

# ASPIRE

## NEWS 2023

21 FEBRUARY 2023

### FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to Aspire 2023! I hope everyone has had an amazing start to this years swashbuckling Aspire program. Already our dancers are learning choreography, our musicians are learning music, our vocalists are learning songs, design are busily measuring up the cast and talking costumes and drama are brainstorming ideas. The energy and enthusiasm of the cast and crew is palpable and it's impossible not to leave every rehearsal with a smile on your face!

As the weeks go on there will be lots of material to learn so please make sure you're going over any new material each week to ensure it gets into your heads! There is a teams site for each ensemble that your directors will use to share information with you so please make sure you check it.

Auditions will be happening in the coming weeks for drama and vocal cast members, embrace this opportunity to share your talents with the rest of the ensemble and please create a supportive environment for your fellow cast members when auditions are occurring. Remember this is one tiny part of the process so please don't let it consume you!

I cannot wait to watch this years come to life!!

Anna



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

### DRAMA

Welcome to the Drama Ensemble of 2023. We are so excited to have everyone join us and work on our show for this year. It is always with great anticipation that we begin this journey, imagining the direction our show will go, the growth of our ensemble as performers and the emergence of new friendships. We particularly welcome new members to the ensemble and hope you love your Aspire experience.

By now everyone should have received their uniform for this year, we encourage you to wear it each week as we meet to create a sense of unity in our ensemble. We also request that everyone brings a display folder to put their script and any notes that we may issue each week.

We are currently working on activities and games that help develop us in getting to know each other and develop our trust and skills. Both Juniors and Seniors have already demonstrated great commitment to improving and working together. It is exciting to see this and augurs well for our show.

If you have any questions or are worried or concerned about anything during the year, please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss this. We want to make this journey fun and rewarding for everyone. Make sure that you check your teams each week for updates and "homework"

Yours in the Performing Arts

**Lisa and Anastasia**

## **DANCE**

Welcome 2023 Aspire Dancers!

Or should I say....triple threats. Because in Aspire that's what we strive to be. You will never 'just dance' on the Aspire stage, you will also act and sing as we are all one giant ensemble cast.

This show is going to be an absolute blast to create with you all and we are very much looking forward to seeing you all thrive and extend yourselves to become the best performers you can be.

Get ready to step outside your comfort zone to learn and grow, whilst making some wonderful likeminded friends along the way!

Heave Ho!

**Lauren and Montana**

## **INSTRUMENTAL**

Welcome to Aspire 2023! The Instrumental Specialists this year are Chris Turner and Samantha Dunlop. Along with Jess Lopez they will be working closely with the band. Both Chris and Sam are highly proficient and experienced musos who have worked in bands and with young people.

Already, the band have received 5 songs, with more to come! There will be approximately 20-25 songs in the show. The focus this time of the term is getting to know each other, the ensemble sound and learning to follow a conductor. Your homework is to visit the ASPIRE 2023 MSTeams site and listening to the edit tracks. These are very useful, especially for rhythm section instruments to practice along with. You are responsible for bring your music to each rehearsal and practising your parts.

Don't forget to bring a drink, snack, music (and instrument?!) to rehearsals.

**Jess, Chris and Samantha**

## **VOCAL**

La la la! The Vocal Specialists Lonnie Mackertich and Asha Lunarzewski, along with Jess Lopez will be working with the Vocal Ensemble this year. Lonnie and Asha are expert vocalists with vast performance experience who have worked with young people, focusing on quality vocal and performance technique.

This is the largest Vocal Ensemble ASPIRE have ever had. The focus the past couple of weeks has been on vocal technique- breathing, resonance, vowel production, making a quality ensemble sound as well as reading a vocal score/sheet music. The group have had fun learning the new repertoire, getting to know each other and getting to know the music. So far, the repertoire has showcased pop songs through to operatic motifs (thanks Muse!).

Your homework is to visit the ASPIRE 2023 MSTeams site and listen to the backing tracks. These are useful for practising along with so you can focus on your vocal tone. It's important that you familiarise yourself with the repertoire, especially as the term progresses there will be movement to learn as well.

Don't forget to bring a drink, snack and your music to rehearsal.

**Jess, Asha and Lonnie**

## **EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DATES/NEWS**

## ANNA RECOMMENDS

*Come from Away* presented by Junkyard Dogs and Rodney Rigby at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle from Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 1.00 pm and 7.00 pm, Thursday 23 February 2023 at 7.00 pm, Friday 24 February 2023 at 7.30 pm, Saturday 25 February 2023 at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm, Sunday 26 February 2023 at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm, Wednesday 1 March 2023 at 11.00 am and 7.00 pm, Thursday 2 March 2023 at 7.00 pm, Friday 3 March 2023 at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm, Saturday 4 March 2023 at 2.00 pm and 7.30 pm and Sunday 5 March 2023 at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm

## DESIGN

Welcome back to 2023! This year we welcome the biggest design ensemble ASPIRE has ever seen, a whopping 14 students!

Our 2023 team is made up of Lara Crockett; Ensemble director, Jennifer Roach; Assistant Ensemble director and we welcome back, design ensemble alumni, Abbey Cashmere as Costume designer.

We are extremely excited for the year ahead and cannot wait to see what this team has in store for us.

### Lara and Jen

