

ASPIRE

NEWS 2023

20 JUNE 2023

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We are a month away from bumping into the Civic Theatre. Time has absolutely flown this term. We are getting tired; it's been a big term with lots going on throughout our schools. Please try and keep energy levels up as we head into the final couple of rehearsals for the term. We are running the show next week for our lighting designer and he really needs to get an idea of what it's going to look like onstage for his planning.

You are going to be given a lot of notes from your ensemble directors and from myself. Notes are things we want you to work on. You need to read them and think about them to apply them to your scene work, songs, choreography and music. Practicing at home is now vital so every time we come together at rehearsals we're getting better and better. If you aren't sure about what you have to work then contact your ensemble directors for guidance, they will be happy to know you're thinking about what you're doing.

The holidays will see our set constructed at St Pius, this will give you a massive boost but will also mean you have a new thing to think about in your performance so be completely across everything you have learnt so far. Ask questions about the set in the next couple of weeks if you're not sure about anything. It might be where tables are going to be placed or have I got a prop in this scene? There are mops and buckets and scrubbing brushes and ropes and lots of hand props that you can utilise when you go onstage if you wish. Take the initiative and use them! If you're unsure but want to use one then just talk to Pat and he'll organise for you, this goes for vocalists and dancers as well as actors – we are all characters in the story – whatever you think will help you!

Finally, as we go into these final weeks as well as working hard, listening to notes and keeping our energy up – enjoy every minute! It's an exciting time, make sure you relish it!

Anna 😊



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of Term 2. It feels like only a few weeks ago we started this project and now production week looms large in the near future.

It is now critical that you do the following:

1. Read over your lines regularly
2. Keep considering your character and what they are like
3. Know your microphone number and when you need one
4. Know what props that you need and make arrangements to have that prop
5. Gather whatever costume elements that you need (if this applies to you)
6. Learn song lyrics if you are in them
7. Learn the choreography for any dances that you are in

You have a lot to do, and it needs to be done regularly to ensure that it happens. If you need any help, please ask.

Finally CHECK TEAMS often. It has notes and will continue to have more information on there as we get closer to the show.

Work hard

Lisa and Stars

DANCE

Ahoy Dancers,

As you are well aware, we are at the stage of running the show (insert excited/scared squeal here).

It is very disorientating being in a new space with people and set to dodge, let alone dancing to a live band that you have never heard before! It's a lot!

So far you are doing a wonderful job, so keep up the good work!

Your focus at the moment really is to know what you are doing and where you are going at all times so that the characterisation and performance can then take priority and you don't need to really think too much about the ins and outs.

Read your script. Make your run sheet. Learn your lines ("argh!"). Sing any group sections of big number songs....which also means....learn your lyrics!

Lauren and Montana

INSTRUMENTAL

Running Act 1 with the other Ensembles was good fun for the band, finally getting to see how the music fits into the show. However, it quickly became clear how vital it is to know the script and be ready for each song entry. Before next week we need everyone to put their music in show order. This requires downloading the script off Teams and reading through it. The band also has multiple points in the show where they contribute to the dialogue - another reason to know the script.

As we move out of our familiar rehearsal space and work on the stage it is really important to feel confident enough in your individual parts so you can look at the conductor while playing. You can't just rely on following along with the person next to you as they may not be sitting next to you anymore!

Jess, Chris, and Samantha

VOCAL

Congratulations to all the vocalists from Aspire who showcased their talents at this year's DioSounds, and represented their schools. Your singing and dancing performances at the Civic Theatre were uplifting and inspiring and so pleased to watch!

As we approach the end of term, our primary goal is to polish the songs. Please check Teams regularly to keep up-to-date on the songs we'll be practicing. We've even included backing tracks with harmonies for the songs that need more work. It's crucial to attend every rehearsal, particularly since we'll incorporate dance moves into all the songs. If you miss a rehearsal, please watch the videos of the choreographed songs which we regularly update.

The quote of this week is:



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 ENSEMBLES 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

Civic Cinema: Good presented by Civic Theatre Newcastle and National Theatre Live at the Civic Playhouse on Wednesday 28 June 2023 at 7.00 pm

Twisted Tales presented by Hive Creative Studios at the Civic Playhouse Newcastle on Saturday 1 July 2023 at 7.00 pm

Dancing Through Musicals presented by HAPA at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Saturday 1 July 2023 at 6.00 pm

Mary Poppins presented by Hive Creative Studios at the Civic Playhouse Newcastle on Sunday 2 July 2023 at 11.00 am and 3.00 pm

DESIGN

We have been very busy recently, organising and finishing costumes for everyone, as well as working on a few props and smaller costume items like bedazzling our bandannas and organising lots of boot covers.

We also had the chance to move all our stuff out of the tiny storeroom and into the big one. We hope to have everyone dressed as soon as possible and are thoroughly enjoying seeing everything come together!

Lara and Jen

