

# 'Tis the season to be excellent

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STUDENTS at Melbourne's Jewish day schools are among those who have been selected for the VCE Season of Excellence 2017, a program showcasing the best student work across the arts.

Jana Zvedeniuk, who graduated from Leibler Yavneh College last year, will perform her solo piece portraying Nadia (Nadezhda) Popova at the Melbourne Recital Centre next month as part of Top Class.

"I'm thrilled, I'm really excited," Zvedeniuk told *The AJN*. "It's a good platform to show my work to a completely different audience."

Popova was a female Russian pilot who was part of the first all-female flight regiment during World War II. "My whole piece is exploring her trials and her triumphs as a female pilot," Zvedeniuk explained.

She stressed her appreciation for former Yavneh principal Roy Steinman, who "really supported the arts at Yavneh", as well as drama teacher Sandie Klein.

"The first thing I did [when I found out I had been selected] was contact my drama teacher, because her support throughout the year I think made it possible."

This year, Zvedeniuk will be studying architecture at university while pursuing a number of acting roles.

Meanwhile, Beth Rivkah Ladies College graduate Talia Steinberg was selected for Top Arts for her major



One of Talia Steinberg's three paintings which will feature in Top Arts.

project completed in Studio Arts last year.

Her three paintings portray branches and twigs from different trees at different times of the day.

"I am attempting to communicate the idea that for nature to be beautiful, it not only requires graceful landscapes, but also the contribution of its minor elements (branches)," Steinberg explained.

"I also want the image to evoke a feeling of tranquillity and peace. These are the sensations I gain from being surrounded by nature, and it would give me pleasure if others shared those feelings."

Steinberg said she was "ecstatic" and "in great shock" when she found out her work had been selected for Top Arts, which will exhibit at the National Gallery of Victoria from late March.

"I am very appreciative of this wonderful opportunity," she told *The AJN*.



Jana Zvedeniuk's performance of Nadia Popova has been chosen for Top Class.

Steinberg has been accepted into an art seminary in Jerusalem, where she will spend the latter part of this year, before returning to study interior architecture in Melbourne.

Bialik College graduate Julia Machlin was selected for Top Designs, which will be exhibited at the Melbourne Museum beginning next month.

Machlin studied Visual Communication and Design as one of her VCE subjects, which saw her

design a product line called AYGEO – an environmentally friendly brand which aims to promote sustainable domestic life skills.

"It was a lot of hard work that went into it, but I'm just very happy to have been accepted," she said.

Machlin added that she "absolutely loved" Visual Communication and Design. "I found that it was one of the subjects that I put the most effort into and was really dedicated to," she enthused.



Julia Machlin's design of AYGEO products has earned her a spot in Top Designs.