

THE FROGS



The cast and crew of *The Frogs* at the end of the final performance

It was with great anticipation that I awaited the 2017 Alia College school production, *The Frogs*. After seeing some of the talent in the school on show at Arts Nights in 2016, I knew that it wouldn't disappoint, and I was incredibly intrigued to see what exactly the performance would look, sound, and feel like. Seeing students wandering around the school in a myriad of colourful, eclectic costumes, hearing the construction sounds coming out of the ballroom, and, of course, reading the flyers and posters plastered around the school, all with Joseph's unique, humorous way of promoting the production, my interest was well and truly piqued. I was also curious to see the manifestation of the efforts of the first Theatre Studies class since 2013, and the embodiment of the spirit of drama at Alia, which

has slowly been built up over the last few years, thanks to the hard work, creativity, and dedication of Drama teachers Janet, and now Josh.

Naturally, because of all of this, I had some pretty high expectations for the production, but I was blown away by how it exceeded them entirely. I watched in awe of students' acting, humour, and talent. The quick movement of the performance kept everyone engaged and awaiting whatever was going to happen next, which could have been absolutely anything. The adaptation of this Classical Greek play into an ironic and witty expression of the zeitgeist of the 2017 leftie-Melbourne bubble was a brilliant idea, and created so many opportunities to poke fun at those absurd structures, systems, offices, and

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BIOLOGY

DISSECTIONS

Article by Noah McNamara (Year 10) and Alex Antaras (Year 11)



Alex, Mack, and Lachlan (Year 11) dissecting cow hearts in Biology

Biology! The science of living things doing things. Some things that living things do include existing, reproducing, digesting, sweating, respiring, moving, and growing. Wow! That's a lot of things! Fun fact: Did you know that Alia offers you the chance to learn about all those things???

Woah. Amazing. Wow.

Sometimes though, to learn about said living things doing living stuff, we have to cut some dead (or formerly living) stuff open! Like pig testicles and cow hearts! Obviously we don't study them. That would be for nerds.

Just kidding! The cow hearts were as large as our heads and stunk the room out, but easily taught us the different parts of the heart, and how similar a cow heart and human heart is. We were able to pump water through the heart, cut it open and identify the different parts and then muck around. The next period we began with the pig testicles; these stunk much more and were very malleable. We were able to find the channels that sperm

would travel down and the epididymis, and, unlike the cow heart, the pig testicles were not very similar to the human testicle. Overall it was a very smelly but enjoyable experiment. ■

MELBOURNE TALAM

Creative writings by the Junior Drama class after seeing Melbourne Talam at the MTC.

MTC's description of Melbourne Talam reads: *Three young people see each other across a crowded Flagstaff station. They just missed the train. Now they wait. And think. They think about home: Punjab, Delhi, Hyderabad. And about how they just can't seem to get Melbourne's rhythm right. And of all the impossible things they must do to stay. And their time is running out.*

'Melbourne Talam' was a very slow play. It was incredibly slow. It all started on a gloomy day, but gloomy it was not in the school of Alia. Excited everyone was to go see the new play. They were screaming about bread. The reason they were screaming about bread was because there was a bread eating competition at Alia, which was also why it was not gloomy. Then Yoda went away and we started speaking in English.

We left by method of train, arriving at Flinders St station, where we alighted. Walking then to the theatre, excited.

We all walked in with joy and with glee, with no idea about what the play would be, or what we would see.

The theatre was tiny, the chairs were all squashed.

If it was any rowdier it would have been a mosh.

Joe kept dropping his phone, I think I lost a chromosome.

I really wanted to go home, there goes another chromosome.

Then they opened with a song, which in my

opinion was quite long. They danced and they played, they almost did it all day. I lost another chromosome.

It was full of suspense, at times it got tense.

Sometimes it was funny, shut up. It was funny when a character was singing to himself when he didn't realise people were looking at him. He got hit by a train and a wheelchair he gained. Because of the themes and narrative of the the play, the characters were all Indian-Australian. I was freaked out sometimes, but everything was ok in the end. We enjoyed designing our own versions of the play in class because I liked imagining what they looked like based off the script that we read before we saw the play. "I liked the set in the play, it was simplistic and it worked because it was really minimalistic and the chairs swivelled around and your mind filled in all the blanks." I liked how the actors were able to switch between characters without even walking off stage once.

I liked it because it was completely original.

I liked how it captured motion using treadmills, even though the background was staying still. I gasped when the treadmill was revealed. Once the character fell in front of the train his fate was sealed. What if a seal fell in front of a train?

The set was a Melbourne train station.

The play was very random. It was kind of creative. It was like what it was. It was like being ascended into the heavens. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before. It was like gunfire and explosions. It was like real life.

