

ASPIRE

NEWS

22 June 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The holidays are upon us! It's important that you look after yourselves over the break as we have an intensive few days of rehearsal in the second week. These four days will see the production change dramatically and go from feeling like lots of little sections to feeling like a fluid story. Be prepared for things to change in these rehearsals, locking, dance moves, even some of the dialogue. Please bring your script and a pencil with you each day to keep your scripts updated.

When rehearsing on your own make sure you think about where you enter and exit from, what your blocking is, how you interact with the other performers. Think about what you are doing the entire time you are onstage. It's important you are constantly in character in the world of the story not just for your lines but for entire scenes. When practicing music think about the part of the story you're telling, how should the music make the audience feel at this point? It's through thinking about everything in the context of the story that we'll have a stronger production.

And so, to our last rehearsal for Term 2 at which we are running the full production. You are going to learn an awful lot from this run. It will show you where the weak spots are and what needs working on the most. You'll start to see which parts are already flowing well. You'll get a sense of how long between items you have for mic changes or costume changes, be prepared for some quick ones! After the rehearsal is finished, I'd like each of you to send me and your ensemble directors an email telling us something you think you're doing well and three things you are going to be working hard on to improve over the holidays. I look forward to reading them!

We are in the Civic in 4 weeks guys! Get excited, sell some tickets and practice, practice, practice!!!

Anna ☺



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

Welcome to the end of Term 2. We have made some progress on our scenes in recent weeks, but we now literally have 5 rehearsals till production week. It is now critical that we make sure that we are polishing scenes and making them as good as we can. I now assume the following:

- we know our lines perfectly
- we are fully aware of the blocking of each scene
- we know our character almost as well as ourselves
- we know when we are on
- we know what to wear
- we have collected our carry-on props
- we know our microphone numbers and when to collect and return them.

If you are not fully aware of these things, then you need to speak to someone as soon as possible. Time is ticking away, and we need to be organised.

For the next week or so before our next rehearsal I want you to think about the following aspects of your performance:

- Your character – always be your character on stage, regardless of if you are the main focus or not
- Entering and exiting in character.
- Projection. We can't yell out during a performance that we can't hear you. We just miss all your dialogue. Don't blow your big moment on stage by not being heard.
- Tension – how can you use this within your scene?
- Pace – are you keeping the pace flowing? Remember this show has a fast-paced rhythm – don't lose the natural pace of the show.
- Movement – don't just stand still. Remember the blocking that we have done.

DRAMA - continued

- Your stagecraft – where do you enter from? What is your motivation?
How do you expect the audience to respond to you?

We have so little time left – so devote at least some time each day to lines, character and stagecraft.

Enjoy the start of your holidays. Don't forget rehearsal in the holidays.

Lisa and Jay

Well dancers...I think I can say on behalf of the three of us that we are so impressed with the way you have handled yourselves over the last couple of weeks! You have been ready when needed, patient, respectful to others and given lots of energy. Well done and keep up the great work!

What to work in now??? PERFORMANCE! And let's remember that this includes SINGING!

It's time to elevate now to a whole new level, ready to knock the audience's socks off!

Lauren, Montana and Sophie

MUSIC

Congratulations to the band who have worked with focus and diligence this term. It has been a very demanding show, with 34 songs, some of which they have only received this term. They have the ability to learn music quickly as well as consistently practice. They have taken responsibility, asking questions when needed and problem solving in the moment during rehearsal. Continue to refine these skills- you will need this during the production week.

Be sure to have your music in order ready for the holiday rehearsals.

Wishing you a safe and happy school holidays!

Jess and Dom

VOCAL

FOCUS ... this was our 'Word of the Week' in the last newsletter ... and it still applies to us as we start to 'run' the acts of our show.

Now is not the time to get too comfortable and relax, now is the time to focus and give it your all! Don't get complacent!

A few reminders as we move into the last few weeks of this term:

- Bring your **SCRIPT** - every week we will be writing on it, stage directions, movements, exit etc
- Bring a **PENCIL** - do NOT come unprepared to work
- Wear your **ASPIRE UNIFORM**
- Leave your **PHONE** in your bag - unless instructed otherwise, we should not see phones at all during rehearsal
- Do not **TALK** while people are rehearsing or receiving instruction - respect each other
- Keep checking our **CSO VOCAL GROUP** - for run notes, videos, messages, instructions etc ... this group will be critical over the coming weeks
- Complete your **HOMEWORK** if it is set
- Be **RESPECTFUL** and **PUNCTUAL**

Have a wonderful week - stay warm and well!

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



DESIGN

We have successfully created a high fashion outfit for each member of the senior vocal ensemble. We are just finalising fittings, and with high fashion it is all about accessories, accessories, accessories! We have headpieces, hats and wigs galore to make sure everyone is looking as if they have just stepped off the runway!

We have just our holiday rehearsals left to finalise the vocal outfits and complete our two drama outfits for Vogue!

The design ensemble have been working so hard and are very excited to see our creations come to life on stage in only 4 weeks' time.

Lara 😊

