

ASPIRE Intern Blog #1

Hello, world!

In case we haven't already crossed paths in my ventures around our rehearsal spaces at Trinity Catholic College, or my gallivanting around the offices at the CS building, my name is Daniel Smith, and I have had the honour bestowed upon me of being your ASPIRE Intern for 2025. If I was asked to describe my first four weeks in one word, I'd likely say 'thought-provoking'. Now, I know that's technically two words, but it's hyphenated so I'm counting it.

The truth is, I don't think I could properly convey how these past few weeks have made me feel in a single word. It's most definitely a jarring change of pace being on the other side of the curtain, bearing witness to all of the innermost workings of ASPIRE and its projects, and working alongside a group of people who, not so long ago, were my directors and mentors. But with all that said, I can say confidently, with my chest, that I have had an absolute blast every minute I've spent in the office, sitting in on meetings, and walking around rehearsal with my trusty camera thus far, and I am much looking forward to the big year ahead.

ASPIRE is doing some huge things this year! Along with our regularly scheduled programming, including DioSounds, WOW Gallery, Theatre Makers, and of course, our big production at the Civic in July, we're offering quite a number of brand new opportunities, which we can't wait to share with you. The first of these big new projects took place just last week at St Joseph's, Aberdeen! In just four days, our ensembles of Year 5-8 actors, vocalists, instrumentalists and visual artists created a short play to perform to their families and friends. It was beyond impressive to see the talent and professionalism among the students, and I speak on behalf of the whole ASPIRE team when I say we are immensely proud!

Our first few weeks of rehearsal for our big yearly production have been running very smoothly thus far! With character auditions coming up on Tuesday, I imagine our drama ensemble is feeling very nervous, and I wish them all the very best of luck. Already our dancers and musicians have been hard at working learning and workshopping repertoire! I particularly really enjoyed watching the choreography that the dancers produced in the first week based on a simple childhood toy as a prompt. The creative minds in our cohort are really shining and producing some quality stuff that I'm very excited to see come together.

But alas, there's still a long while before we reach that point. In the meantime, our annual Diocesan Theatre Sports Competition is coming up on Thursday this week, and entries for our Songwriting Competition close in only a month, so get your entries in fast! With all that said, that's our wrap-up on the first month of ASPIRE 2025. Stay tuned for regular updates throughout our very busy year, and any yap about Intern work I feel inclined on spilling.

An enlightened and elated,

Daniel Smith

