

ASPIRE Intern Blog #10

Three terms down, and only one left to go. This year has absolutely flown by, and there's just too much going on to even think! But, of course, there will always be time to read a Daniel Smith blog.

This last few weeks has been a total whirlwind, as our Junior Theatre Makers program finally came to a close. On Thursday the 18th of September, 3 groups of Year 5-8 students took to the stage at Warner's Bay Theatre to each perform their own little short devised play. My group performed a piece titled 'Cue the Chaos', which revolved around a group of tech kids on the opening night of a production at the Civic Theatre, where everything that could go wrong, does. Each student played multiple characters, including archetypal techies, authoritarian stage managers, over-the-top actors, and a vending machine. That costume took a whole 8-hour shift to make.

I've never really written scripts before. I also have very limited directorial experience. I also have never touched costume design with a ten-foot-pole because arts and crafts are a Daniel Smith no-no. I was pushed FAR beyond my comfort zone with this project, with the sound design the only thing I actually had any idea what I was doing with, but I'm very proud of how it came out. I also want to seriously commend the actors I was working with for picking up everything so quickly, ESPECIALLY after I introduced the use of props, transformative costumes, etc. This piece was HARD, but they really took on every direction I gave them, and, ironically, performed all the behind-the-scenes work flawlessly.

But alas, the concept of breaks doesn't exist here in the ASPIRE office, as we charge straight into our next projects. JTF rehearsals will soon be underway, and Senior Theatre Makers is creeping up very quickly, so get excited. Otherwise, that's it for this term.

A 75% complete,

Daniel

- Newcastle's Finest Costume Designer

