

ASPIRE

NEWS

7 May 2019

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Last week we jumped back into rehearsals and ran a section of the production. Well done to everyone for throwing yourselves into this challenge and doing really well. First run throughs are generally difficult, they're slow and rambling and can make us feel like we have an enormous uphill battle ahead of us in rehearsals. The cast were all thinking ahead to where they needed to be and when which meant the run was surprisingly smooth. I came away feeling super positive about where we're at and I hope you all did too.

In saying this we also have to remember that we still have a massive amount of work to do. The bones of the production are there however we were at times lacking in energy. Energy, as anyone new to ASPIRE will discover, is my favourite word when it comes to rehearsals. When I say Energy in rehearsals I don't mean running around and being all over the place, quite the opposite in fact. When I ask for energy I'm asking for a sense of purpose on stage. A commitment of 110% to what you're doing and the part of the story you're telling. You should feel alert and an incredibly aware of what you are doing. If you're doing some movement really perform it, if you're playing a song put energy behind it and if you are a character remain firmly in the moment. Enjoy the opportunity at rehearsals to practice with energy!

We also met our production ensemble last week. This crew have the delightful job of ensuring set and props are where they need to be for each scene. It's a vital role and just as we make notes about where we enter from and where we stand we also need to be aware of what is onstage in each scene and be aware that set may be being moved when we are onstage or entering or exiting the stage. If you are unsure at any point please ask. The backstage area is quite small at the Civic Theatre and we have to be mindful that everyone has somewhere they need to be. Start thinking about what you might have to navigate backstage now to avoid collisions at the Civic Theatre.

Well done again on a fantastic first week back. I can't wait to see what this week holds.

Anna



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

Here we are in term 2 and it's time to make plans. So this week I will avoid day dreaming, thinking or reflecting. I will issue plans for us all to follow. This is what we all need to do to make sure that the show is on track. So for the next few weeks this is what I want you to do:

1. Learn lines. Everyday read through your scenes. Even when you think you know them, read the script again. I recommend using voice memo on your phone. Read all the lines, then slowly remove your own.
2. Complete all homework. I think I only have about a quarter of the character sheets I gave you. If you lost them they are in the group email. These character questions may seem repetitive, but they are really important in making decisions.
3. Get your script organised. Protect it. Bring pen or pencil to rehearsal. Make notes on our script. Things like entrances, exits, ways to say lines.
4. You must have questions about your lines, your character, the script itself. Ask them! And honestly if you don't understand a line, if you don't get why you say it, ask. You will never deliver it correctly if you don't ask.
5. Read your emails regularly.
6. From now on we will begin warm ups at 4.20 pm. This will help us to be ready to begin rehearsal at 4.30 pm. I know some of you travel a long way but there is nothing stopping you in doing your vocal warm up in the car.
7. Love your character. I want to hear from every one of you three reasons why you love your character.
8. Look after yourself. It is going to get cold soon. Do all you can to prevent getting sick. If you are sick, stay home. Advise us you will be away, but you need to get well.

Any questions?

Hope you are enjoying rehearsing our show now. Be good.

Lisa and Jay

DANCE

Hi Dancers!

Back at it for term 2! That's right, it's that time already! Thank you so much to all those who came to the holiday rehearsal, we got SO much done and will really help in the long run!

It's now time to start running parts of the show, which means we don't get as much time just with our ensemble. So please make sure we can utilize the time we get by working hard and making sure you are ready to rock and roll by the start time.

There will be different directions given to you during these scene runs. These are to be written into your script straight away! It is your responsibility to know where you need to be in the show....this is all part of the bigger picture. As is performance and singing! So please remember to do both when we run in the theatre

Lauren and Montana

MUSIC

Not long to go now...! Well, the show isn't until August, but Term 2 will go very quickly. The band only have a handful of rehearsals by themselves with the rest of the time spent with the other ensembles running sections of the show. This week the band will receive the final repertoire. In terms of practice, students should:

- know all the basics i.e. notes, rhythms, etc.
- have marked on your music dynamic and articulation changes.
- play along with the tracks that have been emailed.
- know the structure of each song, especially rhythm section.
- have read the script and emailed Anna!

Just a reminder- It is the responsibility of Aspire members not to miss any rehearsals (except for severe illness or similar) This is especially important during this term when working through sections of the show with the entire cast. Any questions or concerns please contact Anna.

Lastly, enjoy each week! 😊 We are proud of the progress the band has made in just one term. You are proving to be professional and skilled young musos. Well done!

