



MACKAY  
ENTERTAINMENT  
CONVENTION  
CENTRE

MECC

A BUSINESS UNIT OF  
MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL



BMC

MEDIA RELEASE

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## Mackay's Daniel Hair wins coveted Bell Shakespeare Scholarship

Today, the MECC received the exciting news that **Daniel Hair** from Holy Spirit College has been selected from 99 other shortlisted students for Bell Shakespeare's 2013 Regional Performance Scholarship.

100 student auditions were held across Australia during 2013 as part of Bell Shakespeare's national tour with their performance of *Comedy of Errors*. Only 2 students were awarded the opportunity. After being shortlisted to the final 100 earlier in the month, Daniel worked closely with the staff of Holy Spirit College to produce a short video of himself performing a Shakespearean monologue. He also included a brief description of what motivated his character in the monologue.

Each year, the Regional Performance Scholarship gives budding performers living in regional areas across Australia the chance to learn and perform Shakespeare with some of Australia's best known Shakespearean actors.

At Bell Shakespeare HQ in Sydney, Daniel will participate in acting masterclasses, go on backstage tours, get tickets to live performances and take a front row seat at a week of Bell Shakespeare rehearsals. The scholarship includes accommodation and travel (with a parent or guardian) and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform their winning monologue for John Bell and a Bell Shakespeare cast.

This is the second time a Mackay student has been shortlisted for this coveted opportunity in the past 2 years and we're grateful to the Regional Performance Scholarship program and to BMC Pathways to Performance for supporting these engagement activities.

In total, over 216 students attended Bell Shakespeare's **The Comedy of Errors** performance at the MECC, with 35 students participating in workshops and auditions. The BMC Pathways to Performance Program provided over \$7000 in support for these activities.

*NOTE: The BMC Pathways to Performance program is a partnership between BHP Billiton Mitsui Coal, the MECC, and the Friends of the MECC, that recognises that often the greatest barrier for schools in getting student groups to the theatre is the cost of transport. Each year the MECC contacts educators throughout the region advising of performances coming to the Centre which have significant educational merit or which enhance aspects of the school curriculum through workshops. Enquiries: [meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au)*



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