

SPOTLIGHT

No.1 February 2018
Phone: 4961 5345
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Spotlight is posted on ypt.org.au

Ticket Bookings: online at ypt.org.au

Term 1 Semester 1
Box Office: 4961 4895
Website: ypt.org.au

Fridge File

Productions

- *Little Women (senior musical)*
Saturday 2 to Saturday 24 February
- *Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr*
Monday 16 April to Saturday 19 May
- *Hinterland (senior play)*
Friday 1 to Saturday 9 June
- *Pinocchio*
Monday 25 September to Saturday 28 October
- *ELF Jr*
Monday 1 Sept to Saturday 3 November
- *Disney's Sleeping Beauty (KIDS)*
Saturday 24 November to 8 December

Pinocchio Dates

- Production/ Audition Information Meetings:
Sunday 11 and Monday 12 March
- Auditions: Sunday 25 March
- First rehearsal: Friday 6 April

Private Drama Tuition (refer to Claire's Corner)

- Semester 1: focus on Years 6 to 11
- Semester 2: focus on Years 2 to 6
- Email the Office if you interested in Semester 1 tuition

Sparkle and Shine (Annual Concert)

- Auditions Sunday 18 February at the theatre. Refer to email distributed to classes for details.
- Performances: Friday 27 and Sunday 29 April

Other Events

- Technical Workshop: 11.00 to 4.00pm Sunday 4 March
- Technical Workshop: 11.00 to 4.00pm Sunday 2 Sept.
- Monologue Fair: March/April (details in Clair's Corner)
- *So You Think You Can Act Monologue Competition*
- Year 2 to Year 6: Sunday 29 July
- Year 7 to Year 12: Sunday 5 August
- Book of Mormon Bus trip: Sunday 22 July (details page 2)
- Song Competition: Sunday 23 September
- Singing Recital: Thursday 1 November
- Jamboree (Theatre School Presentations): Sunday 2, Monday 3, Tuesday 4 & Sunday 9 December

Theatre School Dates

- Term 1: 3 February to 7 April
- Term 2: 30 April to 30 June
- Term 3: 23 July to 22 September
- Term 4: 15 October to 15 December

YPT General Meetings (3rd Tuesday each month)

- Tuesday 20 February
- Tuesday 20 March (AGM)
- Tuesday 17 April

7.00pm at the Theatre. All parents are welcome!
Please come to meetings and support your children!

From the President.....

People sometimes ask me how I can spend so much time at YPT. The answer is an easy one, ie. yes, there is always work to be done, but the real reason is that it is a pleasure to be around so many talented, energetic, committed young people – young people on the stage and in creative teams, young people tutoring classes, young people maintaining the technical aspects of productions and all with aspirations and goals! This is a truly inspiring organisation.

2017 saw the successful realization of a well planned year. Six varied and challenging productions, acknowledged by the theatre community and incredibly well patronised. Twenty seven proficiently run and well attended classes, many with Waiting Lists. Growing interest in the extension class areas of dance and voice, and the technical areas continuing to attract those interested in the mysteries of lighting and sound.

The possibilities of YPT would not be available without the dedicated core of volunteers, some of whom have been with YPT for more than 20 years, who keep the wheels turning. So, while considering the successes of the past year, I would like to again thank our volunteers, parents and students for their ongoing commitment. I look forward to 2018 and the achievements it will bring!

Monica Skehan, President

Box Office News

Bookings for *Little Women* are available with 3 shows this weekend (17 and 18 February), and 3 next weekend (23 and 24 February).

Little Women is a story full of joy, fun, definitely some sadness and a huge amount of talent. It is a senior musical because it is vocally challenging and strong, mature voices are required to carry the songs. Our talented cast of senior students, young adults and even some older young adults are all experienced performers, and they DELIVER! It is suitable for primary school audiences and above.

Tickets are on sale for *Disney's Alice In Wonderland Jr*, which opens on April 16 and runs until May 19, with performances through the first week of the school holidays and continuing on weekends.

Congratulations to our final production of 2017, *Disney's Jungle Book Kids* for an unbreakable Box Office record of 100% occupancy, even after 2 extra performances were added! Let's see if this can be MATCHED in 2018.

