

ASPIRE

NEWS 2023

6 JUNE 2023

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We are eight weeks out from the production and about to start walking through the whole show. It's really exciting to see what each ensemble are up to and watch the whole story come together. Be supportive of each other in this process as we work to accommodate each other.

In preparation each week for working through the script have a look at where the songs are placed, and which scene comes when so you're across what you're doing. Make notes for yourself about which side you enter or exit from. There will be a lot of new information to retain!

Also, if you're on stage remember you are acting. Think about how your character is feeling at any given point and respond accordingly. Think about gestures and facial expressions and of course bring a lot of energy to your performances!!

If you're performing in DioSounds this week then a massive break a leg to you all!

Enjoy being on the civic stage.

I can't wait to see you all perform!

Anna 😊



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

Building Character

One of the most important questions that I am often asked is how to improve your characterisation. It is such an important part of the performance and should be really heavily in your mind right now. Probably only a handful of you have really grasped your character at this point and I ask you honestly to consider how much time have you really devoted to becoming this character and bringing them to life?

If you have really considered the character's past history, motives, attitudes and beliefs, emotions and reasons for being where they are at that moment, then you have done the basics in bringing your character to life. If you haven't really done these things, then your character is really still just you in disguise.

Not everything is told to us in script, but we still need to know the answers to these questions so that we are really bringing our character to life. Over the next week I want you to think about the following questions. Write them down, share them with your friends, myself or Stars or any other member of the cast. You must know everything about your character, because if you don't, you will struggle to really bring them alive on stage.

- What is your past history?
- How did you end up where you currently are?
- What is your passion?
- Do you like people in general?
- What is your emotional, intellectual and physical status?
- Where do you fit in the hierarchy in the performance?
- What would you most like to achieve?
- What motivates your character?
- What is their favourite saying?
- What would you most like to ask your character? (then figure out the answer)
- What are their quirks, faults and flaws?
- If they were an animal, what would they be?
- If they talked in their sleep, what would they say?

DRAMA – CONTINUED

- You are in line at Target or Big W or maybe Bunnings. You start putting objects on the counter to pay for them. Suddenly you notice that one item that you put down tells the story of your life right now. What is the item and how does it tell this story?

Have fun. Looking forward to your answers

Lisa and Stars

DANCE

Ahoy Dancers!

Well, it's been an eye opening couple of weeks for some of our ensemble. Some of you realised how much you rely on other to remember choreography, and some of you were made aware that you have been marking/settling some movements that were set as a challenge. Now that we are all aware...let's rise to the challenge and make every movement count!

Lauren and Montana

INSTRUMENTAL

We're really starting to get a groove in the instrumental ensemble. We've spent a lot of time working on sounds and effects in the past couple of rehearsals, now it's time to really put it all together.

Now that most of the music is out for the band to learn and practice, it is essential that you're coming to rehearsals prepared. We don't want to spend this precious time in rehearsal learning parts but refining them.

One more week until we run Act 1 with the whole cast, so this week we will spend some time with the vocalists, so that we are prepared and aware of what the finished show will sound like.

Guitarists - please make sure to have all of your leads and pedals!!

Keep up the good work!

Jess, Chris, and Samantha

VOCAL

Quote of the week:

"The only thing better than singing is more singing" – Ella Fitzgerald

To all our dedicated and gifted singers, time flies and we only have four weeks before this term ends. We hope that you have finished all your exams and assessments. Now, we encourage you to concentrate solely on perfecting your songs! It is crucial that you incorporate more facial and body expressions into your performances. **Let's keep practicing until we get it right!**

Tips on How To Make Your Singing Practice More Effective:

- Focus-** Set a clear focus for your practice session. Know what you want to work on, and don't try to work on too many things at the same time.
- QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY** - When it comes to practicing, remember that quality is more important than quantity. To really see great results, it's best to focus on simple exercises that have clear goals in mind. Keep up the hard work!
- BRING THE EXERCISES BACK TO THE SONG-** Exercises are helpful but applying them to songs is crucial for success in singing.

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

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

Garrick Ohlsson presented by Musica Viva at the City Hall Newcastle on Saturday 10 June 2023 at 7.30 pm

Forest Song and Don Quixote presented by Grand Kyiv Ballet of Ukraine at the Civic Theatre Newcastle on Sunday 18 June 2023 at 2.00 pm

DESIGN

We have been stocktaking and ordering everything we need to have our actors dressed by our full run through in week 9.

The crew have been working hard on finalising their costumes and will soon move onto props and set.

Lara and Jen

