

# ASPIRE

## NEWS

7 April 2020

### FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We're approaching the Easter holidays and in this period of lock down I'm sure we could do with some creative projects to while away the time. If you are looking for something creative then why not sign up for Ollie's fun project PlayHOUSE – where every participant gets sent a section of the hoarders next door script to dramatise in their own way. Or maybe you could create a bird sculpture for our design competition attached to the Pecking Order. Or if you're feeling super creative then you can participate in the online puppetry workshop Erth are running for us. There is also a script called 'The Pecking Order' that will be emailed to each of you, read it and send me any feedback you might have!

Of course in addition to these creative projects you have your ASPIRE text, music, choreography and design work to be rehearsing and getting on with. Pick a piece to work on each day and focus on getting it perfect. Think about your bird character and spend some time in front of the mirror practising your movement. Find your bird character in the outside whilst you're out exercising – observe them and try and imitate their movements. Think in general about your technique and identify which skills you need to work on.

It's a difficult and weird time and I'm thinking of all of you. But remember guys we're doing this for our community and that's pretty amazing. So be creative, use the time to consider how this has changed your perception of things. Write a song, a story, a script, draw, paint, sculpt, learn something new like a language or an instrument. Or just sit on the couch and enjoy watching art that's already been made and appreciate that! Above all stay strong and positive. ...☺

Anna



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

### DRAMA

It is really important in this time that we keep working on our drama skills. It is actually an opportunity for you to do some new things and explore new aspects of drama.

What can you do to work on your drama skills?

- Firstly, learn your lines for ASPIRE. That is critical – it will be expected that you know all lines fluently when on that magic day we return for rehearsal again.
- Try saying your lines in different ways. There are infinite number of ways to say any line. Play with different ways and see which way that you like best.
- Develop your character. Spend time during each day being your character. It will really help make your character real.
- Watch the birds outside. Sit in your back yard and watch them – they are still free, even though we are not. Watch how they move, interact and sound. Pick their moods. Imagine they were real birds in ASPIRE.

Then you can always...

- Write your own play. There are many different competitions open in Australia for young playwrights.
- Make a short film.
- Work on the ASPIRE competition film on Hoarders.
- Look online and find your favourite costume and set design. Send me your favourite one and tell me why it is amazing.
- Read a play – there are so many plays out there – but you may need to order them online. Don't forget to wipe them over when they arrive.
- Make a one minute monologue from song lines or the big movie lines that everyone knows. Film them. We would love to see them.

There are so many things that you can do. I know that you miss the interaction between your friends online and that ASPIRE may not be as much fun as usual but hang in there. The world is changing, enjoy the ride.

Lisa and Jay

## DANCE

Hey there dancers!

We are so proud of you all! Not only are you being amazing during rehearsals, but we can also see that you are all practicing in your own time as well.

Our first two Zoom rehearsals have gone very well. There have been a few technical issues (as to be expected) but we have learnt a whole number in just two sessions!

Let's continue to all use our time for the better and set goals for yourself like we have the last two weeks. Remember when setting your goals to make them 'SMART' goals;

- Specific
- Measurable
- Attainable
- Relevant
- Time Bound

Maybe you even have a goal for just one day? Say....getting out of your PJs before 9am?! Who knows, the possibilities are endless!

### Lauren and Montana

## MUSIC

What a term!

Congratulation to the musos who have participated in our online rehearsals- your patience and persistence is to be commended. There have been some sound issues to sort out, but we are now becoming experts at online rehearsing. I've enjoyed being able to work with each of you at a focussed individual level. It has been genuinely uplifting to see everyone on a Tuesday evening, to be socially connected but physically distant. Keep an eye out...during the holidays NEW MUSIC will be emailed. Wishing you kindness and care,

### Jess and Dom

PS Wash your hands :)

## VOCAL

**WHO IS YOUR CHARACTER?  
WHAT STORY ARE YOU TELLING?  
WHAT IS THE SONG ABOUT?**

These are the 3 main questions that we would like you to consider during the school holidays.

It is essential that you know exactly who? and what? and why? you are on the stage. You must convince the audience of your story ... be authentic!

So next term ...

- we anticipate that we will continue with Zoom
- please know ALL the lyrics from memory - no notes!
- know your character & why you are on stage
- read the entire script so you are confident of your role in the overall story
- practise in front of your mirror
- sing to your parents
- record yourself and watch it back
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Have a wonderful holiday. Stay safe and stay well

See you on ZOOM

### Jeanette and Luke



## ANNA RECOMMENDS

*National Theatre Live* is streaming one production for free each week on YouTube

*Sadlers Wells Dance Company* has a program of free online workshops and performances

*The Globe theatre* is streaming 40 productions for free over the next few weeks

## DESIGN

I continue to be impressed by the design ensemble and your ability to cope with our new circumstances. I look forward to our weekly making sessions on Zoom as it gives us all that much needed opportunity to connect and catch-up with each other. Caitlin is doing a great job of keeping us entertained with her jokes and quirky observations on life. Everyone else, I am so impressed with the work you are doing. I know you guys are missing your 'Chai Time' from Westfield and the tunes you're used to pumping out in the art room, but we are still getting it done! In fact, you are working faster than normal, which is fantastic. If anyone would like some more materials to work with over the holidays, I am just an email away. My house is full of foam, so I would be more than happy to deliver some more kits to you. Also a big thankyou to **Jen Roach** who has joined our weekly sessions and continues to support the design ensemble and ASPIRE.

Congratulations to all students for your hard work this term. Enjoy your holidays Designers!

I am looking forward to more creating, music and fun times during term two!

Gillian

