

# Grace Studios

**Speech & Drama  
Musical Theatre  
Communication & Leadership  
Creativity & Critical Thinking**

The Sutherland Shire, Sydney



# What skills do students need to succeed?

*"The World Economic Forum (WEF) recently asked 350 HR leaders from the world's biggest organisations which skills will be in greatest demand in their business in 2020. Their findings? Although AI and smart machines may claim many jobs, there will be increasing demand for skills where the human touch is still required. Building on WEF's research, and developing it using our own experts, we've identified these 5 key future skills you simply cannot afford to ignore when you're setting out your path to career success:"*



# We are here to teach them!

## All ages! Littlies, primary, high school and adult tuition:

AMEB certifications in the following syllabuses

- Speech and Performance
- Drama and Communication
- Voice and Communication
- Musical Theatre and Singing

Speech Therapy

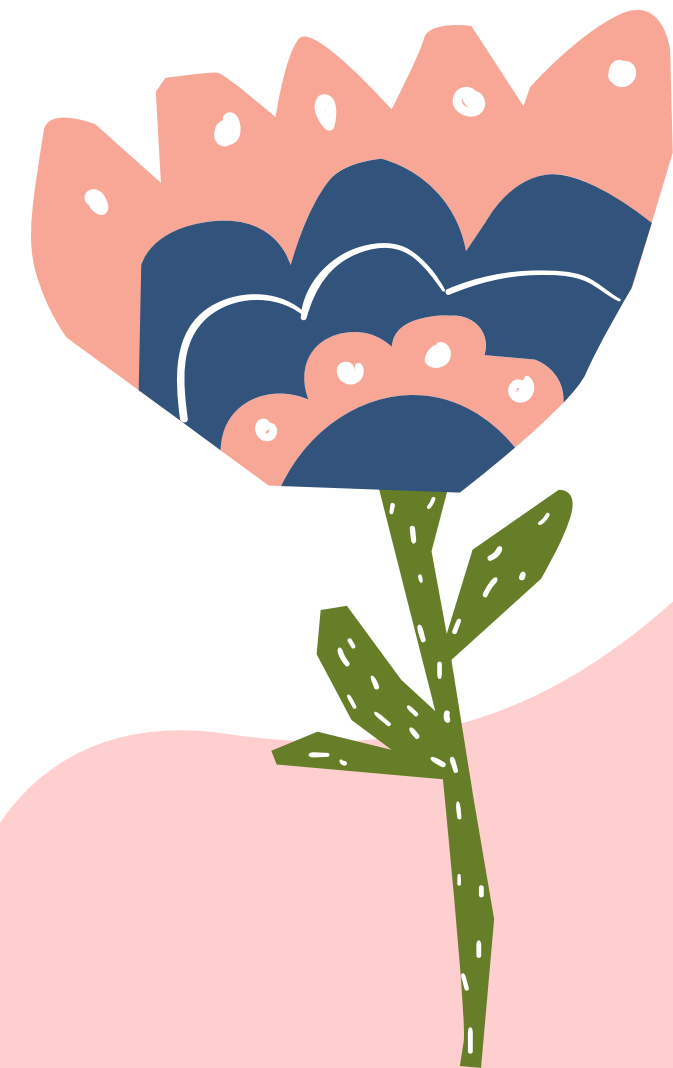
Public Speaking

Audition Preparation

HSC Drama Tutoring

Theatre Sports

In-school programs



A logo consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'G' enclosed within a light grey circle, which is itself set against a white square background.



# Students are empowered to:

Gain formal, internationally recognised qualifications in the arts (AMEB)

Achieve additional ATAR points from universities

Improve the clarity of their speaking, including their pronunciation of sounds and voice production

Become confident reading out loud, develop their ear training and better their comprehension

Stand out as trained public speakers with enhanced communication skills

Nurture and grow their creative intelligence and foster divergent thinking

Critically engage with a range of literature, exploring themes and issues that intersect with the areas of learning on the NSW school curriculum and help them to explore their own sense of self, as well as the world around them.

# COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE





# About AMEB

AMEB (NSW) has been inspiring excellence and supporting students' artistic achievements for over 100 years. AMEB (NSW) provides quality assessments in: music and speech and drama, with more than 35,000 AMEB exams undertaken by students each year. AMEB is the most widely used assessment system in its fields of study in Australia and AMEB credentials are recognised professionally both in Australia and overseas. AMEB (NSW) is a constituted entity under the agency of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Overall direction of AMEB activities is the responsibility of a Federal Board consisting of representatives of educational institutions that are signatories to the AMEB constitution, namely the Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Western Australia, the Minister for Education, New South Wales, the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, Queensland, and the Minister for Education and Training, Tasmania, through the University of Tasmania.



