2025 VCE Drama and Theatre Studies Playlist

Criteria and guidelines for the 2025 Playlist

The VCE Drama and Theatre Studies Playlist is selected annually by the VCAA Board and consists of two lists:

* Drama Unit 3
* Theatre Studies Units 3 and 4.

The document, [VCAA principles and procedures for prescribed VCE lists](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/2020VCAAPrinciplesProceduresForPrescribedLists.docx), is published on the VCAA website. All applicants for the 2025 Playlist are advised to familiarise themselves with the updated guidelines.

Criteria

The following criteria are the only criteria that will be used for selection of the 2025 Playlist. Each play selected will:

* have dramatic merit1 and provide access to contemporary theatre practice2
* sustain intensive study3 and provide a challenging approach to study of the relevant key knowledge and key skills4
* have a planned performance schedule consistent with the VCE curriculum and assessment calendar5
* be appropriate for the age and development of students, reflect community standards and expectations and meet school-sector guidelines.6

The playlist, as a whole, will:

* include **at least** one touring show in each part of the list
* consist of plays that include a range of styles and forms
* contain a range of new and established works7 with at least one Australian work in each part of the list
* reflect the cultural diversity of the Victorian community
* display affirming perspectives.

Notes

1. Evidence of dramatic merit can be provided through:
* the quality of the script
* description of the creative intention for the production, production values, directorial or dramaturgical approach/directions
* application of performance and/or theatrical styles
* application of production areas.
1. Evidence of contemporary theatre practice can be provided through:
* information about the script development process
* use of collaborative practice
* application of performance and/or theatrical styles
* application of production areas, including theatre technologies
* description of how the actor/audience relationship(s) will established, maintained and/or manipulated.
1. Intensive study can include:
* study of the script (this is required for Theatre Studies Unit 3)
* theatre analysis undertaken prior to, during and/or following the performance
* development of ideas that inform the student’s own drama or theatre practice
* preparation for school-based and examination assessments.
1. Key knowledge and key skills for each list are:
* Drama Unit 3 Playlist – Drama Unit 3 Area of Study 3
* Theatre Studies Units 3 and 4 Playlist – Theatre Studies Unit 3 Area of Study 3 and Unit 4 Area of Study 3
1. Information about important administrative dates for the VCE is published in Term 4 for the following calendar year on the VCAA website). Any changes to these dates that occur during the course of the year are communicated to schools and providers via the [*VCAA Bulletin*](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/bulletins-and-updates/bulletin/Pages/index.aspx). For Drama and Theatre Studies Unit 3, production seasons should generally occur between mid-February and early June. For Theatre Studies Unit 4, production seasons should generally occur between mid-July and early September. Performances at other times may be considered on a case-by-case basis. For the past three years allowances were made for a more flexible approach to our lists, during a period of less certainty for theatre companies. This flexibility will continue into 2025.
2. The Department of Education and Training [*School Policy and Advisory Guide*](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/selecting-suitable-teaching-resources/policy) regarding the selection of resources is consistent with requirements across the school sectors.
3. New works include:
* original, previously unperformed work
* works that have been developed through a workshop or residency process that may include a creative development
* reinterpretation of existing work where the script is significantly changed considering both the written text and context.

Established works include:

* performance of an existing production by the original company or a different company
* re-contextualisation or new production of an existing script without significant changes to the original text.

Guidelines for Drama

The VCE Drama Study Design 2025 - 2029 is available for download on the [VCAA website](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/Drama/Pages/Index.aspx).

In VCE Drama, students draw on a range of performance styles and their conventions to devise performances that will include non-linear narratives, transformation of character, time and place, and application of symbol Plays should be performed in a performance style(s) that permits exploration of a variety of these aspects. For details about performance styles in VCE Drama, see page 14 of the 2025-29 Study Design. For Drama, only Unit 3 requires students to study a play from the Playlist. There is no Drama Unit 4 Playlist.

Plays must in general be in production during the months of mid-February to early-June. The majority of the season should be presented within school term(s) and include performances between Monday and Friday. Weekend performances may be included in the season. Daytime and evening performances may be included across the season.

A play that has been accepted for the VCE Drama Playlist cannot be resubmitted in the following year. It can be submitted after one year has lapsed.

