

ASPIRE

NEWS

23 March 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As we head into the holidays you should all be very proud of what you've achieved so far in the rehearsal process. It's really inspiring to see the show starting to come together. In the final 2 weeks of rehearsals I really excited to hear the vocalists and the band join forces for the first time as well as hearing the full script read by our drama ensembles. Our dance ensemble have been learning a massive amount of choreography and our designers have come up with some fantastic concepts for one of the 'Wow' musical numbers in the show.

Over the holidays please make sure you learn your lines and lyrics. You practice your choreography and any movement you might have learnt so far. You rehearse your music as it's going to be performed with all dynamics. It's imperative that you come back in Term 2 having a really good grasp of the content as we will be starting to put parts of the production together quite early on in the term. Your ensemble directors will talk to you about ways of learning lines and rehearsing on your own.

Finally, you will all receive a digital copy of the script next week to read over the break. Please do read it so you understand what the production is all about and who the characters are. It's not enough to just know what the songs are and what your bit of the production is all about. You need to understand where everything fits into the overall story. I would also very much appreciate your feedback what do you like about the script, which characters do you think are interesting and most importantly – what don't you like? Is there anything that feels fake or doesn't work for you. This feedback will really help put the final touches on the story.

Enjoy your break!
Anna



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

Time is flying by and leaving us with about 12 weeks of rehearsal. It will certainly be a challenge to get ourselves organised and ready for the 2021 show. But we love challenges and know that all will work hard and achieve to the best of our ability.

To do this we recommend that the drama ensemble regularly commit to the following:

1. Read your script every week
2. Make a plan to learn your lines during the coming holidays
3. Think about your character and make decisions about how to perform this character
4. Write notes on your script. It should be a working document and have notations all over it
5. Use your rehearsal time well
6. If unsure, ask questions. Jay, Anna and I love your questions about the script or characters
7. Measure your own improvement. Are you getting better each week? Are your skills improving. Think about 2 or 3 areas of your skills that need development
8. Believe in yourself

Acting is a skill. Remember that soccer players need to train. Musicians need to practise on their instruments. Dancers need to work on their pieces. So, you too, as an actor, need to do regular work on your skills. If you just turn up each Tuesday without having done any work, then you are not totally giving 100%. Accept the challenge to improve.

Lisa and Jay

DANCE

Howdy Dancers!

I hope everyone is safe and well! Thank you all for working so well for Sophie and I can't wait to see what you achieved.

We are going to be learning new choreography for a while yet as there is lots to do for this show. I understand it can be hard to remember it all so make sure you are checking the videos in between rehearsals.

What to work on this round: TURNS! Take it back to the basics and start by working on spotting, preparation, and arm placement. Your core stability is vital in turns so make sure you are switching on!

Lauren and Sophie

MUSIC

Music, music, music!

The band have now received 15 songs (some are only 20 second snippets), with another 12 or so to go. This is the biggest year of music that the Aspire production has ever undertaken. It is important that you have your music in order and contact Jess or Dom if you are missing music or have been away. The last couple of weeks of Term 1 will be spent consolidating the repertoire rehearsed so far. There will be new music handed out early next term, so it is important that the band are proficient with the music received so far, so that they can spend next term learning even more music. Be sure to practise along with the audio tracks that have been emailed out during the term.

Happy practising 😊

Jess and Dom

VOCAL

WHO IS YOUR CHARACTER?

When you auditioned to be a part of ASPIRE 2021, you probably thought that you would just be 'singing' throughout the show ... well, have we got news for you!!

Being in THE MASKED DJ, requires a lot more than just singing ... we have to sing, dance, act and convince the audience that we are a certain character. In this year's show, you are students at a school.

So, start thinking about WHO you are. Are you a student who is:

- conscientious
- bored
- an avid reader
- sporty
- musical
- alone
- popular
- the class clown
- a leader
- a follower

As we approach the end of Term 1, you need to start considering your character as well as learning your lyrics and moves ... it is so much fun!!

See you next week ... stay safe

Jeanette and Luke

EXCITING AND IMPORTANT
DATES/NEWS

ANNA RECOMMENDS

The Women in Black by The Metropolitan Players on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 7.30 pm, Thursday 25 March 2021 at 7.30 pm, Friday 26 March 2021 at 7.30 pm and Saturday 27 March 2021 at 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm at the Civic Theatre Newcastle

National Theatre Live presents Warhorse on Tuesday 6 April 2021 at the Manning Entertainment Centre, Taree

Hunter Drama presents The Witches on, Thursday 15 April 2021 at 7.00 pm, Friday 16 April 2021 at 10.00 am and 7.00 pm and Saturday 17 April 2021 at 10.00 am, 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm at the Civic Playhouse

Victorian State Ballet presents The Little Mermaid on Friday 30 April 2021 at 8.00 pm at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

DESIGN

The design crew have been working really well this term. We have been impressed with your maturity and ability to continue to get things done whilst Lara has been resting her fractured leg. I have enjoyed stepping in and filling-in during Lara's absence. Get well soon Lara!

We had the pleasure to welcome and meet our new ASPIRE Customer Designer Kaswyn Hunt over a zoom meeting. It was fabulous to talk to Kaswyn about our show-goals as we begin to work together. Anna and I were impressed watching our design crew speak-up, asking questions, and sharing ideas.

Jennifer 😊

