REALISING DREAMS THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AND ACADEMICS
DRAMA DEPARTMENT

The Drama Department provides an opportunity for personal growth on many levels. Strong emphasis is placed on the development of actors and theatre practitioners.

Learners receive tuition in all practical aspects of theatre. Practical training includes acting, voice, movement, physical theatre, stagecraft, mime and poetry workshops. A comprehensive Theory component covers the study of play texts, theatre history, history of costume, history of literature, voice theory, ritual and mythology.

Every available opportunity is given to drama learners to perform in numerous productions as well as in the presentation of class work. Every effort is made to expose learners to theatre agents and potential employers. The Drama Department has received numerous awards and accolades over the past years.

The school’s excellent results and awards in both the academic and artistic arenas, combined with the highly successful careers enjoyed by our alumni, clearly demonstrate that Drama is not taught for its own sake, but because it contributes profoundly to the holistic development of the individual.

ART DEPARTMENT

The Art Department is the largest art department at secondary school level in the country. The high level of success achieved by Art learners of the NSA over the past 35 years bears witness to the outstanding tuition provided by committed and talented teachers who are specialists in their fields.

The NSA is proud of the studios, workshops and the Art Gallery where the learners regularly exhibit their work. Extensive tuition is offered in Visual Arts, Two-and Three-Dimensional Design. Courses include sculpture, printmaking, painting, ceramics, design and digital design. Theory of Design and Visual Art theory also form an integral part of the programme.

The Art Department is extremely proud of the mentorship provided by involving professional and well-known artists to become part of the Artists in Residence programme. Exposure to artists who have stature in the art world, greatly enhances the learners’ artistic and creative development.
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Rock or Renaissance, Violent Femmes or Verdi, Bass Guitar or Bassoon – whatever your language, we speak it at the NSA. Where there were limits, we have now opened the doors.

The Music Department consists of specialized classrooms, practice rooms and performance spaces. Both classical and contemporary music offer an in-depth study of the learners’ instruments of choice, and includes music studies and theory. Focus is placed on professional tuition in both individual and group classes.

Learners are required to study two instruments and to do History of Music, Theory, Arranging and Composition, Improvisation, Aural and Performance, Solo performance, Chamber and Vocal ensembles. An orchestra awaits those eager to get into the classical world, offering valuable training ground.

With at least three live performances a year, solo and band performances are around the corner for those who cannot wait to perform their favourite songs to their friends and the public. Learners may specialise in any of the orchestral instruments, which include piano, recorder or vocals. Similarly, learners may choose to concentrate on guitar, bass guitar, keyboards and drums.

The NSA offers a combination of academics and music – a place where you receive a minimum of nine hours a week in your specialist field, while also achieving a matric certificate.

DANCE DEPARTMENT

The cornerstone of the Dance Department’s policy is to produce well-rounded, disciplined dedicated and intelligent dancers, by offering the best physical training in Classical Ballet, Contemporary, African, Spanish and Modern Dance. The dedicated, experienced staff focuses on performance, interpretation and style.

Learners are exposed to performances of all varieties, local and international guest artists and professionals, workshops, corporate events and competitions. They regularly perform at art festivals and have become a fixture at the annual Grahamstown Festival. Learners perform in NSA Dance Department productions during the year and work in close collaboration with South African Mzansi Ballet, situated across the road from the NSA.

Many NSA dancers join this company’s Corps de Ballet to pursue a career in dance, or move to overseas companies for further studies.
ACADEMICS

A predisposition towards the Arts and Performing Arts does not preclude ambition for academic excellence. Learners from Grade 8 to 12 study a full range of academic subjects in addition to their chosen specialist subjects. The specialist studies foster the discipline and dedication which are pre-requisites for academic achievement. Our excellent Matric results over nearly two decades bear witness to this.

In Grade 8 and 9 the NSA complies with the national requirement of completing the General Education and Training (GET) Examination. The compulsory common assessment task is completed in October of each year and the final examination is conducted in November of each year.

The GET examination covers eight learning areas: languages (LLC), mathematics (MLMMS), human and social sciences (HSS), natural sciences (NS), arts and culture, economic management services (EMS), technology and life skills. In addition all learners specialize in Art, Drama, Dance or Music.

For the FET certificate in Grade 10 – 12 candidates must offer the following components: two languages (one being Home Language - English and the other a First Additional Language, Afrikaans or isiZulu), Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy, Life Orientation, and an elective component consisting of two subjects from History, Life Science, Physical Science and Business Studies. The specialist subject is compulsory for every learner at the NSA.
The Festival of Fame (FOF) is The National School of the Arts’ annual flagship festival. FOF is entering its maturity and 2014 will be its 13th year. The track record of this festival is quite extraordinary – every year it has grown in stature, until now it stands alongside adult professional shows. There is no other show of this quality and magnitude in South African schools today.

It is instrumental in developing energy and excitement for the NSA as a performing Arts school and also showcases the incredible originality of our Art Department which continuously thinks outside the box.

• Maintaining Relationships with Professional Artists in the Industry

• Showcasing the Talent of Tomorrow: NSA Learners

• Showcasing the Talent of Tomorrow: Community Theatres

• Exposing Underprivileged Learners to the Arts

The events at the Festival are performed in four performing venues at the NSA and in three venues at the Joburg Theatre exposing audiences to the experiences of venues of professional quality at a subsidized rate.

For more information of Festival of Fame, please contact Charmaine Stander at pro@artschool.co.za
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The National School of the Arts is the recognized and preferred School of the Arts in South Africa

Vision: The National School of the Arts (NSA) is in the business of Education and Training in the Arts and Academic arenas

The National School of the Arts is located in Braamfontein, Johannesburg and is a unique, historically and culturally rich high school, that caters for learners from Grade 8-12 (ages 13-18)

The school is conveniently situated on major bus routes and highways on the crest of the Braamfontein Ridge commanding wonderful views of northern Johannesburg and the Magaliesberg. Classes are conducted in beautiful buildings, some of which have been declared National Monuments. Learners from all over South Africa commute daily or board in residences located on the NSA campus, where accommodation is available in single rooms.

The four Arts education areas are Art, Dance, Drama and Music, including Contemporary Music. Each department exists to challenge, encourage, teach and enable learners, by providing those who have an interest, passion or talent for contemporary and classical tuition. It offers a unique environment and learning opportunity to receive world class education in state-of-the-art facilities.

We provide an environment that ensures the holistic development of each learner.

Tuition and training is provided by highly respected and professional lecturers who are active in the relevant industry. Training provided by the NSA fully prepares learners to enter their post-school careers successfully in the professional and academic arenas.

Admission to this prestigious school of focused learning is gained through a rigorous auditioning and selection process, thereby ensuring that only the very best talent is accepted – regardless of financial background.

A School of Focused Learning

With its rich heritage and track record of achievement, the NSA is recognised by the Department of Education as a Focus School in Visual and Performing Arts Education, as well as a Centre of Excellence for Academic learning. This outstanding combination of academic and artistic achievement is one of the NSA’s most significant accomplishments.

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