

ASPIRE Intern Blog #2

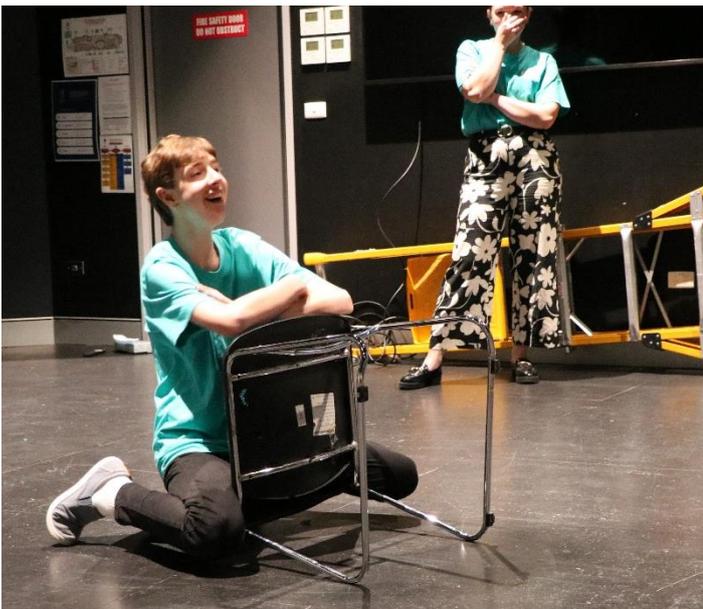


I am pleased to inform everyone that I am now fully settled into my role as ASPIRE intern, which apparently means I am everywhere, doing everything... while still not entirely sure what day it is.

We started the fortnight with the Creative Arts Leadership Summit for primary students. This involved introducing a very energetic group of kids to everything ASPIRE offers, and discovering they have significantly more energy than any of us. They rotated through activities run by the ensemble leaders, learning a dance routine (which they mastered in about four minutes) and designing their own characters. Watching them slowly realise that theatre isn't *just* acting, but also dance, music, costumes, and storytelling, was honestly so special. I'm fairly sure we accidentally recruited a whole new generation of ASPIRE kids.

Then came rehearsals... and my personal quest to get *the* dance ensemble photo.

In my mind, this photo was going to be cinematic. Artistic. Life-changing. In reality, I could not work out my camera settings. I spent a solid amount of time pretending I knew what aperture meant before seeking out Design Director Lara where she gently intervened and fixed my camera in approximately three seconds. The photos turned out great (Thank you Lauren and your iPhone with incredible quality) I will be taking full credit.



My next rehearsal day included a deep dive into the ASPIRE storage shed, which thanks to Lauren and Luke now looks far less like an archaeological dig site. I discovered many interesting props, some useful, some confusing, and more than one item that raises more questions than answers. Rehearsals this week have been VERY fast paced. Senior Drama began auditions, which is always equal parts exciting and mildly terrifying. Meanwhile, the vocal ensemble was suddenly asked to prove they could *also* dance, because singing perfectly apparently wasn't enough. There were many brave efforts, impressive efforts, and a lot of laughter. Congratulations to everyone this week who stepped out of their comfort zone and did something new, like me, I ran my first Senior Drama warm-up, which is intimidating when the people you're leading are extremely talented and taller than you, also whyyyyy does the moo off exist, I'm a little terrified. I then taught Junior Drama my favourite exercise: *Machine*.

Watching groups of young people work together to slowly transform into a chaotic human contraption is one of theatre's greatest joys, I'm insanely impressed with the talent we have in this years cast.



To finish off the week, Anna and I visited a school local to me (FINALLY!! Shout out Lochinvar) where we heard primary students pitch ideas for their school play. Some were creative, some were chaotic, and some would require a budget roughly equivalent to a Marvel movie. I am now diligently writing my humble two scripts... compared to Anna's approximately twenty. So yes busy, loud, slightly confusing, but very fun.

Also gentle reminder to all who partake, Theatre Sports is next Thursday and I desperately need prompts. Please come find me at rehearsals and give me your weirdest ideas. I will regret asking, but I'm asking anyway.

Slightly sleep deprived but still very excited,
Charlotte

