

ASPIRE

NEWS

11 May 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hi Everyone!

We have a massive amount of content in 'The Masked DJ'. It is literally the most music and choreography we have ever had in an ASPIRE production which is super exciting but also a little bit daunting. We do realise there is a lot for you to learn and get to grips with, however ASPIRE is all about challenging yourself and you need to be actively asking how you can continue to develop as a performer.

Keep asking yourself how can I improve, ask your ensemble directors what they think you should work on. Everybody who is onstage will be acting, playing a part, you are students in a school. What is your character? What facial expressions can you use to portray them? How does your character stand, walk, move through the space? If you're in the band, what songs do you need to work on, how can you assist the story of each song, create the vibes we want for each piece? By thinking about these details, we are really being conscious of the whole production and each of the songs and scenes place in it.

The last three weeks of Term are going to be very much about pulling the entire show together. In week 8 we will be working through Act 1, then Act 2 in weeks 9 and finally doing a full run through in week 10. There will be a lot of new information to take in when we come to these weeks which is why it is imperative that you are really across what you have learnt up to that point and its place in the story. A new script will be hitting each of your inboxes on Tuesday morning, please have a read of it!

Anna ☺



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

Your Senses or Ways to be Amazing on stage.

I love being asked questions about the show or about character or about ways to improve. It shows me that you are thinking and believing and creating truth in your acting. Your senses are such an important part of your acting and of the whole acting process. The actor aims to impact on the audience and make us see feel taste touch and smell the whole experience.

As an actor you need to be constantly trying to improve yourself, your connection to the world and your understanding of yourself and others. This gives you options and allows you to develop as a performer. So, this week as you journey in your actor training, I want you to do the five steps below:

1. Find the beauty in your world. Look around you and start to view your world with new eyes and ears. I once went on a journey with a child who had been given the power of hearing for the first time. His joy at every sound was infectious. Knowing that cars go whoosh, whoosh as they pass by you suddenly seemed to matter. The real sound of voices and what they can tell you without words. It taught me the importance to Feel your world, go touch everything that you can find. Feel dirt, leaves, grass, anything. Blend your senses with the world and learn to bring it to you to the stage.
2. Find out three facts on a topic that you would never study and include one of those facts in a scene that you will play this week.
3. Taste things that you have always disregarded and see what they really taste like. If you are brave video yourself tasting it. It may show you so much about facial expressions.
4. Listen to a piece of music really closely. Make sure that you don't know this piece of music, Really listen closely and hear the story that the music is telling you.
5. Finally watch one character perform in a tv show or a movie. How do they go about making truth in what they are doing?

DRAMA - continued

Try to apply some of these sense aspects to your work at aspire. Make today the day that you begin your journey in real actor training. Learn to love what you do. Use criticism to help you become even better at the character that you are playing. Make sure that you continue to check your emails and read the evaluations of the run. Enjoy your week. Explore the senses.

Lisa and Jay

DANCE

Ola Dancers!

Welcome to another Aspire newsletter where we tell you to Practise practise practise!!!!

As you know, we have so much to learn so please get these routines into your muscle memory so you can be working on your performance.

Now that we are adding others into routines, we really need your patience. If there are times when you are not needed feel free to go over things with others but please do this nice and quietly.

Thanks again for all your hard work everyone!

Lauren and Sophie and Montana (in spirit)

MUSIC

The Time to Practice

The band continues to receive more and more new music. This is different to previous years, when the band would have received all their music by now and we would be refining and working on the sound as an ensemble. This is because this year's show keeps evolving- things change during the creative process, new ideas pop up. This different approach to rehearsal means that it is vital that every band member practises their music, playing along with the tracks that were sent out a couple of weeks ago, so they don't fall behind. We are refining our sound as we go, so that we can learn new music throughout this term without having to go over old music all the time. Please email Jess if you are missing any music.

Jess and Dom

VOCAL

***"No one ever made a difference by being like everyone else".
PT Barnum (The Greatest Showman)***

This quote from PT Barnum (1810-1891) has certainly been around a long, long time ... and it applies beautifully to our ASPIRE journey and our show.

As we continue to rehearse each week, try to make the song 'yours' ... use expressions and vocal techniques that individualise the song and help to tell the story. Especially if you have a solo part!

Certainly, sing the composed melody, but don't be afraid to improvise a bit or add something to make the song just a 'little bit different.'

Here are a few clips of some of our repertoire performed by various musicians that might give you some ideas!

BOOGIE WONDERLAND <https://youtu.be/god7hAPv8f0>
GOT TO BE REAL <https://youtu.be/54Hsk7-q960>
I DON'T FEEL LIKE DANCING <https://youtu.be/4H516y1Qvz0>
VOGUE <https://youtu.be/P4oD-RNoo5o>
THIS IS WHAT YOU CAME FOR <https://youtu.be/kOkQ4T5W09E>
FUNKY TOWN <https://youtu.be/VnejLmQGYhg>
STRONG <https://youtu.be/0VdDYevWGRq>
THINGS CAN ONLY GET BETTER <https://youtu.be/V6QhAZckY8w>
CRYING AT THE DISCOTEQUE <https://youtu.be/7CiOWcUVGJM>
LOLA'S THEME https://youtu.be/Ba0_tj93v_0

Have a wonderful week. Stay warm, 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

The Hoarders Live and Filmed presented by ASPIRE on Monday 24 May 2021 at 7.00 pm and Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 7.00 pm at the Civic Playhouse Newcastle

Impermanence by Sydney Dance Company on Wednesday 9 June 2021 at the Civic Theatre Newcastle

DESIGN

Design, sew, glue and repeat. The crew are working hard and creating some amazing high fashion pieces!

We have met with our Costume Designer Kaswyn and our Set Designer Lisa and are all working together to ensure we have a cohesive show when we hit the stage next term! We are still working very hard to make sure we are on track to get all our pieces completed. We have been working with the mantra that if you would wear it down the street then it is not high fashion!

Lara 😊