Please assist us with advertising by sharing our posts! Email Robyn on boxoffice@ypt.org.au if you need to book accessible seating (front row), or to discuss any booking problems.

Robyn McLean, Box Office Manager

Spotlight

Claire's Corner

Welcome to Drama Classes 2018!

It's been very exciting already and we have lots of fun things for you to see and do this year!

The Monologue Fair: come and check out our library to prepare for auditions and performances.

When: 4.00pm to 7.00pm Tuesday 6, Wednesday 7, Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 March @ YPT. Come for 5 minutes or 2 hours, it's up to you! Bring a device to capture chosen monologues.

Private Drama Tuition: package of five 30 minute lessons

When: Wednesday 21, 28 March; 4, 11 April; and 2 May.

Semester 1 - focus on Years 6 to 11

Email the theatre for enrolment information

Semester 2 - focus on Years 2 to 5

Dress Code: Harem Pants: a great alternative to wearing shorts in drama class (see below)!

They are lightweight for warmer weather and roomy for active exercises

HSPA Student Pickup: Please do not park in the 5 minute zone in front of the school on Saturday mornings. We use this zone for student drop off/pick-up only.

Keep up the good work, I've seen people working together and listening to their tutors and each other, a fantastic way to engage in drama class.

I look forward to seeing your work the *drama* be with you!

Claire Thomas
Principal



Book of Mormon Bus Trip

When: Sunday 22 July 2018 (1.00pm performance)

Where: Lyric Theatre, Sydney

Coach departs: 8.30am Hunter Stadium Broadmeadow

Coach returns: approx 7.00pm Hunter Stadium

Cost: \$145.00 per person (includes coach fare & ticket)

Total tickets available: 65 tickets

Deposit of \$75.00 required: Friday 23 March 2018

If you are interested in this bus trip, there are tickets available. Complete the form at the back of Spotlight and return it to the Office

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert Bus Trip

When: Sunday 15 July 2018 (3.00pm performance)

Where: Capitol Theatre, Sydney

Cost: \$156.00 per person (includes coach fare & ticket)

Bus Company: Kings of Newcastle ph.49631014

A YPT alumni, Luke Jarvis, who completed his degree at VCA in 2017, has been cast in Priscilla. His mum, Lynda, has organised a bus to see this particular performance. If you would like to see Priscilla with YPT and other Newcastle friends to support Luke, **phone** Kings and ask to book on the "Jarvis" bus.

Artistic Directors!

2018 is already off to a marvellous start with our first two productions looking great. *Little Women* is being very well received by audiences. My thanks and appreciation to all of the volunteers supporting this production, particularly Jodi Phipps for leading the High Tea Sunday matinee! *Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.* is well into its rehearsal period and has a very excited cast and production team ready to introduce audiences to this revised and reimagined version of the classic tale. We are also well-prepared to start rehearsals for our senior play, *Hinterland*, and the July production of *Pinocchio*.

Being at the start of new year of theatre and fun, I am reminded of the saying *decisions are made by people who show up!* I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about YPT's monthly general meetings – held on the third Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings which are of immense importance because it is where large-scale decisions are made that influence the leadership and future of YPT. I often hear great ideas from people in passing conversation, but to be part of the real decision you need to *show up*.

The committee is currently in the process of confirming the 2019 season which we aim to announce at the second performance of the Sparkle and Shine concert.

Aaron Taylor

Artistic Director

Parent & Student Production/Audition Information Meetings (see Fridge File)

YPT provides detailed information about involvement in productions so that families can make an informed decision before committing to a production. Meetings are scheduled prior to auditions for each production. Two meetings are convened - one in an afternoon and one in the evening - you need to attend one meeting only. Attendance at a Production Audition/Information Meeting is an **audition eligibility requirement**.

