

# ASPIRE

NEWS 2023

7 MARCH 2023

## FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Four weeks into Aspire and our talented cast are cooking with gas. What's been great to see is how everyone has thrown themselves into rehearsals giving lots of energy and generally being super enthusiastic about what we're creating. It's really inspiring to watch.

Aspire is all about growing your skills. I encourage you to look at yourself and a performer and set yourself a goal or two about how you'd like to develop over this year's program. Talk to your ensemble directors about areas they think you could improve. Can you work on your pronunciation and diction as a drama student or vocalist? Can you work on your use of dynamics and expression as an instrumentalist. Can you improve your sense of storytelling as a dancer? Could you learn to sew as a design student? It's great to be able to identify where we need to improve – please come and ask me what my area for improvement is this year, yep I have a goal set for myself as well, nobody is perfect!

Keep up the fabulous work everyone. I have the best feeling about where this year's show is headed!!

Anna 😊



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

### DRAMA

Time is certainly flying, and I hope that all students have settled into the ensemble and are enjoying the activities and learning a lot about acting and theatre. It is exciting to see the emerging talent and witness the bonds forming within Drama. It feels a bit like we just start each Tuesday and then before you can blink it is 7.30 and time to go.

Each week we begin with the juniors. They are working on developing characters and creating potential scenarios for their scenes in the show. We are focusing on acting skills such as focus, character, movement and basic stagecraft. The students continue to develop all their skills and obviously love performing judging on their enthusiasm and laughter each week.

The middle session we combine seniors and juniors and work together on building scenes. Both love working together and peer teaching each other. The Junior Ensemble learn from the seniors, who develop their directorial skills during the process.

Last week the Seniors auditioned for parts in the show. It is always a challenging time for them. Remember that whatever part you get, you need to make it your own. Let your character grow and develop. Play with your lines of dialogue and practice! You may not have gained your first choice of character but don't be discouraged. I always believe everything happens for a reason, so focus on the positives in owning this role.

Thanks for all your work to date. Keep up the effort.

Yours in Drama  
**Lisa and Anastasia**

## **DANCE**

Ahoy dancers!

This week's theme?!....Ensemble/team work!

Now that you're all getting to know each other more, we should start seeing it come through in your dances. Let's work on strengthening our spacial awareness and timing!

Not only can ensemble connection help in our choreography, but also with our skill progression. If there is a movement that comes up that you are not familiar with or you need help with, why not use the time before rehearsals start to find an ensemble member that can help you with it!

We're all in this together (cue high school musical choreo)

**Lauren and Montana**

## **MUSIC**

Hope we're all settling in! Now that we've all gotten to know each other and gotten a feel for how the rehearsals will run, it's time to really dig into some music.

You have all received a lot of music already, and it is super important that you're coming to rehearsal prepared by learning your parts at home (Make sure you are practicing your pieces along with the audio edits on the MS Teams!).

This way when we are altogether, we can focus more on the performance of the pieces and perfecting the overall sound of the ensemble. Learning to follow the conductor is a huge part of playing in an ensemble like this, and we're getting better and better at this every week.

**Jess, Chris, and Samantha**

## **VOCAL**

We are really getting through a lot of repertoire in Vocal Ensemble!

Every week we add another couple of songs to our list and there's still plenty to come!! Remember to keep up your practice during the week to stay on top of it - why not try listening to backing tracks and silently practicing when on the bus to school? Or even better, singing your heart out in the car!

Once we have introduced all the songs in the show we can start polishing, digging into our characters, and eventually adding choreography and staging - the fun is just getting started songbirds!!

**Jess, Asha, and Lonnie**

EXCITING AND IMPORTANT  
DATES/NEWS

## ANNA RECOMMENDS

**12 Angry Men** presented by Metropolitan Players at the Civic Playhouse Newcastle on Wednesday 15 March 2023 to 7.30 pm, Friday 17 March 2023 at 7.30 pm, Saturday 18 March 2023 at 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm, Sunday 19 March 2023 at 1.30 pm, Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 7.30 pm, Thursday 23 March 2023 at 7.30 pm, Friday 24 March 2023 at 7.30 pm and Saturday 25 March 2023 at 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm.

**Songs Under the Southern Cross, Bach, Edwards and Boyd** presented by The Song Company at the Conservatorium of Music Newcastle on Sunday 12 March 2023 at 3.00 pm.

## DESIGN

The design crew has been looking at designing flags, costumes, and set. The characters of the Pirates Code are divided into four different groups, Jon's Crew, Lucy's Crew, Cutthroat's Crew, and the Soldiers, each with different style and colour themes. Design, though in the early days of the show, is excited to see their ideas come to life. A variety of designs and sketches have been drawn up already, both on paper and digitally, in black and white and colour.

Last week, we measured the cast in the dance, vocal, and drama (senior and junior) ensembles. This week design has gotten our design kits, which include threads, pins, needles, safety pins, and measuring tapes. We're ready for another year of creative fun and seeing our ideas be brought to light on the stage.

Lara and Jen