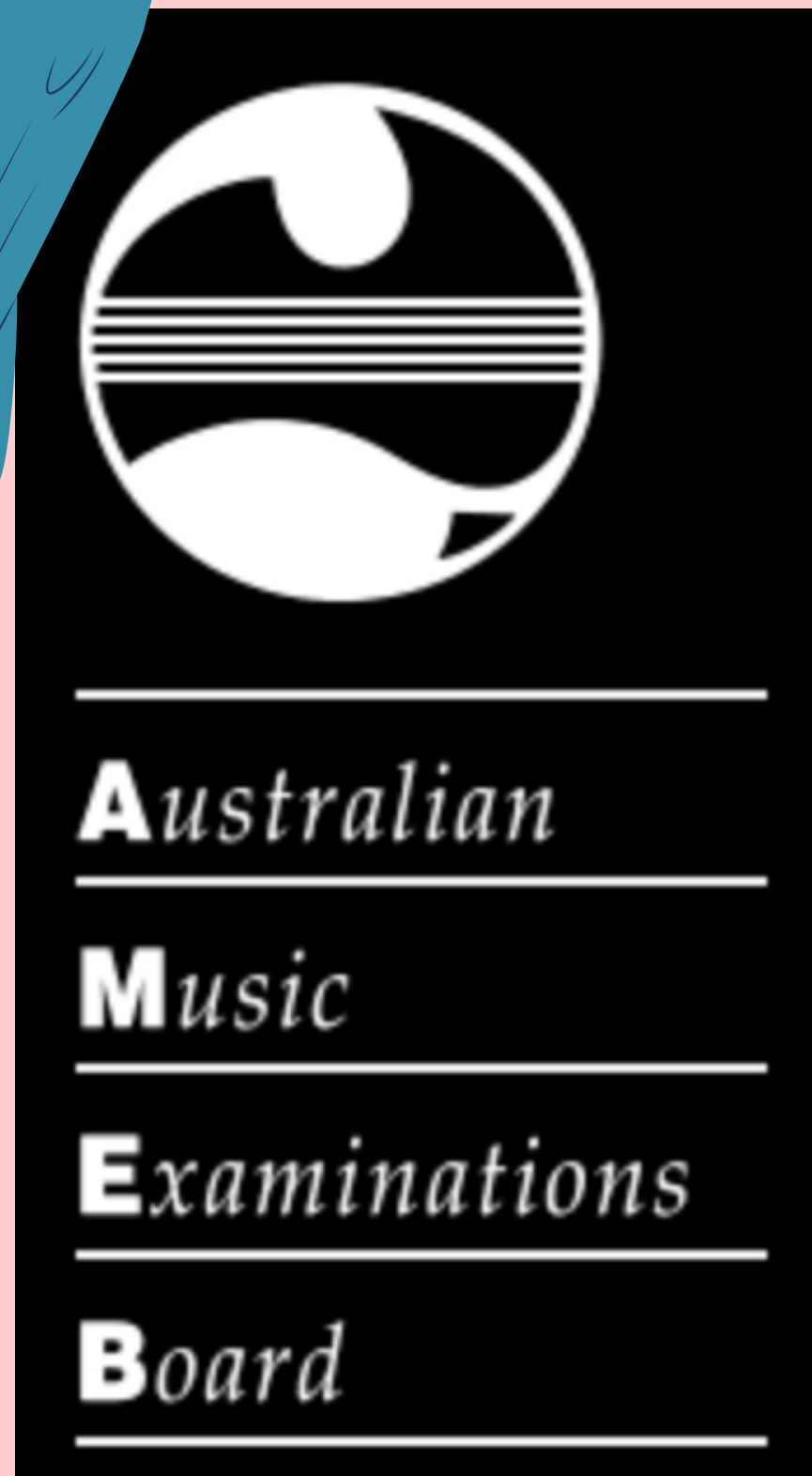
# Government Funded Creative Kids Program - \$100 Free Tuition Yearly

As NSW Government registered Creative Kids service providers, Grace Studios offers all students under the age of eighteen \$100 of free tuition each year.

Once registered with the government program, students will be able to select from a range of short courses aimed at helping them to upskill in the areas of Speech, Communication and Leadership.

Workshops are offered at preliminary, intermediate and advanced levels, and students receive certificates of completion for each short course. By making these programs free for students using the Creative Kids vouchers, schools and families can work together to ensure every young person has the chance to boost their confidence and develop transferable skills that will help them to succeed at school, and in their future professional lives.