YPT Theatre School - things to remember:

- wear comfortable clothing, a YPT t-shirt and soft-soled enclosed shoes - no "short shorts"!
- bring a bottle of water;
- go to the bathroom before class
- only enrolled students are permitted in classrooms, ie. no guests or visitors allowed
- for security purposes, the gate at HSPA is locked during classes. Contact the YPT Office if the gate is locked when you need to enter the grounds
- after classes, a tutor will wait with students for 10 minutes before contacting parents; a late pick up fee applies if students are not picked up on time
- YPT T-shirts are available at the Office (\$20.00ea)

Spotlight

YPT Policies: keeping you up-to-date

- *Audition Policy*: eligibility criteria include attendance at a Production/Audition Information Meeting, 75% attendance record in Theatre School classes, appropriate behavior and participation in classes, and age and experience required for the role.
- *Theatre School Attendance Policy*: to maintain a place in class, students must maintain 75% attendance and appropriate participation in classes
- *Leave of absence* from Theatre School classes may be approved for family holidays and prolonged illnesses - it will not be approved for sport or other weekly commitments.
- *YPT Dress Code*: students wear a YPT logo black T-shirt to classes, auditions and program photos; thongs or sandals are permitted to be worn to classes or rehearsals; no "short" shorts at any time
- *Theatre School Refund Policy*: unless exceptional circumstances are demonstrated, fees are not refunded after the first three classes
- *Associate Student Membership Policy*: Year 12 students may apply for Associate Membership. Contact the Office for details.
- *Theatre School Trainee Tutors*: Year 11/12 students interested in Tutor positions may submit applications.
- *Photography Policy*: parents are not permitted to take photos or to film students engaged in YPT activities
- *Working with Children policy*: YPT employees (above the age of 18 years) and all volunteers are required to obtain a Working with Children Clearance (WWCC).
- *Safety Policy*: shoes are to be worn in the Theatre at all times; student in productions, parents, volunteers and employees are to sign in/out each time they enter and exit the buildings

Sparkle and Shine Concert

Reuben Sutherland was a much loved member of the YPT community. He was tragically killed on 30 March 2015 as he crossed the road after getting off the school bus. He was 12 years old. As the YPT community is committed to remembering this enthusiastic and generous hearted young man, with the agreement of his family, the *YPT Remembers Reuben Scholarship* was established. The *Sparkle and Shine Concert* supports the scholarship. Performances are on 27 and 29 April.

Forward Notice: Office Assistant

To support the increasing level work in the office, the Management Committee has created a part time Office Assistant position. In line with the YPT Employment Policy, the Job Description and invitation to apply will be distributed in the next few weeks, a panel will be established to review the applications and shortlisted applicants will be interviewed. If you think you might be interested in applying, keep an eye on your YPT emails.
Monice Skehan, President

Food Rules

No Chocolate for Cast Members

Chocolate coats the throat and effects voice production; it also creates oily, sometimes permanent, marks on costume. Chocolate is NOT to be eaten by cast wearing costume; chocolate is NOT permitted in Dressing Rooms.

Cans of Drinks

Cans of drink are NOT permitted in the Dressing Rooms; bottles with lids and poppa type drinks are permitted. *Protecting Costume*

Cast must cover their costume before they eat; a large shirt, apron or other covering is appropriate.

Hot Food

Takeaway type hot food is NOT permitted in the Auditorium or the Foyer; hot food may be eaten in the Green Room and the Courtyard; hot food wrappings are to be deposited in the bins in the Courtyard (not in internal garbage bins where they will encourage cockroaches).

YPT Code

- **Communication**: open, respectful communication is expected of all YPT members; please consider the impact of your conversation on the people around you.
- **Dealing with issues**: the point of contact in relation to successes/issues/problems is the person or people who have responsibility for specified duties, ie the set construction team, the wardrobe coordinator, the principal of the theatre school, etc; if you find it awkward to discuss things with that person, please either speak to the people in the Office or email to let us know of your concerns - comments made behind the scenes will not solve the problem, are unhelpful and can be disruptive.
- **Volunteer run organisation**: YPT operates 12 months a year on the work of a small band of volunteers; classes and productions run according to a "formula" which has been developed over many years; if you want to have input to the "formula", come to the monthly General Meetings; if you want to join the small band of workers, please let us know as we would be grateful for your assistance
- **Succession Planning**: often in organisations it looks like the jobs are all "tied up" or it is a *closed shop*. This is far from the truth at YPT – we need new people to come to meetings, to share their fresh ideas and ways of doing business and to help sustain this amazing organisation into the future. If you are interested, please let us know.

