

# ASPIRE

## NEWS

25 May 2021

### FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We are getting ready to start working through the production as a full cast. There are a few things to think about as we approach this task.

It's daunting: it can be incredibly daunting letting the rest of the cast see and hear what you've been doing. Don't forget we're a team. Give your best and be supportive of the rest of the cast. We're all telling this story together.

It's exciting: some stuff is going to look and sound amazing! Be excited by this, tell your cast mates well done. Enjoy the opportunity to celebrate our achievements.

It's scary: some stuff is not going to look and sound amazing. This is normal. Don't get downhearted if things aren't working. This is the first time this script has been performed and put on stage. Nobody gets everything right first time. See these moments as a learning experience- why doesn't something work? How are we fixing it?

It's a learning experience: this whole experience is about learning. Don't have your phones out when you're not in scenes or songs. Be watching and supporting and taking in what's happening onstage. You learn so much through observation.

Make sure you keep practicing guys - remember I don't want to see any scripts onstage, so all lines need to be learnt. Make sure you keep your script handy though to make notes about blocking and direction you might receive.

Our production crew are about to join us - please make them feel welcome. They will be observing and working out what their role is throughout the production. They are a very important component of the team so please work with them at all times.

We're getting close!!!

Anna ☺



### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

#### DRAMA

##### ***How to be professional at rehearsals***

Today's report is a few ideas about being professional at rehearsal. We have always tried to run Aspire as a professional theatre company, not as teenagers in a school setting. So, what expectations does this mean we have of you?

1. Come prepared. Know what we are rehearsing and do your homework. Read the scenes that we will be working on and have a list of questions that you need to ask
2. Always bring your script and a pencil to make notes.
3. Listen to all scenes and feedback. You never know what you will learn.
4. Follow deadlines. Anna has asked you to be off script by week 8. To achieve that, you should be working on it every day.
5. Wear your uniform. It unites us as an ensemble.
6. Always give your best.
7. Don't ever talk when others are on stage. It is extremely disrespectful.
8. Don't distract others. You need to use self-discipline.
9. You should not be on your phone.
10. Be where you should be at all times.
11. Respect all members of the cast at all times.
12. Remember that ASPIRE follows the hands off rules.

Finally,

Remember everyone that our focus with performance is our two P's. Pace and Projection. The audience feels when we lose energy, and we as actors lose our projection if that loss of energy is felt. Be ready to speed/drill some of your scenes backstage- this will keep you alert and help the memory of the lines! We have come so far in the first half of term- let's not slow down here!

Lisa and Jay

## DANCE

Howdy Dancers!

We have just about ploughed through all our routines! Hooray! They are looking great and are now needing that performance value. Spend this week thinking about characterisation and making sure that there is intent behind your movement. I will explain this in more depth next week.

Thank you all for your commitment and patience each week. I'm already proud of you guys....wait til we get to show week!!

**Lauren, Sophie, and Montana (through good vibes)!**

## MUSIC

### *Spinning Around*

The list of music just keeps growing and growing. Last week the band received "Spin Medley", one of the longest and involved pieces the Aspire Stage Band has ever undertaken. This piece is a mash up of the dance hits "Spinning Around", "Turn the Beat Around" and "You Spin Me Round", especially created for the Aspire production this year. It's important for students to practise along with the track (check your emails), so that you are familiar with the medley, and how your parts fits in with the song.

In TWO WEEKS TIME, we will be running parts of the show. To help with accuracy and stamina, please ensure you have practiced playing all songs with the tracks in preparation for the final weeks of rehearsal this term.

**Jess and Dom**

## VOCAL

### **Word of the Week: FOCUS**

#### *... as a noun*

- a centre of activity, attraction, or attention
- a point of concentration
- directed attention: **EMPHASIS**
- a state or condition permitting clear perception or understanding
- adjustment for distinct vision

#### *... as a verb*

- to cause to be concentrated
- to bring into focus
- to bring to a focus: **CONCENTRATE**
- to concentrate attention or effort

The Merriam Webster Dictionary provides numerous definitions of our word of the week: FOCUS ... and nearly ALL of them seem appropriate for us as we move closer to our ASPIRE show.

It is imperative that we all FOCUS on rehearsals – from the small 'vocal ensemble' things right up to the massive 'full cast' things!

We have so much going on: blocking, exits, stage directions, dance moves, lines, cues ... not to mention remembering to SING!

We have no time to waste ... let FOCUS on this amazing show and work together as a cohesive team!

Stay warm 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

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

*Twelfth Night* on Thursday 10 June 2021 at 7.30 pm and Friday 11 June 2021 at 7.30 pm at the Civic Playhouse, Newcastle

### DESIGN

Designers have been working so well, pushing themselves out of comfort zone trying to make high fashion garments.

We have started fitting different members of the vocal ensemble and ticking off our to-do list of costumes. Kaswyn, our costume designer, has been working hard on designing the dancers' outfits and some of the drama ensembles' outfits as well.

We met the graphic designer for the show and set designer Lisa Little met with us this week and discussed what the other design elements will be part of the show!

We also met up with our set maker to discuss the making and design of something amazing that involves the dancers and vocal ensemble.

5 short weeks left of rehearsals before we are into holidays, I am sure we will be utilising all our holiday rehearsal days to fullest!

Lara 😊