## What's on offer

A qualification that is widely recognised and can assist with entry into tertiary education

The only examination body with formal links to major Australian universities and Ministers for Education

The most widely-used assessment system for Music, Speech and Drama in Australia

Assessment from the preliminary to diploma level

Highly-trained examiners who are specialists

Detailed written reports for practical examinations

Fresh and accessible syllabuses developed in consultation with teachers, parents and students

A wide range of repertoire available in the manual lists, in addition to AMEB publications

Quality publications





# Program Descriptors



## AMEB

Syllabuses focus on a wide range of dramatic skills, as well as enabling students to extend their intellectual interpretations of different texts and historical theatre periods, and build a sophisticated knowledge of the body, speech and phonetics, the language of sound. Students will refine their voice production technique, including breathing, resonance, relaxation and posture. Vocal modulation work will help students to build an awareness of pitch, pace, pause, volume and stress to build tonal colour, avoid monotony and adjust their register. Students will work on their articulation and intelligibility, which is particularly helpful for students with rapid or lazy speech or for those for whom English is a second language. Plays, prose, poetry, mime, storytelling and script writing are incorporated into colourful programs of work that encourage students to critically engage with a wide range of social concerns and build their vocabulary and love of language.



## Group Drama

Group drama classes are a great way for students to learn to act as a team and develop the skills needed for theatrical ensemble work. These lessons are high energy, supportive and innovative in their approach to teaching drama! Each term is carefully planned to ensure that students cover a wide range of skills and unique experiences. Some core areas of focus include: relaxation, voice production, articulation, improvisation, mime and physicalisation, characterisation, storytelling, public speaking, script work, puppets and performance.



## Singing & Musical Theatre

Students will be extended with enhanced vocal training and an enriched theoretical understanding of the voice. Focus is given to: increasing vocal range, vocal fault identification and correction, breath control, support and anchoring, pitch, resonance and forward placement, articulation, accent, performance skills and technical skills (mic and sound), character development, movement, phrasing and harmonies.



# Program Descriptors



## Theatre Sports

A series of very famous improvised theatre games which students can participate in as part of a team, in a competitive format. Each game requires students to draw on different theatrical skills and work together to develop their wit, timing and comedic impact. Students will learn to think on their feet, work collaboratively and take positive risks in a safe environment. Scene construction, humour, parody and slapstick are all important theatrical elements explored by successful theatre sports teams.

## Public Speaking

Students will explore the art of communication on many levels, working through a variety of mediums, including: discussion, description, persuasion, humour, storytelling and critical review. Voice production, intelligibility and vocal modulation will be developed to enable ease of communication and clarity. Body language, facial expression, eye contact, posture and gesture are the focus of units that help students to reflect on non-verbal communication and appear outwardly confident and empathetic. Speech writing skills are developed through work on structure, language features and engagement with current societal themes and issues. Impromptu speaking and personal expression will encourage students to take positive risks, think critically and independently and build their self confidence and emotional intelligence.



## Audition Preparation & HSC Monologues

For students wishing to prepare for a major performance opportunity, be that a HSC Drama monologue, or an audition piece, these lessons help students to prepare physically and emotionally. Monologue selection, voice, blocking and characterisation are essential components of the tuition, as well as assisting students to develop an intellectual understanding of their text, its cultural context, historical period and subtext. Most importantly, this tuition will help students to build confidence, stage presence and utilise relaxation and breathing techniques to manage their nerves and deliver a secure and polished performance on the day.



# Speech Therapy

As Speech and Drama teachers, we are empowering students of all ages to achieve natural and intelligible speech habits. As well as addressing functional speech disorders with closely guided speech exercises and a long term treatment hierarchy, our lessons provide students with an opportunity to convert this training into habits by applying it in fun, creative drama activities. Common challenges we work on include:

The 'th', 't', 's', 'r', and 'l' sounds

Lip laziness

Rapid speech

Mumbling and throaty tone

The elision (removal) of sounds

Unnatural speech rhythm

Inappropriate pause and stress

Inappropriate intonation (rising and falling tunes)

Monotony (lacking vocal colour and expression)

