

# ASPIRE

## NEWS

25 February 2020

### FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I cannot believe we're 4 weeks into rehearsal already. Time flies when you're doing a show about birds. I love that everyone has thrown themselves into the story this year, it feels like we're all invested which is amazing. Ollie and I popped down to puppetry company Erth in Sydney last week to talk all things puppet making and had an amazing time learning about masks, puppets and the mechanics of it all. We're looking forward to welcoming Erth for Special Guest week towards the end of this term.

It was so interesting reading what inspired everyone, so many musicians in particular that I had never heard of! Rest assured I'm slowly educating myself and discovering some great new artists. Be inspired by what we're creating at ASPIRE. You're all part of this super special process of creating a brand new production and I want to hear your thoughts and ideas. The story is coming together as our junior drama create young characters and senior drama and dancers experiment with bird movement. The band are embracing the range of music this year and our vocalists are harmonising already. It feels really positive, all good vibes one might say, so be inspired by that and by your fellow cast members.

Keep up the fabulous work guys...I am super pumped to see what the coming weeks bring!

Anna



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

### DRAMA

I can't believe that after only two rehearsals that I can already see some shape of this year's performance beginning to emerge. Jay and I have been very impressed by the ensemble's attitude and performance to date. They have begun already to think about character and movement and this is so important to us developing a high quality show.

Last Tuesday we hot-seated characters that the juniors had developed. We certainly had a variety of personalities, attitudes and beliefs on display. The juniors did such a great job with this task and managed to answer some difficult and obscure questions about their characters. They really committed to the task and showed their creativity and originality. This week they will be engaging in some simple scenes and given some monologues to prepare for next week. These will be used to audition within the ensemble for the various roles available.

The senior ensemble last week engaged in a movement workshop with Angie Diaz. It was really hard work physically and they demonstrated their "bird" skills extremely well. Some of the students have brilliant physicality and others are developing their skills. But just watching them bring these characters to life on stage was incredible. I can't wait to work on this again.

I hope that all drama ensemble members are settling in and starting to feel at home. Please continue to watch the birds in your environment and draw conclusions from them about their personalities. You are doing great work.

Take care

Lisa and Jay

## DANCE

Just a quick note about injuries and learning choreography.

Injuries will happen, we understand this, but please try to look after yourselves and make sure you are warming up your bodies in any physical activity you do. We definitely need to know about your injuries so we can help to keep you safe also, so let us know your injury and your limitations before rehearsals.

When it comes to learning choreography that you have missed from being away, this is up to you to learn before rehearsals or in any down time you have. We will also be putting videos up in a secure group for you to use for practise. We have so much choreography to learn so we just simply can't go backwards.

Look after yourselves!

**Lauren and Montana**

## MUSIC

The band have now received 7 pieces of music...and there are 19 songs in the show! It is important to practice your parts at home so that rehearsal time is spent rehearsing ensemble issues rather than learning notes. I have been impressed with the way the ensemble has adapted to the various styles of music played so far. The aim for the next couple weeks will be to work on learning entire songs so that the vocalists can join for some rehearsal time later this term. During rehearsals, think about the role your part has within the music- are you the melody, accompaniment, rhythm etc. Every role is as important as the other. Remember we are after quality of sound not quantity of notes!

**Jess and Dom**

## VOCAL

*CONGRATULATIONS* and a massive *THANK YOU* to all of the singers for your beautiful contribution to the liturgy to Launch Project Compassion for 2020. Your singing was absolutely magnificent in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Well done!

Next week we are back at St. Pius X for regular rehearsals so now it is time to really start getting into the songs and learning lyrics, intro's, breaks, instrumentals, harmonies etc.

On Tuesday 3rd March you will have the opportunity to audition for a 'solo' part in the show. If you intend to try out, please ensure you have emailed your song choice BEFORE Tuesday 3rd. Remember to choose only from the 10 songs that we have sent 'Backing Tracks' for. This mini-audition does in no way ensure that you will get a solo in the show.

Keep checking the **Aspire Vocal Ensemble 2020-Grp** via your school email. All tracks, lyrics, backing tracks, rehearsal notes etc. are found in the NoteBook ... so keep up to date with what is happening please.

Have a wonderful week!

**Jeanette and Luke**

## EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DATES/NEWS



## 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

***HMS Pinafore by the Hayes Theatre*** at Cessnock performing Arts Centre Saturday 7 March 2020

***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

***Music of the Guns Australian Army Band*** at Fort Scratchley on Saturday 14 March 2020

***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 has been an exciting couple of weeks with the Design Ensemble as we have started to produce costume pieces for ASPIRE 2020. I have been impressed by everyone's excellent collaboration skills, enthusiasm and general willingness to give anything a go! We have a great team this year and the creative design ideas have already begun to flow. Very soon, we will have a full list of the pieces and items to be designed and produced over the next two terms – goal setting and time management skills are going to be 'key' for us to enable the set and costumes to come to life on time!

Gillian

