more than ever — tuition, costumes, a full-scale production and, new this year, full CentreStage Agency membership at no extra cost.

CLASS FEES • PER TERM

Junior Troupe

Ages 4–7 • two hours

\$330

Middle Troupe

Ages 8–12 • three hours

\$399

Senior Troupe

Ages 12–18 • three hours

\$399

All prices include GST. Class and costume fees are combined into the single fee shown.

Included in every 2027 fee: Agency membership

Normally valued at \$347, agency membership is now included at no extra cost — students are represented for professional television, film and commercial opportunities, with their headshot on the roster from day one. **Already signed with another agent?** Simply opt out during onboarding; we never represent a performer who already has representation. See the back page.

\$5.70

PER HOUR, PER STUDENT

The lowest per-hour rate of any theatre or dance program in Geelong — based on a Middle Troupe place across four terms, with agency membership included. Our payment terms below are what make that price possible.

PAYMENT TERMS

- **Class fees are not refundable** for students who withdraw part-way through a term.
- **Fees remain payable in full** for the term in which a student withdraws, including any amount still outstanding at the time.
- A **10% late fee** applies to fees not paid by the due date.
- Payment plans are always available — if money is tight, talk to us early rather than late.

ADDED VALUE FOR FAMILIES

- **\$25 referral bonus** — name a current student in the referral box at registration and you both receive a \$25 credit in Term 2.
- **5% sibling discount** — for families with two or more students enrolled from the same household.
- **Payment plans** — spread your fees across the year with flexible instalment options.
- **NDIS invoicing** — we provide invoices in line with NDIS requirements. We cannot guarantee your plan will cover performing arts education, though our template is accepted by most providers.

Registration & family commitment.

\$38.50

ONE-OFF REGISTRATION FEE

Charged once when you register online. It supports our team confirming your place, setting up your Studio Pro access and admin time — and covers all three items below.

Performance T-shirt

The official Academy shirt, worn at workshops, rehearsals and events through the year.

Printed calendar

Every important date in one place — terms, rehearsals, performances and the showcase.

Professional headshot

A white-background headshot used for both the Agency roster and your Studio Pro class profile.

FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

Ten hours, one community.

Our productions are only possible because families lend a hand. Each enrolled family is asked to contribute **ten or more volunteer hours** across the year — backstage, in wardrobe, front of house, on set construction, or helping at events and working bees.

It is genuinely one of the best parts of the Academy. Parents tell us the friendships they make in the wings rival the ones their children make on stage, and every hour keeps our fees as low as they are.

Need to opt out?

We understand that shift work, caring responsibilities and distance make volunteering impossible for some families. Opting out is straightforward — let us know at registration or email cpaa@centrestage.org.au, and no explanation is required. Your child's place and experience are never affected.

Saturday class times.

All 2027 classes run on Saturdays during the Victorian school terms at our Academy home in Geelong. Choose the class time that suits your family when you enrol.

CLASS	TIME	AGES
Junior Troupe	9:00 – 11:00am	4–7
Middles A	9:00am – 12:00pm	8–12
Middles B	9:00am – 12:00pm	8–12
Seniors A	9:00am – 12:00pm	12–18
Seniors B	9:00am – 12:00pm	12–18
LUNCH BREAK		
Middles C	12:30 – 3:30pm	8–12
Middles D	12:30 – 3:30pm	8–12
Seniors C	12:30 – 3:30pm	12–18
Seniors D	12:30 – 3:30pm	12–18

Times are indicative and confirmed at enrolment.



The safety of every child comes first.

At CentreStage, the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care is our highest priority. We have zero tolerance for child abuse in all its forms.

We are fully committed to creating and maintaining a child-safe environment that promotes respect, inclusion and empowerment. This commitment aligns with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and relevant legislation, including the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) and the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic). We recognise our moral and legal obligations to implement practices that protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation.

