

ASPIRE

NEWS

9 February 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to ASPIRE 2021!

It has been a pretty crazy start to the year as we wrapped up 'the Pecking Order' but I am happy to say that we are now firmly fixed on 'The Masked DJ' our 2021 production and it's pretty special as this is also our 10th ASPIRE production. It was great to get us all together last week for our first rehearsal at St Pius. We launched into getting to know each other and everyone is excited for the next 6 months of getting a show ready.

This week I will be talking the cast through the plot of the show and talking a little about our expectations of everyone. Thinking about that I want to offer the cast a few pieces of advice that will help them get the most out of the ASPIRE experience.

1. Don't be afraid of getting things wrong. ASPIRE should challenge us and sometimes that means we might make mistakes as we learn new things and try out different ideas. That's ok. Creativity involves quite a lot of failing – so fail spectacularly, it's how you learn!
2. Run your own race – don't worry about how many lines someone else has or whether someone else has a solo. Focus on your own journey in ASPIRE. The nature of theatre is such that not everyone has exactly the same amount of stage time or music, that's the reality and it is out of your control. Focus on your role.
3. Meet new people, say hi to people from other ensembles. ASPIRE is about connecting like-minded students, enjoy meeting your peers and making new friendships. Have conversations!
4. Ask questions. If you're not sure about what you've been asked to do...ASK. If you don't understand why something is in the script...ASK! If you don't understand the point of an activity...ASK! Asking questions is good, it means you're thinking about what you're doing.
5. Have fun. Enjoy this experience ASPIRE should be fun, you should love coming to rehearsals. If for any reason you aren't having fun come and talk to your ensemble directors or myself – quite often something that might be affecting your enjoyment can be quite easily fixed by talking it out.

Thanks guys I am so excited to get started on our production and go on this crazy journey with you all. Let's have an amazing year.

Anna



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

Welcome to Drama Ensemble

It certainly did feel a strange feeling beginning a new year of Aspire when we hadn't completed the 2020 show. It was almost a reluctance to move to 2021 before we had completed The Pecking Order. However, we are now here, fully committed to 2021 and our new show. This year represents our 10th year of Aspire and during that time I have met many talented, committed, and amazing actors who have inspired and amazed me. I am sure that this year will be no different and we expect big things from our Drama Ensemble.

We would like to welcome all new students in both Junior and Senior Ensembles. We want you to know that we are delighted to be working with you this year and hope that you learn a lot about acting and performing, make new friends and have a wonderful experience along the way. You are now a part of the Aspire family and look forward to getting to know you. To those students who have returned for another year, you know how exciting it is to begin work on a new show.

Jay and I would like to remind you of the following:

- Please wear your Aspire clothes to rehearsal each week
- We ask that seniors arrive at 5.15 to begin their warm up so that they are ready to begin at 5.30 pm
- Please make sure that you inform Jay or myself before you leave so that we know you are safe.
- Bring a pencil or pen to each rehearsal. It would be really handy to have a display folder or zipped bag for your script and paper.
- Please let us know of any injuries that you may have that could impact on you during rehearsal.
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Finally, if you have any worries, questions or concerns please talk to us. We want everyone to feel like they belong and look forward to each rehearsal as we do.

Your in Drama

Lisa and Jay

DANCE

Welcome dancers to Aspire 2021!

What an exciting year it will be!

It's your time to dive into new opportunities, embrace styles that may be out of your comfort zone, and enjoy working as an ensemble with like minded students who I'm sure, will become friends.

We will be throwing challenges your way both in dance and performance in general. ASPIRE is a one stop shop, so you will also delve into other elements of performance.

We are so impressed with the level of talent in this ensemble already and are so excited to watch you all grow.

Let's get moving!!!

Lauren and Montana

MUSIC

Bring on 2021!

The band began rehearsals last week with the usual welcomes and getting to know activities (favourite fruit anyone?!). There were many returning musos to the ensemble as well as some new faces. The band has already received two pieces- Warp 1.9 and Vogue, with more to come over the following weeks. This looks to be another exciting year at Aspire with challenging repertoire with lots of interesting arrangements and sounds. Band members are expected to bring their music every week... there will be a lot of music by the end of the term! Be sure to wear your Aspire shirts for rehearsals and bring water and a snack for break time.

Any questions please see Jess or Dom at rehearsal.

Jess and Dom

VOCAL

Welcome to ASPIRE 2021!

It is wonderful to have you in the Vocal ensemble ... get ready to work hard and have lots of fun!

VOCAL 365 GROUP

Our CSO-ASPIRE Vocal Ensemble Group is active now.

You would have received an email from the group last week inviting you to be a part of this 'private' group - please let us know if you did not receive this email. It is very important that you regularly check the group, so you know what is happening in our ensemble each week.

The lyrics + tracks will be uploaded each week for you to start rehearsing and learning the songs at home.

WEEKLY

Don't forget each week, to wear your full ASPIRE uniform (T-shirt) + appropriate shorts / pants / skirts + closed in shoes and bring;

- Folder with lyrics (we will continue to add to this folder as we rehearse)
- Pencil
- water bottle
- Electronic device (iPad / Laptop) that you would use at school for use during rehearsals.

Well done on a great start to our ASPIRE year. We are looking forward to working with you on 'The Masked DJ.'

Jeanette and Luke

EXCITING AND IMPORTANT
DATES/NEWS

ANNA RECOMMENDS

Love Letters by Newcastle Theatre Company on Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 8.00 pm, Friday 26 February 2021 at 8.00 pm and Saturday 27 February 2021 at 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm at Wiles Auditorium Newcastle

Do Your Parents Know You're Straight by Barefoot Theatre on Wednesday 17 February 2021 and Thursday 18 February 2021 at 7.30 pm, Friday 19 February 2021 at 8.00 pm and Saturday 20 February 2021 at 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm at the Civic Theatre Newcastle

Chess The Musical by The Very Popular Theatre Company on Friday 26 February 2021 at 8.00 pm and Saturday 27 February 2021 at 2.00 pm and 8.00 pm and Sunday 28 February 2021 at 3.00 pm at the Civic Theatre Newcastle

DESIGN

Welcome back for 2021! I will start by introducing myself, I am Lara Crockett and I am the new design ensemble director for 2021, I am so excited to be working more closely with the ASPIRE team after being a committee member for a few years. We have started this year off with brainstorming ideas for a big number in the 2021 show. I met the team for the first time and I was so impressed by everyone's outstanding collaboration skills and enthusiasm. In the coming weeks we will begin with some material experimentation and measuring up the cast for their costumes. It will be important for us to set some goals so we can get everything we need completed in time. I look forward to an awesome year working with my mighty design team

Lara 😊

