

ASPIRE

NEWS

27 April 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It's been a flying start to Term 2 for ASPIRE, this is where we really kick things up a notch as the production draws closer. Rather than remaining in our separate ensembles there will be lots of cross over as we start to put the whole production together. The script will be in everyone's inbox on the weekend and drama and vocal ensembles received their hard copy on Tuesday. Please send me any thoughts you have, this is still a work in progress. It's very normal for a new production to have small changes made right up until the performances so be prepared for these.

Your script is your best friend, treat it with care. Make sure you write down any blocking you might have in it, honestly you think you will remember everything but you won't. Write down which side you are coming on from, draw yourself a map of the stage if you're a visual person, if you are given a note about performing something in a particular way then write that down so you don't forget. It really is an important part of being in a production so please use it.

I'd like to give a very big shout out to the eleven cast members who represented ASPIRE as part of the Combined Schools Anzac Performance. These students gave a beautiful performance at the event and were a credit to ASPIRE and the wider diocese. Thanks guys!

Anna



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

I am often asked about this time of the best ways of learning lines. I have combined here a combination of my own ideas and ideas from the internet. I hope they help you as time to learn lines will be really short this year:

1. Read the lines aloud. By speaking the lines you will hear them and they are more likely to stick.
2. Ask a friend to help you. Friends can correct you on any mistakes you make, give you the cue lines and go back over any weak areas.
3. Practise, practise, practise. There are no short cuts.
4. Little and often. Go over them first thing in the morning, a few times during the day and last thing at night.
5. There are several apps which can help with learning lines. With [Line Learner](#) you record all the lines including those of other characters and then listen to them leaving silent pauses to speak your own lines. With [Rehearsal Pro](#) you can upload a script and watch it scrolling by as you record your lines to listen to but it is pretty expensive and you probably don't need an app of this sophistication. Run Lines is easy to use and free. Try this one first.
6. Even if you don't use an app you can make a recording of the scene with a tape-recorder or smartphone. Listen to it while you are on the bus or doing the dishes. It's a good idea to leave gaps in the recording to speak your own lines.
7. Move around while you are saying your lines. This has been [scientifically proven](#) to aid memory. The best thing to do is to act and feel the emotions of the character so that you are learning the meaning of the speech as much as the words. Or just for a change you can even do something entirely unrelated like juggling or sweeping the floor.
8. Go for a drive or better still a walk. Walking and saying your lines can be quite relaxing (though beware of strange looks from passers-by).
9. Learn the cue lines that lead into each of your lines. Being prompt with your lines will give you and your fellow actors more confidence. The lines that are cue lines to songs or lighting cues are critical. You must get these right and deliver them accurately. The stage manager is listening for an exact line to call the upcoming cue.

DRAMA - continued

10. As you say or read the lines, believe them. They don't exist on their own. Even though you have said them hundreds of times, the audience needs to hear them as if this is the first time you have said them.
11. In rehearsals, listen to and think about what the other actors are saying. Don't just concentrate on what you've got to say. This helps your lines make sense. After all, you are often replying to what is said to you.
12. Make a recording of the cast reading the script and use this to practise with so that you get used to hearing the other characters' voices.

I hope these help you. Good luck in your line learning.

Lisa and Jay

DANCE

Dazzling Dancers,

You guys are smashing it! I know there's so much to learn but you are doing so well!

Please make sure you are practising everything on your own in between rehearsals, as there are still some of you relying on others for choreography. You know who you are! If you don't, then challenge yourself by making a point of looking straight ahead instead of at those around you and see if it is in your muscle memory yet. We are going start adding other ensembles to our routines now, so you absolutely need to be confident in where you are going and what you are doing!

Keep up the good work!

Lauren and Sophie and Montana (in spirit)

MUSIC

Term 2

It's been a busy start to Term 2 rehearsals with two more songs handed out last week- This is What You Came For and Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad? There is much more music to be handed out over the coming weeks. It is important that you know your music and have practised along with the audio tracks emailed out last week.

You have also been emailed an up-to-date repertoire list- if you are missing any music please email jessica.lopez@mn.catholic.edu.au and I will send you a copy of your music.

Jess and Dom

VOCAL

"PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT"

This saying has been around since the 1550's, so it has really stood the test of time.

It is not surprising that it has lasted so long since this saying can be applied to so many areas of our lives ... and it really is true!

As we embark on our final full term of ASPIRE rehearsals, it is imperative that you are constantly singing your songs, rehearsing your moves, building on your character!

PLEASE look over our **CSO VOCAL GROUP** each week for:

- notes on rehearsals
- lyrics
- script
- videos for rehearsal
- newsletters
- tracks
- backing tracks

Stay well and safe.

Jeanette and Luke

EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DATES/NEWS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY REHEARSALS

Wednesday 7 July 2021 from 9.30 am - 4.00 pm at St Pius X High School, Adamstown

Thursday 8 July 2021 from 9.30 am - 4.00 pm at St Pius X High School, Adamstown

Friday 9 July 2021 from 9.30 am - 4.00 pm at St Pius X High School, Adamstown

SUNDAY REHEARSALS

Sunday 11 July 2021 from 9.30 am - 4.00 pm at St Pius X High School, Adamstown

PRODUCTION WEEK

Sunday 18 July 2021 - Sound Check Rehearsal from 9.30 am - 4.00 pm at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Monday 19 July 2021 - Technical Rehearsal 8.30 am - 5.00 pm at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Tuesday 20 July 2021 - Dress Rehearsal 8.30 am - 5.00 pm at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Wednesday 21 July 2021 - First Show Performance Call Time 9.30 am at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Thursday 22 July 2021 - Second Show Performance Call Time 9.30 am at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Friday 23 July 2021 - Third Show Performance Call Time 9.30 am at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Friday 23 July 2021 - Fourth Show Performance Call Time 5.30 pm at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Saturday 24 July 2021 - Final Show Performance Call Time 5.30 pm at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle

ANNA RECOMMENDS

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

The Very Popular Theatre Company presents Mystery Musical on Saturday 1 May 2021 at 2.00 pm, Saturday 1 May 2021 at 7.30 pm, Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 7.30 pm, Friday 7 May 2021 at 7.30 pm, Saturday 8 May 2021 at 2.00 pm and Saturday 8 May 2021 at 7.30 pm at the Civic Theatre Newcastle

DESIGN

I am back on deck with my moon boot on and ready to go. I need to say a massive thank you to Jen for stepping up while I was off my feet, and the amazing crew who just kept going. The design crew are still in full high fashion mode with all of our amazing costumes coming together for our big number. Before the holidays we went on a shopping trip and during the holidays our online orders arrived, so first week back we worked hard on creating high fashion garments.

We have a short term and still lots of work to do, but we have a good plan and are on track to finish!

Lara 😊