Guidelines for Theatre Studies

The VCE Theatre Studies Study Design 2025-2029 is available for download on the [VCAA website](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/theatrestudies/Pages/Index.aspx).

For Unit 3, plays must generally be in production during the months of mid-February to early-June. The majority of the season should be presented within school term(s) and include performances between Monday and Friday. Weekend performances may be included in the season. Daytime and evening performances may be included across the season.

In Unit 3, students will focus on the interpretation of the script in the performance. Only plays for which a script is available can be selected for Theatre Studies Unit 3.

Scripts must be available and accessible as early as possible to allow students to study the script prior to seeing the performance.

In Unit 4, students will focus on analysis of the interrelationships between acting, direction and design.

For Unit 4, plays must generally be in production between the months of mid-July and early-September.

A play that has been accepted for either of the VCE Theatre Studies Playlists cannot be resubmitted in the following year. It can be submitted after one year has lapsed.

School term dates for 2025

Term 1: 28 January to 4 April

Term 2: 22 April to 4 July

Term 3: 21 July to 19 September

Term 4: 6 October to 19 December\*\*

See [Department of Education](https://www.vic.gov.au/school-term-dates-and-holidays-victoria).

\*\* No Playlist performances may take place in Term 4 because Unit 3 and 4 VCE Drama and Theatre Studies students complete their performance, monologue, and written examinations during that time.

This information provides a general guide, as term dates for schools in the Catholic and independent sectors may be slightly different.

Schools generally aim to complete School-assessed Coursework assessments for Unit 3 by mid- to late May.

For Unit 4, schools complete most School-assessed Coursework assessments by the end of Term 3.

Public holidays for 2025

Information about [public holidays in Victoria](http://www.business.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-holidays-and-daylight-saving/victorian-public-holidays).

Note: All public holiday dates are accurate at the time of publishing but may be subject to change.

Timeline for selection of the 2025 VCE Playlist

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| Stage | Date | Action |
| 1 | April 2024 | VCAA invites theatre companies to submit applications. |
| 2 | 11 June 2024 | Applications and initial supporting material must be submitted to VCAA before 9am on this date.Embargo on all information provided by the applicants begins. |
| 3 | 12 August 2023 | Additional material (optional) sent to VCAA – as required and/or requested.Short-listing begins.Selection agreements between successful applicants and VCAA negotiated.Embargo on confidential information continues; embargo includes information associated with the short-listing process. |
| 4 | 30 August 2023 | Selection panel prepares recommendations for VCAA Board consideration and decision. |
| 5 | Mid-November 2023 | Playlist release by VCAA (depending on finalisation of all details). |
| 6 | To be confirmed | Promotion of the Playlist at Drama Victoria conference (tbc through discussion with conference organisers). |

Tickets for assessors to be available at industry/ teacher price

Appointed assessors are required to see the plays for the study (Theatre Studies and/or Drama) for which they have been appointed. Study specialists are required also to see some plays. Making these tickets available for purchase at industry/teacher price is a condition of selection. About 20 tickets may be purchased for each production at this reduced rate.

Before the Playlist is published the VCAA needs to know:

* any conditions on the assessors’ ability to book tickets across the season. For example, there may be dates that are not available or limits on the number of tickets for particular performances.
* How assessor tickets can be booked Assessors will book their own tickets, having been allocated funds by VCAA. Arrangements will be discussed with successful companies/producers.

Notice to Schools announcing the Playlist

Following VCAA Board selection of the VCE Drama and Theatre Studies Playlists, the VCAA will:

* confirm the details for publication in a Notice to Schools. This notice is the official release from the VCAA that informs schools and others about the Playlist for the following year and is usually published in mid-November. For each play, the following details are provided
* information about the play title, playwright(s), theatre company and, as appropriate, producer or tour host organisation. A link to the appropriate website for ticket prices and bookings will be made available.
* a brief outline of how the play meets the selection criteria. The VCAA writes this text and sends it to the applicant for feedback. All feedback will be respectfully considered; however, the VCAA signs off on the final text for this notice. Applicants can send additional information after publication of the Playlist. The VCAA does not approve that material
* confirm process regarding booking of tickets for VCAA use with the theatre company, organisation or person who made the initial application.