VCE Drama 2019 Solo Performance Characters

Eight of the 10 prescribed structures from 2019 are represented across the Top Class Drama Online program.

Tina Sparkle and/or Ken Railings

This character is inspired by the film *Strictly Ballroom*, directed by Baz Luhrmann. Years after their failure at the Australian Pan-Pacific Dance Championships and still holding a grudge against each other, Tina and Ken find themselves battling for a position on reality television show, *And You Thought You Could Ballroom*. They desperately try to make the other lose by recreating moments from their original partnership in the Southern Districts Waratah Championships. They show the less-than-glamorous lives each has lived since losing the Pan-Pacifics, in contrast to a parallel public figure who has reinvented themselves after failure.

The Gangster

This character is inspired by the life and times of Al Capone. After falling out with Al Capone, the Gangster secretly meets with members of the Untouchables and spills the beans about the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre and other crimes. The Gangster desperately tries to strike a deal by showing how Al Capone and his gang have evaded prosecution for their crimes, and how the Gangster became part of the Al Capone family and later turned on them. The Gangster explores society’s fascination with ‘antiheroes’.

The Toy

The Toy is a character from the film *Toy Story*, directed by John Lasseter. On the eve of Andy’s 13th birthday, his toys hold an emergency meeting. The optimistic Toy tries to allay fears that they will be made obsolete by a new birthday present and convince the toys they are all still relevant. The Toy recreates the arrival of Buzz Lightyear and the adventures that led to his acceptance by the other toys. The Toy shows how the new birthday present may affect the toys’ relationships with Andy, and how certain toys became fads at different times.

Miss Scarlett and/or Colonel Mustard

On a foggy London morning in March 2004, a secretive Miss Scarlett and/or an evasive Colonel Mustard are discovered by a detective in the flat of Richard Lancelyn Green. They are in the study, holding some papers. Because they are unable to explain their presence, and because of their reputation, the detective accuses them of murder. Miss Scarlett and/or Colonel Mustard try to avoid arrest by recreating the circumstances that led to the death of Richard Lancelyn Green, showing their own involvement in the mystery, and comparing the incident with another ‘whodunnit’.

The Bush Poet: Banjo Paterson and/or Henry Lawson

This character is inspired by the ‘Bulletin Debate’, a famous dispute in *The Bulletin* magazine between bush poets Henry Lawson and Bajo Paterson in 1892–93. In a big to be featured on the new 10-dollar note, Paterson and Lawson passionately compete in a ‘poetry slam’, reviving their longstanding rivalry about the Australian identity and the ‘bush legend’. They recite highlights from poems that reflect their contrasting views on bush life, and compare the relevance of the bush poet to Australian identity with that of another person featured on banknotes. They demonstrate how popular representation of Australian identity has evolved.

The Flower Thrower

This character is inspired by Banksy’s 2005 artwork *Rage, the Flower Thrower.* With the city in turmoil, the Flower Thrower leaps off the wall to join a busy and chaotic protest in central Melbourne. The Flower Thrower makes an impassioned plea to the crowd to adopt a peaceful approach to change. They recreate a range of Banksy’s images exploring an anti-establishment philosophy, highlight and offer solutions to key issues of the current protest, and show examples of how art can be used for a political purpose.

Juliet

This character is inspired by Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Tired of forever seeing her fateful ending played out, an infuriated Juliet confronts Shakespeare and demands he rewrite the ending to his famous play. She passionately protests that his views are outdated and that he needs to edit his work to reflect modern-day attitudes. Juliet recreates moments from the play that led to her tragic fate, and demonstrates how other characters could have made different choices to alter the outcome of her story. She compares her fate to that of another woman who could be considered a tragic heroine.

The Gothic Spirit

This character is inspired by the Villa Diodati, a Swiss mansion famous for its guests, including Lord Byron and Mary Shelley. Determined to enshrine itself in literature, the meddlesome Gothic Spirit visits the Villa Diodati in the summer of 1816. Creating an atmosphere of ‘delicious fear’ through pranks and conspiring with the ‘weather gods’ to ensure rain, the Gothic Spirit keeps guests indoors and influences their writing. The Gothic Spirit shows how the writers came to be at the villa engaged in a ghost story writing competition. It explores the Gothic style of an author who visited the villa, and shows how the things that frighten people have changed over time.