Jess and Dom

VOCAL

"Music acts like a magic key to which the most tightly closed hearts open" - Maria Von Trapp

This quote from the talented Maria Von Trapp, (perhaps we are more familiar with her played by Julie Andrews in THE SOUND OF MUSIC) succinctly expresses the power of music! And WE have to be that key!

If our performance is truly authentic and believable, then we will most definitely unlock the hearts of our audiences. To do this we must individualise the songs and make them our own, so we can tell the story, and BELIEVE in the story.

Here a few examples of covers of our ASPIRE 2019 songs. Have a listen and see how these performers make the songs their own. How they unlock the lyrics in a slightly different way. (A more extensive list can be found on our GROUP site)

Have a wonderful week

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT – Nirvana

Evanescence: <https://youtu.be/1VzflLv7wg0> nice harmonies!

NEVER MISS A BEAT – Kaiser Chiefs

Acoustic: https://youtu.be/BM_E1TynME

APPLAUSE – Lady Gaga

Sam Tsui: <https://youtu.be/snDjIB4LUdc> nice strings, beautiful sound, WOW

Glee: <https://youtu.be/y513E10CmQg>

WAY DOWN WE GO – Kaleo

Facing West: <https://youtu.be/x7U7nClQ0qM> nice harmonies

Noah Mac (The Voice 2017): <https://youtu.be/SL5M75ej7YE>

CAN'T SHAKE IT – Kate Miller-Heidke

Kate Miller-Heidke: <https://youtu.be/k2o6buiDlfo>

EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DATES/NEWS

ASPIRE Holiday Rehearsal

Thursday 18 July 2019: St Pius X High School, Adamstown, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

ASPIRE Holiday Rehearsal

Friday 19 July 2019: St Pius X High School, Adamstown, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

ASPIRE Sunday Rehearsal

Sunday 21 July 2019: St Pius X High School, Adamstown, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

ASPIRE Sunday Rehearsal

Sunday 28 July 2019: St Pius X High School, Adamstown, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm

PRODUCTION WEEK

ASPIRE Dress Rehearsal

Monday 29 July 2019: Civic Theatre Newcastle, 8.30 am – 5.00 pm

ASPIRE Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 30 July 2019: Civic Theatre Newcastle, 8.30 am – 5.00 pm

ASPIRE FIRST Show Performance

Wednesday 31 July 2019: Civic Theatre Newcastle, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

ASPIRE SECOND Show Performance

Thursday 1 August 2019: Civic Theatre Newcastle, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

ASPIRE THIRD Show Performance

Friday 2 August 2019: Civic Theatre Newcastle, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

ASPIRE FOURTH Show Performance

Friday 2 August 2019: Civic Theatre Newcastle, 5.30 pm – 10.00 pm

ASPIRE FIFTH Show Performance

Saturday 3 August 2019: Civic Theatre Newcastle, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

ASPIRE FINAL Show Performance

Saturday 3 August 2019: Civic Theatre Newcastle, 5.30 pm – 10.00 pm

ANNA RECOMMENDS

*Musica Viva at the Zofo Harold Lobb
Concert Hall 16 May 2019*

*St Francis Xavier's College,
Hamilton presents A Midsummer
Night's Dream at the Civic Playhouse, 16
May 2019 - 18 May 2019*

*DioSounds at the Civic Theatre, 6 June
2019*

RUN THE WORLD – Beyoncé / **THE MAN** – The Killers

A cappella: <https://youtu.be/-DPSNGq-aXU>

Blossoms: <https://youtu.be/VF71y7HSFOc>

WHAT YOU WAITING FOR – Gwen Stefani / **TOXIC** – Britany Spears

Franz Ferdinand: <https://youtu.be/EP3nrF9ODlc>

Alex & Sierra (X Factor): <https://youtu.be/w9JDrf1QBO4>

READY TO GO – Republica

Rock Candy: <https://youtu.be/abwbDzjucFY>

PROUD – Heather Small

A cappella: <https://youtu.be/8WMPP2KsQ-U>

RockChoir: <https://youtu.be/SRtkAm0y5lc>

EVERYTHING'S NOT LOST – Coldplay

Chris MacDonald & Troy White: <https://youtu.be/FW6G78CJPTU>

TIMES LIKE THESE – Foo Fighters

Daisy & Nino: <https://youtu.be/jtjyHPk3N48>

Jeanette and Luke

DESIGN

The design ensemble continue to work on creating costumes and set artwork pieces. The students continue to push themselves creatively in producing the 'quirky' costumes for a dream scene as a part of the first act. Every week I am impressed by the collaborative efforts and enthusiasm the girls bring to each session. The next few weeks will involve undercoating and painting set pieces, if the students bring an old t-shirt, this will prevent damage to clothing.

Gillian

