

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It is very exciting to see the production coming together. I have been busily finalising the set, which looks beautiful by the way and will be built for us to rehearse with in the school holidays. Up until that point our cast are doing a sterling job of imagining it is there! Hopefully sections of it will start arriving in the coming weeks for us to play with in rehearsal. I cannot wait to see how our design crew dibba dab them up!

Each week is getting more intense at the moment as we build towards the final three weeks of term where we will all come together in the theatre to track through each half of the production before doing a full run through for all the technical staff in week 10.

Rehearsal videos are being put in the online teams and we ask that you practice what you learn each week and continue to do so to avoid things leaving your heads after they have been taught. Similarly go over your repertoire in the band and make sure you are paying attention to dynamics and how the song should be played as well as the actual notes on the page.

As you practice think about what part of the story this dance, song, text, music applies to. What is it adding to the tale we are telling. It will help you to be across where things come in the story. The script is in our teams files to refer to if you don't have a printed copy. Although if you don't have a printed copy and would like one please ask me and Anne Atkins and we will get it organised for you.

Finally keep up the good work everyone you are all doing such a wonderful job!!

Anna 😊



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

I guess at this point of the term and rehearsal period, there is probably only one thing to say and that is "learn your lines!" It is a really critical part of the process for now. I know that many of you have learnt them already and we are really proud of the effort that you have put into learning these. So, keep it up, look over them every week and be prepared for rehearsal each week.

People often ask why they need to know the lines already and there are many reasons why it is important:

1. If you are holding a script, then it is virtually impossible to organise the movement and blocking that is required for each scene.
2. It also means that every time you "read" from your script, you are in fact breaking character and reminding the audience that none of it is real.
3. You cannot develop any deep understanding of, or connection to, character whilst you need to read the dialogue.
4. As you read, you lose a sense of what is happening on the stage at that moment. Actors always need to be aware of everyone and everything around them.
5. Without knowing your dialogue, you cannot fully understand the character's motivations and so you don't present a true performance of the character.
6. I believe that it helps with anxiety. If you know your lines so well that you don't even have to think about them, then you can become one with the character and then it is not you on the stage, but the character. Obviously if you are stressing about what line comes next, your anxiety levels will increase.

Finally remember that your words and actions should seem like they are just as much of a surprise to you, as they are to the audience. This way you keep the illusion alive.

So, work hard Drama People and let's create the best show possible.

Lisa and Stars

DANCE

A young pirate named Fiery Red,
Made a limerick up in her head,
But before she had time,
To write down the last line,

Lauren and Montana

INSTRUMENTAL

This past few weeks the band have been working on refining the ensemble sound and accuracy. We have spent much time on individual instrument groups- orchestral instruments having sectionals, and synths/percussion/guitars working on sound and effects set up for each song. Guitarists, please make sure you bring your pedals so that you're use to using them for each song.

Be sure you are practising with the backing tracks (available on our Teams site) so that you are familiar with the structure of each piece, playing with accuracy and confidence. If you have any questions about your music, see Sam, Chris or Jess at rehearsal.

It's a jam packed end of Term 2, with only a couple of rehearsals left until we run the show:

Week 5- Learn new repertoire
Week 6- Work on sounds for new repertoire
Week 7- Run all songs (classroom/Theatre)
Week 8- Run Act 1 (Theatre)
Week 9- Run Act 2 (Theatre)
Week 10- Run entire show (Theatre)

Jess, Chris, and Samantha

VOCAL

We are continuing to work hard in vocal ensemble! Every week our show is becoming more clear with each song that is polished, scene that is staged, dance move that is learnt, costume that is fitted...

As always, keep practicing what we learn each Tuesday during the week - we don't have time to re-learn anything, so this is very important.

Remember every time you are on stage you are playing a character - you are acting, not just singing! We want to see this when we are rehearsing. During the week think about what facial expressions your character would make, how they would hold their body, how they would react to each scene - practicing in the mirror is a great idea! You should never 'drop' your character when performing so you need to feel comfortable acting and the best way to feel comfortable is to practice practice practice :)

Congratulations on all the brilliant work so far vocal ensemble! We are having a ball and hope you are too!

Jess, Asha, and Lonnie

DESIGN

We have been very busy, little bees these last few weeks. The design crew is in full swing of creating and altering costumes. Working under the watchful eye of Abbey, they are working hard to make some amazing costumes.

As well as this, we have been working on creating props and monitoring how the set design is coming along.

We hope to have our costumes finished in the next few weeks so we can focus on set dressing and painting.

Lara and Jen

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

Legally Blond The Musical presented by Chookas Entertainment at the Civic Playhouse Newcastle on Wednesday 24 May 2023 at 7.30 pm, Thursday 25 May 2023 at 7.30 pm, Friday 26 May 2023 at 7.30 pm and Saturday 27 May 2023 at 1.00 pm and 7.30 pm

An Afternoon at the Proms : A Musical Spectacular presented Australian Global Entertainment at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Saturday 27 May 2023 at 2.00 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

