

ASPIRE

NEWS 2023

21 MARCH 2023

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Thanks to everyone for accommodating the move to San Clemente at short notice this week. The cast weren't deterred by being on new stomping ground for a week by any means. They are learning new material so quickly it's awesome to see them all working so hard and loving what they're doing!

Our vocalists have been auditioning for solos over the past couple of weeks. It's been wonderful to see so many of them getting up there and giving it a go! I always find singing in front of people particularly daunting. The best part of auditions was watching how supportive the group were of each other. Every vocalist who tried out received thunderous round of applause with much cheering. It was genuinely beautiful to watch.

Please make sure you are practicing your material between rehearsals. Practice is key to ensuring it does not get forgotten and that when we pick it up again to rehearse, we are starting from where we left off. Time is incredibly limited particularly when we get into Term 2 and bring all the ensembles together.

Pat, our ASPIRE Intern will be leading a bit of a teambuilding activity with the entire cast in the final week of this term designed to get people working together across the ensembles! Please make sure you bring 3 recyclable items with you to the final rehearsal of term for use in the task!!

A note to parents that we are farewelling Lisa Little our much loved executive officer this week. Lisa was the driving force behind the creation of ASPIRE and has been instrumental in it's development over the past 12 years. We will miss her terribly and wish her the very best in her new position with Catholic Schools NSW.

Keep up the great work Team!

Anna 😊



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

You know when you have hit the business end of the term when you start casting the roles for the show in July. So far this term we have worked on developing acting skills and building confidence and trust amongst the ensemble. By next term we will be fully engaged in rehearsing the script including blocking, character, audience engagement and working with the elements of production.

Last week the senior ensemble auditioned for parts in the show. They demonstrated such incredible commitment to improvement, and we were proud of every single one of them. They made our job so hard as they gave the process their heart and soul. I know that some may feel disappointed in missing the character that they had their heart set on, but don't give up or despair. So many times, I have seen this and then watched a transformation in the student as the character they "become" teaches them so much about this amazing craft.

This week it will be the juniors turn. They were so keen to get their monologues from teams and I suspect that they will also make the auditions a complex task for us. We wish them good luck, but also say embrace whatever role that you get. Make it your own, bring that character to life. Some of the most memorable ASPIRE characters have had small roles or limited dialogue but managed to steal the show. We just want you to be the best performer that you can be.

We will also be looking at voice work this week. For actors, the voice is one of our most important tools of the trade. The more we know about using and manipulating it, the better we can be. We thank Jessica Lopez for coming and giving us instruction on how to use voice. Please remember to do your voice exercises every day. This will build strength and enhance your voice quality.

Thanks for the commitment, hard work, good humour and passion that you bring to ASPIRE each week. Be good.

Lisa and Anastasia

ASPIRE

DANCE

Ahoy Dancers!

We have been busy little bees over the past few weeks and have now finished learning multiple numbers. This means that the choreography is now in your hands to make it great!

When working on these numbers, remember to think of the storyline attached to them. What is your character trying to achieve? What are they feeling?

On that same note...start learning some lyrics as you will be expected to sing song to choruses!

Keep up the great work everyone!

Lauren and Montana

INSTRUMENTAL

Despite a change in location this week, which meant a completely different equipment set up, the band were proactive and efficient getting everything set up and ready for rehearsal.

We have started really pulling the repertoire apart, finding tricky sections and honing in on what needs practise at home. Over the next few weeks we will do more sectionals whereby the band will break off into smaller instrument combinations to perfect technique, instrument specific sounds and workshop hard fingerings and rhythms. We ask that everyone please bring a pencil each and every week so that anything and everything done in rehearsals can be noted on the sheet music and remembered week to week (this saves a lot of time not having to go over things again and again). Please also take the time to do the home practise needed on the phrases highlighted during rehearsal that aren't quite there yet.

Overall, we have a lot of songs now that are starting to come together and gain a sense of groove or musicality beyond just sight-reading the notes on the page. This is very exciting as it gives us a glimpse of what these fantastic musicians are going to bring to the show, and just how fabulous it is going to sound!

Jess, Chris, and Samantha

VOCAL

It's hard to believe but it's five weeks since we've started to learn the songs! Congratulations to all vocalists who auditioned for solos in the last two weeks. We are overwhelmed by the number of vocal talents we have this year! The soloists have been chosen and we can start rehearsing the songs focusing more on solo parts and small group harmonies. As our repertoire increases almost every week, and with many of these songs to be learnt, we suggest that you practise them every day.

The 'show' doesn't only require having a good voice and be able to sing, but most of it requires the singers to be **good performers**. Even if you have a beautiful tone, a melodious sound, and a great tune, if you don't do anything with your act, it can end up being a bit boring for those watching and listening. Start practicing the songs in front of the mirror. We've done it before, and it works! But remember that you need to warm up your vocal chords before every time you sing! Warmups are very important as they prepare you for the intense vibrations created when singing. Controlled, steady vocal exercises increase acid in the muscles surrounding vocal folds, which help those muscles do their jobs more effectively.

"At the end of the day, singing is a physical process. It requires precision movements from your entire body. Because of this, singers need to take just as much care of their voices before they sing as when they're singing" *Grammy-winning pop artist Kimbra*. See you all on Tuesday!

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 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.

The Life of Pi presented by Civic Theatre Newcastle and National Theatre Live at the Civic Theatre Newcastle on Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 7.00 pm

Cirque Mother Africa presented by Rokitz Entertainment at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Thursday 31 March 2023 at 7.30 pm

Cirque Mother Africa presented by Rokitz Entertainment at the Civic Theatre Newcastle on Thursday 13 April 2023 at 7.30 pm

DESIGN

These past weeks we have been busy with designing how to reconfigure the Juliet boxes in the theatre, we are hoping to have a visit to the Civic theatre in the coming weeks to view our space.

We have also been experimenting with some different dye combinations to make up the unique colours of the different crews.

Abbey and Jen have bought some props to play with and make look more authentic, we have eye patches, spy glasses and compass'.

The design crew have been looking at makeup designs and how we can modernise the traditional pirate.

Lara and Jen