OUR APPROACH

- **Child Safe Standards** — we comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and regularly review our policies and practices to ensure they remain effective and up to date.
- **Code of Conduct** — all staff, volunteers and contractors are bound by our Child Safety Code of Conduct, which sets clear expectations for behaviour with children.
- **Qualified, registered leadership** — our program is designed and led by VIT registered teachers and industry professionals, held to the professional standards of the Victorian Institute of Teaching.
- **Screening** — we conduct thorough recruitment processes, including Working with Children Checks and National Police Checks, for everyone who works with children.
- **Reporting and responding** — robust procedures for managing concerns and allegations. All concerns are taken seriously and acted on in line with Victorian law and the Reportable Conduct Scheme.
- **Training and awareness** — staff and volunteers receive regular training on child safety, mandatory reporting and recognising the signs of abuse.
- **Cultural safety and inclusion** — a culturally safe environment for all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with disability.

How we put it into practice.

Empowering children

We actively involve children in decisions that affect them and ensure they have access to information about their rights and the avenues available to raise concerns. By fostering open communication, we empower children to speak up if they ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Continuous improvement

CentreStage is committed to continuously improving our child safety practices. We engage with families, children and the community to ensure our approach reflects the highest standards of care. Regular audits and reviews maintain compliance with Victorian law and adapt to new best practice.

Volunteers and families

Every family member who volunteers holds a current Working with Children Check, is inducted into our Code of Conduct, and is identifiable on site. Volunteers are always supervised and never placed in unaccountable one-to-one situations with children.

Read our policies and procedures

Every CentreStage policy is published in full — child safety, code of conduct, reporting, wellbeing, inclusion and more. Scan the code to read them at centrestage.org.au/health, or contact our Child Safety Officer at cpaa@centrestage.org.au with any question or concern.

**Zero**

Tolerance for child abuse in any form

100%

Screened staff, teachers and volunteers

VIT

Registered teachers in every classroom

How to join.

Enrolment is self-service and takes about five minutes. Visit centrestage.org.au/satcpaa or email cpaa@centrestage.org.au if you would prefer a hand.

1

Visit centrestage.org.au/satcpaa and click the **Join Now** button to register an account.

2

Navigate to **Registration**.

3

Register the parent or guardian who will be responsible for receiving core emails.

4

Create a child profile within the program.

5

Select your preferred class and click **Enrol**.

6

You will be billed the \$38.50 registration fee, which includes your performance T-shirt, printed calendar, professional headshot and insurances.

7

Keep an eye on your inbox and get ready for Week 1.

A step-by-step video walkthrough is available at centrestage.org.au/satcpaa.

QUESTIONS

cpaa@centrestage.org.au
(03) 5272 1775

ENROL ONLINE

centrestage.org.au/satcpaa

Special thanks.

None of this happens alone. Our year is made possible by the licensors, venues and people who back young performers in Geelong — often quietly, and always generously. Thank you.

LICENSING

Stuart, Mark, Allanah, John and Shannyn at MTI Australia — for their guidance, patience and belief in what young casts can do.

Kim and Ashleigh at Origin Theatrical — for making great titles reachable for a community academy.

VENUES

Vines Road Community Centre — the home where most of our work is made.

Geelong Arts Centre — for opening a professional stage to young performers, and for the care shown to every student who steps onto it.

Angelique Helman

Tara Rodley

Ross Atkin

Cameron Bull

And the entire team at the Geelong Arts Centre — front of house, technical, production and administration — whose work our families see the results of, and rarely the effort behind.

And to our families

To every parent, carer and grandparent who drives to Saturday classes, sews a costume, sells a raffle ticket or sits in the dark and claps — thank you. You are the reason this Academy exists.

Where CPAA can take you.

INCLUDED WITH EVERY 2027 ENROLMENT

CentreStage Agency

This is the part that surprises families. Every Academy student in 2027 becomes a represented artist — headshot on the roster, name in the room, put forward for professional television, film, commercial and theatre work alongside performers aged 4 to 100.

Normally \$347. In 2027 it is simply part of being here.

centrestageagency.org.au

ALREADY WITH AN AGENT?

Then keep them — simply opt out.

We will never represent a performer who is already signed elsewhere, and we would never ask a family to choose. If your child has an agent, tick the opt-out during onboarding and agency membership is removed from your enrolment — no questions, no impact on class fees or anything else. Your place in the Academy is exactly the same.