Shallow breathing / breathy tone

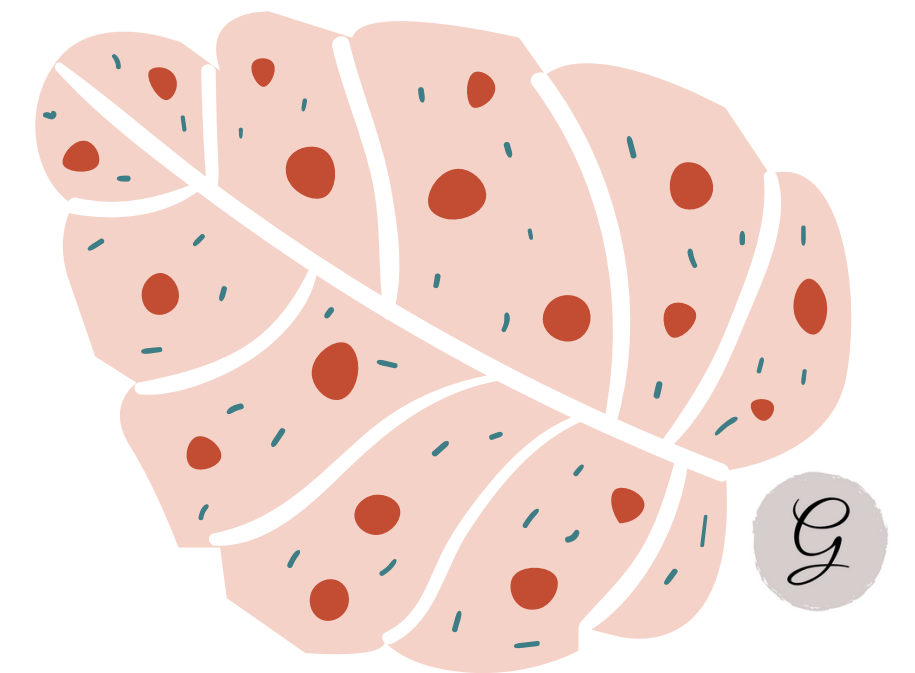
Faulty tones such as excess nasality

Lack of resonance (speaks too quietly or too loudly)

Lack of non-verbal communication (eye contact, gesture and facial expression)

Accent for ESL students

Confidence to communicate





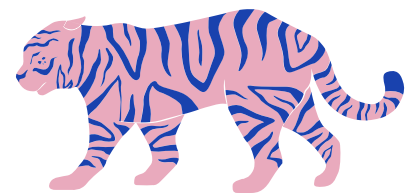
# The Rising Stars Showcase

At the conclusion of each year comes an exciting opportunity for students to share their work with family and friends, and to enjoy a special moment on the stage. All students enrolling in term 4 feature in our annual Rising Stars Showcase, a spectacular display of studio talent. For many students, young and old, this is an opportunity to put their fears to rest, to rejoice in a celebration of their achievement, to be challenged to produce work which is polished and rehearsed, and to be publicly recognised in front of those they care about most.

Some elements of performance can only be taught in the theatre: working in a large space, building audience awareness implementing projection, learning to respectfully navigate dressing rooms and backstage areas, practising patience when waiting between acts and supporting peers to achieve together.

All students who participate in the show are involved in rehearsals and receive a trophy, certificate and program. Additionally, each year the perpetual Grace Studios Rising Stars Showcase trophy is awarded to one outstanding student on the evening to further encourage the dedication, flair and excellence of student performances on the day.

**A chance to be on  
the stage!**



# STUDIO DIRECTOR

As well as working as a peripatetic teacher in schools, Anna Grace has been the director of her own performing arts studio, Grace Studios, for the past ten years. In this time, she has worked with more than five hundred students across the areas of speech, drama and musical theatre. Anna Grace is an accredited AMEB (Australian Music Examinations Board) Speech and Drama teacher, and is herself a passionate performer with professional experience in film, television and fashion. In 2018 Anna-Grace was named in the top five highest ranking AMEB Speech and Drama Teachers in the State of NSW.

Anna Grace is also the CEO of a technology startup harnessing the power of immersive technologies to assist remote and disadvantaged communities. In her roles as a founder and a business woman, Anna Grace has featured as a keynote speaker at conferences and events around the world, recently including TEDx, The United States Wearable Technologies Conference, and a variety of thought leader panels and guest lectures for universities and educational institutions including: UNSW, UTS and SP Jain School of Global Management. In March 2019 Anna-Grace represented Australia, and the University of Sydney, in New York as a Global Voices Scholar at the United Nations 63rd Commission on the Status of Women.

