

ASPIRE Intern Blog #11

The home stretch is upon us, as the year finally begins to draw to a close. Our final projects are well and truly underway, and my ASPIRE to-do list is getting shorter and shorter. But alas, there's always time for a Daniel Smith blog.

Most recently, ASPIRE attended Junior Theatre Festival at the Civic Theatre, which is an annual celebration of young people performing musical theatre, where groups from different organisations across the country all come together and perform 10 minute extracts from MTI Broadway Junior musicals. Some other local companies you might recognise that also participated this year are Hunter Drama, Hive Youth Theatre and What Theatre Company. The ASPIRE group this year performed a truncated version of Stephen Flaherty's 'Seussical Jr.', where they won Outstanding Production! This is a huge honour, so well done to all involved.



Our Senior Theatre Makers and myself have been VERY busy chugging away at the script for our show over the last few weeks, and I can finally say that the first full draft is FINISHED, and we're gonna start putting together the staging, etc. over the next few weeks. For my loyal blog readers, I'll give you a sneak peek: The show is called **'Bingo Bedlam'**, a heartfelt comedy set in a chaotic and seemingly dysfunctional retirement village, named *'LiveLaughLove-Care'*. The piece explores the idea of finding purpose in unlikely places, and when an overzealous member of council writes to the manager of the home with plans to bulldoze the joint, the community must come together to prove that they're worth more than anyone bargained for. The show will be performed only one time, on Tuesday December 16th at the Playhouse, Newcastle, and tickets will be going on sale in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out!

Coming up next, the Manning Creative Arts project is taking place in a couple of weeks which I'm very excited for, the musical theatre program at the start of December, the concert band is playing at Town Hall for their Vivace concert, and WOW Gallery is opening at the Multi-Arts Pavillion in Lake Macquarie! So many big things happening and wrapping up over the next few weeks, it's almost hard to keep up. Make sure to buy your tickets for Bingo Bedlam when they go on sale, and hopefully I'll see you there.

A non-stop, booked n' busy
Daniel