

# ASPIRE

## NEWS

11 February 2020

### FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Rehearsals for ASPIRE 2020 are underway. Hooray! It's shaping up to be another very exciting year as we work on 'The Pecking Order'. In creating this script I've become something of a bird expert and have a head full of little fun bird related facts which I'm sure the cast will enjoy me sharing with them over the next six months.

Our ASPIRE newsletter comes out every fortnight and is designed to keep everyone up to date with where the ensembles are at and what your ensemble directors expectations are. Largely you will read the word PRACTICE a lot. It's vital that you rehearse your lines, songs, music and choreography each week, consolidate what you've learnt and come back prepared to build on that the following week. There will be a lot of material for you to absorb so taking the time to practice is very important.

Take the time to see things as well. Look at what is coming up in terms of theatre and music events. One of the best ways to develop as an artist is to go and see things and consider them. Did you like the performances? Why did you like them? If you didn't like something think about why that might be? What choices did the director make? In every newsletter there will be a selection of upcoming events that might be worthwhile for you to go and see.

I can't wait to see the show come together and get to know you all better over the coming months. I look forward to your input into the script and hearing your ideas for making the story the best we possibly can!

Anna



### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

#### DRAMA

Welcome to Aspire 2020! Jay and I can't begin to tell you how excited we are to be working with you creating theatre this year. The auditions themselves were so dynamic and it was incredible to see such a vast talent in our diocese. It certainly made our job difficult, and we are delighted to have more students in drama than ever before. So firstly, congratulations to you all.

Drama will begin at 4.30 pm for juniors each week. We will begin with some warm -up games and activities. Initially these warm-ups aim to help us learn to know each other, to build trust and then focus on skill development. We ask the seniors to arrive at 5.15 pm if possible and gather with Ollie, ASPIRE intern, to do their warm-ups so that they are ready to join the juniors at 5.30 pm. We will then be doing games and activities before moving onto using script, improvising and playbuilding. Working with other students really helps in developing as performers and we really hope to see all members of the drama ensemble improve their skills throughout 2020.

From time to time students will be given "homework" to complete during the week. This is really important as it encourages them to think about the show, the themes, and most importantly, their character. It is critical that they know as much as possible about their character in order to bring them to life. This year's show will also require a certain level of physicality and so students may need to also work on this at home.

We really look forward to working with your child throughout the year. Even after one week, the positive, happy energy was amazing. We are excited about creating a magical show later in the year.

Yours in Drama

Lisa and Jay

## DANCE

Welcome to Aspire 2020 dancers! We are so excited to have you all on board! We have already seen some tremendous talent and can't wait to help you explore what you can do and improve even further throughout the year.

ASPIRE is all about having a professional theatre experience and becoming an all-round performer, so you will all be singing, acting, and dancing in this production.

As you all now know, our characters are a little different this year. Which means each week we need you to bring your creativity as well as be open to trying new things and just giving it your all.

We look forward to working with you all!

**Lauren and Montana**

## MUSIC

It's the start of another exciting year at Aspire. This year's production "The Pecking Order" offers some interesting and challenging repertoire for the band. Already, the band have been working on two original songs written for this year's show- "Cash Vanity" and "Feathered" which some members of the band were involved in writing. Over the next few weeks the band will be receiving a lot of new repertoire (there's about 18 songs in the show!) It is important to practice your parts at home- learning the notes, rhythms and articulation, so that rehearsal time is used putting all sections together.

Remember to bring your music, a pencil, music stand, water and a snack to rehearsals. If you have any questions about the repertoire, especially questions that comes up when practicing, please see Jess or Dom at rehearsal.

Looking forward to Aspire 2020

**Jess and Dom**

## VOCAL

WELCOME to ASPIRE Vocal ensemble 2020 and CONGRATULATIONS on being successful in gaining a position in the program!

### VOCAL 365 GROUP

Our CSO-ASPIRE Vocal Ensemble Group is active now. You would have received an email from the group last week - please let us know if you did not receive this email. The lyrics + tracks have already been uploaded for you to start learning during the week.

## WEEKLY

Don't forget each week, to wear your full ASPIRE uniform (T-shirt) and bring:

- Folder with lyrics
- Pencil
- water bottle
- Electronic device (iPad / Laptop) that you would use at school for use during rehearsals.

### PROJECT COMPASSION LITURGY Rehearsals + Liturgy

Our first 'gig' will be the launch of PROJECT COMPASSION for the Diocese next week:  
# TUESDAY 18th Feb - ASPIRE rehearsal at the Sacred Heart cathedral 4.30-7.30  
# TUESDAY 25th Feb - Project Compassion liturgy + ASPIRE workshop @ Cathedral + CSO 8.30am - 3.30pm

Please do not hesitate to email if you have any questions:

[jeanette.chapman@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jeanette.chapman@mn.catholic.edu.au)

Have a wonderful week!

**Jeanette and Luke**

## EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DATES/NEWS

### PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCH

*Tuesday 18 February 2020 ASPIRE Rehearsal at the Sacred Heart Cathedral from 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm*

*Tuesday 25 February 2020 - Project Compassion liturgy + ASPIRE workshop at the Sacred Heart Cathedral and Catholic Schools Office Newcastle from 8.30 am – 3.30- pm*



## ANNA RECOMMENDS

***Bennelong by Bangarra Dance Theatre*** on Friday 28 February 2020 and Saturday 29 February 2020 at the Civic Theatre Newcastle at 7.30 pm

***Mixed Bill by Catapult Dance*** on Friday 6 March 2020 and Saturday 7 March 2020 at the Civic Theatre Newcastle at 7.30 pm

***Grace Under Pressure by David Williams and Paul Dwyer in collaboration with the Sydney Arts and Health Collective Presented by Alternative Facts*** at the Civic Theatre Newcastle on Friday 13 March 2020 at 7.30 pm and Saturday 14 March 2020 at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm

***Mr. Melancholy by Matt Cameron*** Maitland Repertory Theatre on Friday 13 March 2020 at 8.00 pm, Saturday 14 March 2020 at 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm and Sunday 15 March 2020 at 2.00 pm

## DESIGN

It was an exciting start to ASPIRE 2020 last Tuesday. It was wonderful to meet such an excited and enthusiastic group of students who will form the Design Ensemble this year. We spent some time getting to know a little bit about each other. The new students discussed with last year's returning design crew their experience of working on ASPIRE each week and the highs of production week. I hoped they gained some important insight to what is in store for them over the next few months. It was great for the students to hear firsthand the complexities of what is involved, possible problems that can occur and the rewarding experience of seeing their design work up on stage at the Civic. Last year's design team had such a positive experience and I am sure they conveyed this to the 'new guys' through their excitement last week.

During the middle hour, the students had an opportunity to join with the rest of the ensembles to discover the all-important story line for this year. We then spent some time doing some measuring of many cast members, so we can begin ordering and planning costume items. A big thankyou to all the students who signed up to be a part of the Design Ensemble in 2020 and I look forward to a great year working with you all.

Gillian