Australian Performance Certificate - AMEB

Associate Diploma of Speech and Drama (Teaching) - AMEB

Bachelor of International and Global Studies (Hons, First Class) – The University of Sydney

Master of Digital Communication and Culture – The University of Sydney

Founder of The Orbispace Initiative, a not for profit supporting STEM education and technology leadership through collaboration with schools, government and universities



Anna Grace



# TUTOR

Lauren is a passionate and dedicated teacher who exhibits a high level of skill directing large ensembles as well as coaching individual students. Lauren has completed her Certificate of Drama and Performance Australia, and holds an Associate Diploma of Teaching (AMEB). Having trained under Anna Grace for the past ten years, and taught at the studio for the last three years, Lauren strongly contributes to the culture of the studio and its community values of creativity, kindness and excellence. Lauren has performance experience in both the digital world and upon the stage, including improvisation competitions, Shakespearian festivals, theatre appearances, radio ads, digital ads and billboard campaigns. Lauren's academic background includes marketing and communications and she is also qualified as a mindset coach, helping clients to work through personal roadblocks and develop positive habits.



Lauren Holly





# TUTOR

Liz is well known for her achievements as a singing teacher, with a Professional Performers Diploma from the Australian Guild of Music (High Distinction). Lizzy has starred in a range of different musical societies around the Shire and beyond, including Adelaide and Sydney Fringe Festival. Liz was Musical Director for SMT's 2018 Production of Miracle on 34th Street and has recently started providing adjudication for vocal eisteddfods. Liz also has many years of experience as a dancer and, as part of her professional development and upskilling, has also completed up to grade eight in AMEB Speech and Drama with High Distinction. Liz intends to sit for her Certificate of Drama and Performance Australia next year and draws on her AMEB theoretical knowledge of phonetics, voice production and accent to assist with students' classical training and character development.



Elizabeth Bridges



# TUTOR

As well as being a top mechatronics and computer science student currently studying and teaching in the Department of Engineering at UNSW, Steven holds a Certificate of Drama and Performance Australia and an Associate Diploma of Teaching (AMEB). Steven has been recognised by the AMEB as an outstanding performer, showcasing his work at the annual AMEB Speech and Drama State Conference. Steven has starred in a range of youth theatre productions in Australia and internationally, and more recently as a lead in the UNSW CSE Review, an annual sketch comedy. In his free time, Steven is highly involved in the Scouting movement, and has directed large management teams for Scouts. Steven is process driven and loves to bring technology into his creative arts and communications classes. Steven previously worked at JAR Aerospace developing STEM programs that will feature in the new education system for the Australian Airforce Cadets. Recently, Steven built a robot that is responsive to sound to help drama students improve their vocal modulation, as well as an artificial intelligence system (AI) that composes poetry.



Steven Jones



# TUTOR

Emma has been studying AMEB Speech and Drama for the past ten years and holds a Certificate of Drama and Performance Australia and an Associate Diploma of teaching (AMEB). When finishing school in 2016, Emma was placed on the Distinguished Achievers list for HSC Drama Studies and received an 'On Stage' nomination. That same year, Emma was also the recipient of the annual Grace Studios Rising Stars Showcase award for her performance of her self devised HSC monologue, featuring mastery of four different accents - a skill she is now known for. As a student teacher currently undertaking her Bachelor of Primary Education (Notre Dame), and as a before and after school care Educational Leader, Emma is always thinking about her role as an educator and is passionate about working with children. Emma enjoys programming and designs engaging classes that closely map students' needs and interests.



Emma Bell





# LOGISTICS

## ***Booking & Billing***

All classes can be booked easily and securely online via the Grace Studios webpage. Each online product contains details on the class content, teacher, location and term dates. Classes and opportunities are updated regularly online.

Please note, the studio typically bills in ten week terms, as per the school term, and is not liable for classes which students do not attend. Once a student books a class, the studio must make financial commitments to ensure that this class can run for the term. We are unable to back out of these commitments so neither are you. In the event that the studio is responsible for the loss of a lesson, a makeup lesson will be arranged at a time which is convenient for the student.



## ***Term Plan***

Term plans are carefully curated by teachers to align with the outcomes of the AMEB syllabuses, as per the lesson type and subject. Additionally group classes follow a natural progression from foundational skills to polished performances that are staged for families and friends at the annual Grace Studios Rising Stars Showcase.

## ***Policies***

The studio takes the health and safety of its students very seriously, and has extensively developed policies in these areas, including medical plans, incident reports and media. All parents sign to say that they have read and will adhere to these policies at the time of enrolment. Policies are available online and at the time of booking.



# *Join our community on Facebook for:*

- Admin updates
- Student achievements and performances
- Upcoming eisteddfods
- Audition opportunities in professional shows
- Casting calls
- Arts content and literature recommendations
- Support and motivation
- Performance photography

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**



# Talk To Us

**grace-studios-drama.com**

Sutherland Shire

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#mylifesalldrama

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