

ASPIRE

NEWS

9 April 2019

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The holidays are approaching, we're all ready for a break. But whilst you're kicking back with an easter egg or two please take some time this holiday to not only work on your ASPIRE repertoire but also to have a read of the script.

Every cast member will receive a script at today's rehearsal and it is vital that every cast member reads it. The script will be tweaked as we continue to rehearse and develop the show but the bulk of it will not change from here on in. As a member of the cast everyone should be across what our production is about, who the characters are and with what message we want our audience to get from watching.

So as homework (on top of your usual ASPIRE practice) I would like everyone to email me some thoughts on the script. Tell me what you like and why, what you don't like so much and why, send through any questions that you might have after reading: basically let me know what you think. As well as this though, tell me what the overriding message of the show is for you. It's great feedback for me, but also reading and considering a script is an important part of being in a production. Enjoy

Anna



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

Last week was special guest week for Aspire. I hope that you all enjoyed it and learnt something from Guillaume Barriere our guest presenter. I really enjoyed what he had to say and think we can apply his techniques to some of our work.

The first aspect of comedy that Guillaume asked us to focus on was that of the body. How, as actors, we can use our body in strange, funny and expressive ways. He used the example of the bus stop where people had funny leg movements. The response by others to this "unusual" action created much of the humour.

We then looked at how we need to plan performance like it will work and then find the obstacle, where something goes wrong. Henry, as the leader of our marching line, set off expecting everyone to follow and conduct themselves orderly but Paige got distracted and wandered off causing "something to go wrong" and creating the humour in the situation. We have been doing scenes based on dares and challenges and I really want you all to think about this model Guillaume presented to us. Create the scene planning for it to work but then find the problem where something goes wrong creating humour. Think about this and plan it – then email it in. I actually would like to receive this.

It is important that we take opportunities that we are presented to teach us skills in performance. By applying these new concepts to our work we improve as actors. How quickly things can go wrong and create lots of humour; Katie trying to make friends in the library, Patrick trying to make his speech and Paige at school assembly.

So remember to think about humour and how it works. Try and analyse films or tv shows based on humour and see if they follow this model.

On a totally different topic thank you for your work

this term and enjoy your holiday break. Please use some of the time to learn your lines. You will be expected to be off script by week one for Act one and Week 2 for Act Two. So take some time to learn lines while you don't have the pressure of school work. Enjoy your break and looking forward to hard work when we begin term 2. Stay safe.

Lisa and Jay

DANCE

Hi Dancers!

Well what a week we had! Some of you may be processing all that you learnt from the wonderful Sarah Boulter, I know that we are!
We are very excited to see these things put into place during rehearsals.

With the holidays creeping up it is time for you to be continually reminded to practice, practice, PRACTICE!!! Use the videos! If you are having trouble getting the videos please email Anne Atkins.

Thank you for throwing yourselves into our special guest workshop. It will have done more for you than you may realise, so take the time to reminisce and think through everything that happened. You were all wonderful!

Lauren and Montana

MUSIC

Enjoy Your Music!

Last week, our special guest, Dan Wilson, joined us at our rehearsal and led the band in some compositional activities as well as helping to refine some of our songs.

Dan told us that from his experience, it's very important to find the fun in playing your part, even if you only have 2 notes to play. How can you make those 2 notes sound amazing so you enjoy playing them? When all students tried to have fun with their parts, it was amazing how the music started to sound. We hope all of the band enjoyed our special guest rehearsal and learnt something new.

Over the holidays please practise your music and try to find the fun in each of your parts.

Looking ahead, next term, you will receive the final songs for the production and will be starting to rehearse with the singers as well as the dancers. Term 2 is where we see the whole show come together!

Thanks for your work this term.

Jess and Dom

VOCAL

Last week we had the pleasure of working with Marty Worrall during our 'Special Guest Week.'

Marty is an actor/singer/songwriter and singing teacher who has been working full time in the music industry for the past 18 years ... so the advice Marty gave us is definitely worth taking on board!

One of the things that Marty talked about was to be "**connected to what you are doing ... our job to make people feel something.**" This is wonderful advice as we near the end of Term 1.

During the holidays it is essential that you read the script, read the lyrics, *learn* the lyrics and know the story we are telling.

You must be able to tell the story and discover ways to be '**connected**' with the audience ... this will come naturally to you once you know WHO your characters is and WHAT part they play in the show.

Have a restful break, take care of your voice!

See you in Term 2

Jeanette and Luke

EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DATES/NEWS

ASPIRE Extra Dance Ensemble Rehearsal

Thursday 24 April 2019: St Pius X High School, Adamstown, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm for those who can make it

ANNA RECOMMENDS

Hunter Drama presents *Fantastic Mr Fox* at The Civic playhouse 24 April 2019
- 28 April 2019

Ian Moss Acoustic Tour Cessnock
Performing Arts centre 27 April 2019

DESIGN

The Design Ensemble were treated to a guest presenter workshop last week. The workshop was delivered by the amazing Emma Bartick, who specialises in 'all things makeup', but especially special effects makeup. Emma discussed with the students her creative process for developing makeup design ideas and explained how the setting, context and personality of a character affects the design of different makeup looks. Emma talked through her extensive range of experience including jobs in film, advertising and print.

After learning some key techniques and how to combine colours and textures the students' experimented on each other, with some interesting results. In just under 2 hours, the transformations were impressive. The girls were hardly recognisable in their "new" faces, which were created through the guidance of Emma's expert knowledge and tips.

With still one term to complete all the design tasks for this year's production, it is important for the students to keep working hard and to continue with the same enthusiasm and drive that has been evident from day one this term.

Congratulations to the girls for all their hard work this term and I look forward to more creating, music and fun times in the art room during term two!

Gillian