We could not relate to the issues spoken in the play. But I was a little bit familiar with Indian culture because of my time spent living there.

Some of us were familiar with the themes of the play, but not personally. It was confronting seeing the stories told in the play, but not in a bad way. Hearing these stories in the play made me realise the problems people living around the world experience, and how much these problems are affected in different areas of the world by their culture.

My thoughts on the play were that it was very powerful and sent a big, medium-rare message about the issues that can face people when stuck between two cultures, but also the pride that they can feel. This message could not have been said on Twitter because it would be more than 140 characters.

I liked the play. The colour and the shape of the lights told the audience where to look and how to feel. 10 out of 10. Would XD again.

There were no holes in the plot. ■

OUTPOST AT ALIA

Over Term Two and continuing into Term Three, Alia College hosted youth workers once a fortnight as part of the City of Boroondara's Outpost program. These youth workers are able to hang out and chat with students, and also help them out with issues in relation to housing, mental health, financial help, legal aid, and more.

For any students who are looking for assistance/guidance/ideas in any of these areas, these youth workers will be around in the Latin Room at lunchtimes every second Tuesday from 25 July - so take advantage of this opportunity! ■

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personalities that dominate the current social climate. Of course, none of this is to say that I was any less amused, thrilled, or entertained by Vincent's clever but simple assortment of bread-related puns.

Elise (Year 11), Ash (Year 10), and Georgia (Year 12) before the second performance



Nikita did very well as Dionysus, playing up the flamboyant eccentricities of the role with aplomb. Alex A, Alex B, Sean, Matthew, Kyrill, Patrick, and Noah also acted brilliantly, their characters entertaining and enthralling not only in the playful dichotomies with Dionysus, but also in their own right. Georgia's singing skills left me amazed, as she performed a beautiful piece absolutely splendidly. And who could forget the hilar-

Noah (Year 10) playing the part of Charon



Alex (Year 11), Matthew (Year 10), and Nikita (Year 12) as Xanthias, Aeacus, and Dionysus

iously apt parody of Q&A, carried out superbly by Lachlan, Briony, Alex, Vincent, and Josh?

One other thing that struck me, particularly as the production drew closer, was the amount of students who had so willingly involved themselves in all elements of the production process. It was incredibly inspiring to see students working together and so freely contributing to such a signif-



Charlie (Year 11) and Ruby (Year 12) excited for the production

icant element of the school. This kind of culture is what really makes Alia tick.

All of this meant that all facets of the school production experience were truly enjoyed, relished even, and that I am left with a deep appreciation for the dramatic and artistic element of the school that has been brought back to life. I congratulate Drama and Theatre Studies teacher Josh, Year 11 and 12 Theatre studies classes, the Drama classes, and all of the other students who committed themselves to this marvellous enterprise! ■

JUNIOR ENGLISH & HASS EXCURSION

Article by Janet Lewis

Towards the end of Term Two, the Juniors went on an 'Immersion Excursion' to enhance their explorations of Early Australia in English and HaSS. This was based at Janet's house in the inner city.

Here students were instructed on architecture styles and the purposes of the bluestone lanes. They cooked and ate damper, meat pies, authentic, homemade lemonade, AN-ZAC biscuits, lamingtons and watermelon (pictured).

Students also went on a bush walk to the Merri Creek and Dights Falls where there was discussion about the Melbourne Treaty made by Batman with the Wurundjeri elders as well as bush authenticity vs human intervention environments. We also met a friendly dog and rolled down the grassy hills. It was an enthusiastic and fun morning. ■



The Juniors enjoying many authentic, and home-made, Australian treats at Janet's house

VCE INFORMATION NIGHT

On Wednesday, 9 August, Alia College will run its annual VCE Information Night, aimed at Year 9, 10, and 11 students, and their parents. The VCE Information Night is how the school presents and communicates all the details, dates, and possibilities for students undertaking the VCE, as well as alternatives to the VCE. It's also a forum where parents and students get to ask questions and clarify their understanding of how the VCE works, and what is necessary to achieve the results students want.

In the lead up to this, students will be given a Alia College VCE handbook on Wednesday 2 August, which contains critical information on the VCE, and how it runs at Alia College, as well as blurbs and outlines of all the possible subjects the school can offer. Students and parents may like to read the handbook, so that they can come to the information night with questions, queries, or clarifications.

Students will also be given a Personal Details Form, which is entered into the VCAA's administrative system, and final results will be issued with the details listed on this form. This form should be handed back into the office by the end of the school day on 9 August.

The presentations at the VCE Information Night will begin at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 9 August. There is no need to RSVP, and we encourage all students in Years 10 and 11, and those interested Year 9 students, and their parents, to attend. ■

LAW WEEK COURTS OPEN DAY

Article by Amanda Francis

On Saturday 20 May many of our in-house legal studies team (VCE Years 11 & 12) went to the annual open day of the courts as part of the Annual Law Week.

