

# ASPIRE

## NEWS

24 March 2020

### FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I hope you are all keeping safe and positive as the COVID 19 situation develops. I am looking forward to seeing most of you this evening in our first online rehearsal. Fingers crossed it works for us all. If it doesn't work that's ok, please don't stress. Sometimes technology will fail us but you all have things you can be working on independently and we will make sure everyone gets caught up who can't get online. This is new territory for all of us so be patient with it. Keep practicing and learning lines/music/choreography!

I can imagine many of you are starting to worry about or ask whether the show will go ahead, please try not to stress about this. We can't control the situation, and nobody knows how long these measures will be in place. Therefore, there is no sense in worrying about something we have no control over. At this stage we are moving forward as if we were performing in Term 3 as planned. Tickets won't go on sale until things are clearer, but we need to keep motivated and focused on our show. Because this is your show guys, you have all been and continue to be a part of its creation and development and it's you as a cast and crew that make it special so remain focused on telling this story to the best of our abilities.

Finally, my advice is to be creative in this time. Write music, tell a story, paint something, make something, write a script, sing songs, think about being a bird!

The writer Thomas Merton said, 'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.'

I think all need a bit of that at the moment!

Stay Safe and positive everyone!

Anna



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

### DRAMA

What a crazy world we currently find ourselves living in. Sometimes I feel like I am dreaming, and this is not really happening. But obviously that's not the case and this is the new norm.

So, rehearsal begins a new journey and that's really how we need to look at this experience. It's all a journey and we are all travelling together. I am excited to try this new way of rehearsing and meeting up with you all in cyber space.

We have such an amazing show that nothing can possibly kill it. Over time theatre has faced so many challenges and difficulties that this is one more step in its history. And I know that we can succeed because I know the passion, the commitment and the love that so many of us have that we will find new ways to achieve.

So, let's give this our best shot. Let's make The Pecking Order our greatest show yet.

Stay safe and work hard

**Lisa and Jay**

## DANCE

Hola Dancers!

Well what a topsy turvy week it has been! In these crazy times its really nice to know we have technology on our side, and we can still connect with one another. It's really important to keep doing what you love and stay focused towards your goals, ASPIRE being one of them! So in saying that....

Let's bring on Aspire 2.0 (our own version of just dance and tik tok)!  
Yes, it's going to be tricky. Yes, a little confusing. But also, probably very silly and fun!

Stay focused, stay strong, and be kind to one another :-)

See you when we're looking at you,

**Lauren and Montana**

## MUSIC

The band goes online! This week is our first week of having rehearsal online. This is a work in progress- this will be a challenge, but being the creative people, you are, I'm sure we'll work it out. We won't be able to work on ensemble skills; however, it will be an ideal opportunity to ensure you know your parts well and receive feedback on your individual progress. At this stage, there will be focus repertoire every week- songs that each of you will play individually during our rehearsals via Zoom (you will get to listen to each other). Use this time to make sure you're playing the correct notes, rhythms and articulation, and ask any questions you like.

Take care everyone,

**Jess and Dom**

## VOCAL

In the famous words of the amazing Walt Disney ...

*"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."*

This sounds just like us all here at ASPIRE 2020, as we go 'Zooming' through our rehearsals, down this uncharted path!

It is exciting to be a part of this innovative and electronic initiative that will help us move forward with 'The Pecking Order,' however now more than ever, we require you to really rehearse at home, learn your lyrics and constantly be checking your CSO Vocal Ensemble Group via school email.

In regard to the health of your voice, here are a few simple things that you can do to avoid vocal strain and sore throats!

- Warm up and cool down your voice before rehearsing
- Hydrate - drink lots of water
- Take 'vocal naps' during the day
- Do not abuse your voice - don't scream, yell
- Do not sing if your throat is a bit sore
- Humidify your home if possible
- Try to keep your throat / head / neck muscles relaxed when you sing - don't tense up!

Please stay safe and healthy!

See you on ZOOM

**Jeanette and Luke**





### DESIGN

Designers you been working well, and I am impressed by your ability to adapt to the changes in terms of costume making that have been happening. In costume design, it is important to focus on the functional properties of the costume as well as the way it looks. This has been the challenge over the last few weeks, to factor in dance and movement into the way a costume performs and looks. Finally, a solution is ready to go, so over the next few weeks I would like you all to begin cutting and assembling the pieces required for the singers and dancers.

Next week will be challenging. I am currently organising a kit for you to work on at home, however we are waiting for some foam to arrive so I can provide you with all the items you will require. On Tuesday, we will focus on each creating a logo and I have some practical tasks that I will get to you as well. Rest assure I will still be there every Tuesday to look after you in our 'virtual world' and guide you through. This will be a challenge guys, but I am sure you can do it!

Gillian