Management Committee

Spotlight

2018 Season

Purchase your tickets online at ypt.org.au

- **Little Women** (Senior Musical - YPT/Lindsay Street Players)

Season: Friday 2 to Saturday 24 February 2018 (8 performances)

Director, Aaron Taylor; Musical Director, Amber Lewis; Choreographer, Chelsea Willis; Asst Director, Freya Atkinson. The story is full of joy, fun and some sadness. The cast is hugely talented. The production is suitable for primary school audiences and above.

- **Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.**

Season: Monday 16 April to Saturday 19 May (18 performances)

Directors, Nicholas Thoroughgood and Maddie Watts; Musical Director/Assistant Director, Taylor Reece; Productions Assistant, Larissa Barwell. Cast of 70 students

Travel down the rabbit hole and join Alice in her madcap adventures. Featuring songs from Disney's thrilling animated motion picture, Disney's Alice in Wonderland JR. is a fast-paced take on the classic tale.

- **Hinterland** (Senior Play – YPT/Lindsay Street Players)

Season: Friday 1 to Saturday 9 June (8 performances)

Director, Patrick Campbell; Assistant Director, Riley McLean. Cast of 8 senior students and young adults

Afraid of the dark and plagued by power failure, Henry Quealy is living in the shadow of terror. Returning one day from his job as a door-to-door salesman selling doors, Henry discovers a hitherto hidden portal in the wall of his home. The government declares Henry a shadow of his former self, literally, and he is taken away through the mystery door. The production is suitable for middle high school and adult audiences.

- **Pinocchio** (18 performances)

Season: Monday 9 July to Saturday 18 August

Director, Michael Nolan; Choreographer, Casey Nolan; Assistant Directors: Shoba Alexander & Maddy Newland; Production Assistant, Stefano De Dona. Cast of 70 to be chosen from Year 3 to 12 students.

Carlo Colodi's traditional tale about a marionette that comes to life after learning to be brave, faithful and truthful has been captivating children for centuries. Come and join Pinocchio, his cricket friend, Claudius, the suave con-artist Ignatius, his unfortunate accomplice Hiccup and a host of other colourful and fun characters. This story was adapted by William Ford for Young People's Theatre. Suitable for all ages.

- **Elf Jr. (18 performances)**

Season: Monday 11 October to Saturday 3 November

Director: Harold Phipps; Musical Director, Freya Atkinson; Choreographer, Chelsea Willis. Cast of 70 students in Years 3 to 12. *Suitable for all age groups.*

Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. He is raised as an elf, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity.

- **Disney's Sleeping Beauty KIDS (10 performances)**

Season: Sunday 24 November - Saturday 8 December

Director: Laura Mclean; Musical Director: Levi Kealy; Assistant Director: Dakota Dunlap; Production Assistant: Elyse Worthington-Brown. Auditions open to Year 2 to Year 4 classes who meet the criteria.

It's Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday, and three fairies, Flora, Fauna and Merryweather, must use their magic to save her from the spell of the evil sorceress, Maleficent! The fairies ensure that Aurora only falls into a deep sleep that can be ended with a kiss from her betrothed, Prince Phillip.

Spotlight

Communication - keeping the YPT community in the loop

YPT communicates via this newsletter, Spotlight, email, webpage, facebook and skoolbag. We devote time to maintaining multiple methods of communication in an attempt to meet the needs of a diverse range of families.

