

ASPIRE

NEWS 2023

9 MAY 2023

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Term 2 has kicked back in, and we have stepped up rehearsals a notch. We are working towards a full run of the show in the final week of term so have a huge amount to get through to be ready for that. Keep working hard at home Because there will be a lot of new material each week to layer onto your performance.

Take time to think about where you fit into the production. What do you bring to it. Who are you playing, what's your backstory. How does your instrumental part assist in telling the story. The script is in our teams files - please read it. It's important we all know what our story is!

Anna 😊



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

It is only week 3 but we are currently fully into rehearsal. For Drama this means spending some time on scenes, other time with dance and even more time with vocals. Sometimes it can feel a little confusing and chaotic but that is a normal part of the process. Just remember to bring your script, a pen and pencil and a piece of paper. Make notes on your script about all the blocking and ensure that you ask questions if you are unsure.

Many of the dances will start appearing on the general teams group. Make sure that you regularly check teams for information and to view choreography. It is very important that you keep up to date with learning the varied elements.

If you have any worries or concerns or don't understand something, make sure that you talk to myself or Anastasia. We are always here to help you.

We are really pleased with your progress and the commitment that you are showing. So, keep up the effort.

I hope you all have your tickets for what promises to be one exciting show.

Take care.

Lisa and Stars

DANCE

Ahoy Dancers

Now that we are adding the other ensembles into routines, we will need your patience and help at times.

You have already started off strong this term so keep up the good work.

Lauren and Montana

INSTRUMENTAL

The band has kicked off Term 2 with a room change, adapting well to the new furniture and a change in the set up arrangement. A big part of what we do in rehearsals is learning how to play as an ensemble. This means listening to all of the layers and not only blending and balancing our individual sounds, but also understanding the role we play within the ensemble. It is important we take the time when setting up to sound check each instrument and ensure everyone can be heard and the ensemble is balanced. Please ensure while we are doing this that you tune your own instrument and make sure you have your music AND A PENCIL ready on your stand.

We arrange the music so that the melodic, harmonic and other accompaniment layers are passed around the ensemble. This means that each of us has a turn playing louder as the main melody, while at other times taking more of a supporting role within the ensemble which requires backing off our sound so someone else can feature. Due to the fact we have a lot of repertoire to learn it can be hard remembering when to play out and when to blend back a bit and this is why it is so important, we write on our sheet music what is workshopped in rehearsals.

Lastly, we cannot stress enough that our rehearsal time is not the time to be learning the notes on the page. Of course, we are here to help you learn your music, especially challenging passages, but generally you should have the notes under your fingers so we can work on perfecting balance, blending and stylistic choices in rehearsals. Work through the repertoire with your instrumental tutors throughout the week and let us know if you find any pieces or sections tricky so we know to go over these together! Always remember you can listen to the midi recordings of the arrangements on Teams > Instrumental Ensemble 2023 > Backing Tracks.

Well done on the progress you have made so far musos. There was definitely a moment at the end of our last rehearsal when everything really clicked, and we sounded like a professional band!

Jess, Chris, and Samantha

VOCAL

It's hard to believe that we are already into term 2! It was very uplifting for us teachers, to see relaxed and smiling faces, and well-prepared vocalists last week. We've started working deeply and in more detail on the songs.

The students had a chance to work with the dancers on the choreography of two songs: "Everyone's Waiting" and "Salute". The singers also worked on "I want it that way", "Salute" and "Survivor". Every Tuesday we introduce new songs so the singers can practice their parts at home.

Those students who sing solos in any musical songs, please make sure you put in some practice this week, so you feel confident with what you're singing. With just a little effort all featured singers can memorise the lyrics and notes.

Word of the week 2 – **"Enunciation"** (The act of pronouncing words clearly). Not only notes are important but also how you pronounce the lyrics! The best way to practise this is to say the lyrics out loud in front of the mirror. The audience will not only appreciate your beautiful voice but also, they will understand what you are singing about.

Jess, Asha, and Lonnie

EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DATES/NEWS

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SCHOOL HOLIDAY REHEARSALS

Wednesday 12 July 2023 from 9.30 am – 4.00 pm at St Pius X High School, Adamstown

Thursday 13 July 2023 from 9.30 am – 4.00 pm at St Pius X High School, Adamstown

Friday 14 July 2023 from 9.30 am – 4.00 pm at St Pius X High School, Adamstown

WEEKEND REHEARSALS

Sunday 16 July 2023 from 9.30 am – 4.00 pm St Pius X High School, Adamstown

Sunday 23 July 2023 from 8.30 am – 5.00 pm TBA

BUMP IN/BUMP OUT (DESIGN AND PRODUCTION ENSMBLES ONLY)

Sunday 23 July 2023 at Civic Theatre Newcastle

PRODUCTION WEEK

Monday 24 July 2023 Technical Run 8.30 am – 5.00 pm at Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Tuesday 25 July 2023 Dress Rehearsal 8.30 am – 5.00 pm at Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Wednesday 26 July 2023 First Performance Call Time 9.30 am at Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Thursday 27 July 2023 Second Performance Call Time 9.30 am at Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Friday 28 July 2023 Third Performance Call Time 9.30 am at Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Friday 28 July 2023 Fourth Performance Call Time 5.30 pm at Civic Theatre, Newcastle

Saturday 29 July 2023 Final Performance Call Time 5.30 pm at Civic Theatre, Newcastle

ANNA RECOMMENDS

The Magical Music of Harry Potter Live in Concert presented by Star Entertainment GmbH at the Civic Theatre Newcastle on Monday 22 May 2023 at 7.30 pm

Beauty and The Beast presented by the Victorian State Ballet at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Friday 12 May 2023 at 8.00 pm

DioSounds Walking Together presented by music students from all the secondary schools of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle on Thursday 8 June 2023 at 6.30 pm

DESIGN

The holidays were well spent by our costume designer Abby who came back to us this first week with lots of ideas and some finished costume pieces. We have had lots of costume try on's and our crew is working hard on getting our cast looking their best pirate selves.

This term will fly by very quickly and we will be in show week in no time! We can't wait to see all the costumes come together.

Lara and Jen