We saw many fascinating displays, talked to a range of people who do so many interesting and varied jobs related to the operation of the legal system: security staff, court registrars, legal clerks, an award winning courtroom illustrator, audio transcription typists, barristers and judges.

We were able to experience first-hand a mock court, presided over by Judge Hannan, the head of the Criminal Division of the County Court. The case was a culpable driving case, based on a case, which had previously gone through the courts. It was well reconstructed; so much so that one of the students thought they were experiencing a real case and sentencing of the accused! Culpable driving cases sadly, appear all too often before the courts and commonly involve young drivers and the use of mobile phones. It was a most sobering experience for our soon to be drivers.

We then ventured across the road to the Melbourne Magistrate's Court and observed a magistrate making various remand orders against an accused for an alleged murder the night before. This was a real case and showed us first hand the workings of the criminal justice system. We later learnt about the scheme for compensation of victims of crime and lastly sat in the historical

number one court of the Supreme Court to learn about the jury system in all its complexity.

It was a great opportunity to immerse ourselves in the legal system for a day (staying on the 'right side of the law'!) ■



Myra (Year 12), Aaron (Year 11), Jack, Nathan, Oscar (Year 12), and Marina (Year 11) in the Supreme Court

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT DAY

Article by Amanda Francis

One day of our holidays was spent immersing ourselves in linguistics. The venue was generously provided by The MacRobertson Girls' High School. Our students, along with their peers from around the state, enjoyed a day which consisted of four presentations by academic linguistic experts from Melbourne, Monash and La Trobe Universities, on topics pertinent to Unit 4 English Language. As well, some VCE English Language teachers from other schools took workshops which students also attended. Each workshop was different and Alia College students were actively encouraged to choose a workshop other than the one I was taking. It is always

valuable for students to experience subject material taught differently from their every day teaching experience.

It was a long but very rich day of learning in a University style atmosphere. ■



Nathan, Oscar, and Jack (Year 12) at the English Language Enrichment Day

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Over these school holidays, as with most school holidays, the administration staff have been busy organising all sorts of school improvements, large and small.

This has meant that as of the start of the year, we've had an extra classroom where the computer lab was, from Term Two, what was previously the storeroom is now a room free to be used for woodwork, or photography. These holidays, we've created a new lounge in the upstairs foyer, after getting rid of the enormous desk up there, and we've rearranged the Art Room to have more computer facilities.

Thanks very much to Simone, and all the other staff involved in helping out with all these changes! ■

WELCOMES & FAREWELLS

Article by Francesca Bracewell

Is it that time of year already!? It would appear so. As we begin to enter the colder months of the year, we find ourselves in need of more coffee to keep us awake, lots of jumpers and scarves to keep us warm, and a sense of hope to force ourselves out of bed in times when the bitter cold outside our windows becomes too much. With the change of the season, Alia would like to welcome some newbies into the community and sadly bid farewell to old friends.

Firstly, a warm welcome to Darcy, Esther (Year 8), Ben, and Rea (Year 10) who have recently enrolled with us this year. We would also like to welcome back the amazing Penny who is returning from maternity leave and will be teaching Year 11 and 12 Classical Studies. We are very happy and excited to have your wonderful presence around the school yet again. Welcome to you all!

We also want to say a big congratulations to Jacqui and her husband Daniel, who are expecting their third child in December.

We wish Ruby (Year 8), Taisha (Year 10), and Joey (Year 11) all the best in their future studies. We hope you all enjoyed your time here at Alia College.

Furthermore, Tomer and I are heading to North America for four months from mid-July. We're really excited! In our stead, we have Giselle, who happens to be my sister and is Bob's Latin assistant, who'll be taking over as Bob's Personal Assistant and a student support person, and Simone, who will be taking on VASS and timetabling duties from Tomer. Welcome aboard, both of you, and don't miss us too much! ■

Term III, 2017 Calendar Dates

STUDENTS COMMENCE	TUESDAY, 18 JULY; 9.00AM
Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews	Tuesday, 25 July; 4.30pm
VCE Information Night	Wednesday, 9 August; 6.00pm
Information Night	Tuesday, 15 August; 7.15pm
Snow Camp	Sunday, 13 - Wednesday, 16 August
Information Night	Wednesday, 13 September; 7.15pm
STUDENTS FINISH	FRIDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

Et Al is the newsletter of Alia College

Campus: 405 Tooronga Rd, Hawthorn East, 3123 Postal: Box 10, 119 Auburn Rd, Hawthorn East, 3123
Ph 03 9822 9622 ~ Fax 03 9822 6498 ~ info@alia.vic.edu.au ~ www.alia.vic.edu.au