- **in person:** Office Hours are 9.00 to 1.00pm Saturday
- **phone**
 - phones in the YPT Office do not take messages and, as YPT is run by volunteers, often there is no one to take your calls; you will always get a response to an email
- **email**
 - email is the most significant form of communication at YPT;
 - an email address is recorded for each YPT student and adult member
 - an email distribution list is created for each Theatre School class, ie. 29 individual class lists,
 - an email distribution list is created for each and every production, ie, every cast member in a production is included in a cast list
 - If you change your email address, please let us know!
 - If you find that you are not receiving occasional emails from YPT, please check your spam/junk folder as, if you have not added ypt@ypt.org.au, boxoffice@ypt.org.au, school@ypt.org.au, productions@ypt.org.au to your Contacts, your system may be filing YPT emails as junk/spam.
- **Website (updated site available soon)**

The YPT webpage contains background and policy information for families. The main tabs on the webpage are (i) Theatre School and (ii) Theatre Company. These are the 2 essential elements of YPT, ie students and productions.
- **Facebook**

YPT facebook can be accessed through the YPT website. Facebook is used to promote YPT productions, celebrate our achievements and maintain a presence in the Newcastle theatre community.
- **Spotlight**
 - is published once a term. It is for people who prefer a hard copy of messages and for those who like to display important notices on the family fridge
 - it is also published on the YPT webpage; back copies can be accessed on the webpage
- **Skoolbag (to be available before the end of Term 1)**

Skoolbag, a school to parent communication tool, is used by many organisations to maintain contact with parents. YPT will use the Skoolbag App for to communicate messages, important dates, upcoming production meetings, rehearsal schedules, etc. Messages go directly to parent smartphones.

Once it is ready, instructions to Install Skoolbag are at:

<http://www.skoolbag.com.au/app/admin/parentinstructions.pdf>

In the app store, search for Young People's Theatre Newcastle - Skoolbag

For iphone and ipad users the link is:

<https://itunes.apple.com/bz/app/young-peoples-theatre-newcastle/id1021495365?mt=8>

YPT Office & Box Office Hours

Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm

Phone 4961 5345 Email ypt@ypt.org.au Website ypt.org.au

YPT Ticket Policy

YPT has a 24 hour Box Office service!!

Online tickets can be purchased through the YPT website and Facebook (ypt.org.au)

Tickets must be paid for at the time of booking - this also applies to phone ticket sales.

Phone bookings can be made (Ph 4961 4895) during Office Hours using a Visa or MasterCard

Ticket Gift Certificates are available at the Box Office

Spotlight

Book of Mormon - Lyric Theatre: July 2018

Lindsay Street Players (YPT) Coach Trip!!

The Book of Mormon follows two young missionaries who are sent to Uganda to try to convert citizens to the Mormon religion. One missionary, Elder Price, is an enthusiastic go-getter with a strong dedication to his faith, while his partner, Elder Cunningham, is a socially awkward but well-meaning nerd whose tendency to embroider the truth soon lands him in trouble. Upon their arrival in Africa, Elders Price and Cunningham learn that in a society plagued by AIDS, poverty and violence, a successful mission may not be as easy as they expected.

A YPT bus trip has been organised to see *Book of Mormon* at Sydney's Lyric Theatre in July. Older students, adult members and supporters are invited to purchase tickets to come on the bus trip. The price of \$145.00 covers the bus trip & A reserve tickets. Some fund raising activities will happen on the bus along the way, eg. lucky seat prizes, etc, so bring some small change with you! There will be plenty of time to have a stroll around Star City and to get lunch before show time.

Please be advised that *Book of Mormon* is an adult musical; parental guidance is recommended. Students under 18 years of age are to be supervised by an adult, ie. someone's mum can accept responsibility for a child not their own.

When: Sunday 22 July 2018 (1.00pm performance)

Where: Lyric Theatre, Sydney

Coach departs: 8.30am Hunter Stadium Broadmeadow (no extra pickup points)

Coach returns: approx 7.00pm Hunter Stadium (no extra drop offs)

Cost: \$145.00per person (includes coach fare and show ticket)

Total tickets available: 65 tickets

Deposit of \$75.00 required: Friday 23 March 2018

Full payment required: Friday 1 June, 2018

Direct deposit only: Bank: Westpac BSB: 032 505 Account No: 108697

Description: Your Last Name/Mormon

To book tickets, please return this form to the Office and direct deposit the funds.

(Please PRINT).....

Book of Mormon Bus Trip

Last Name: **FName:**

Date: **Phone:**

No. tickets: **Total amt due:** **Total amount paid to date:**

Is this a 50% deposit? Yes No

Are you a current YPT family? Yes No

Office Use only
Receipt No:
Date: