

SPOTLIGHT

No.3 September 2018
Phone: 4961 5345
eMail: ypt@ypt.org.au

Spotlight is posted on ypt.org.au

Ticket Bookings: online at ypt.org.au

Semester 2 Term 3
Box Office: 4961 4895
Website: ypt.org.au

Fridge File

Elf Jr The Musical

- Monday 1 October to Saturday 3 November
(18 performances)

Life and Love Sondheim Concerts (3)

- 6.00pm Sunday 14 October
- 6.00pm Sunday 28 October
- 2.00pm Sunday 4 November

Disney's Sleeping Beauty (Kids)

- Saturday 24 November to Saturday 8 December
(10 performances)
- Parent Induction Meeting: Friday 14 September
- Photoshoot/Costume Lineup: Thursday 8 November
- Technical/Dress Rehearsals: Saturday 17, Sunday 18, Thursday 22 and Friday 23 November

Hot Mikado

- Friday 8 to Saturday 23 February (8 performances)
- Production Information Meetings (PIMs):
4.00 Sunday 16 September
7.45 Monday 17 September
- Auditions: Saturday 6 October
- Rehearsals start: Friday 19 October
- Costume LineUp/Photoshoot: Thursday 13 December

Disney's Madagascar Jr

- Production Information Meetings (PIMs):
4.30 Sunday 21 October
7.45 Monday 22 October
- Auditions: Sunday 4 November
- Rehearsals start: Friday 16 November

Special Events

- Director's Showcase: Sunday 7 October
- Junior Theatre Celebration (JTC)
Friday 26 & Saturday 27 October
- Singing Recital: Thursday 29 November
- CONDA Ceremony: Saturday 1 December

Theatre School Term 3 Final Class Dates

- Monday 17 September
- Tuesday 18 September
- Wednesday 19 September
- Saturday 22 September

YPT General Meetings (3rd Tuesday each month)

All parents & carers are most welcome.

Production Information Meetings (PIM's)

PIMs, held prior to auditions for each production, provide detailed information so that families can make an informed decision before committing to a production. Two meetings are convened - one on an afternoon and the other in the evening – families need to attend one meeting only. Attendance at a PIM is always an **audition eligibility requirement**.

From the President.....

A short piece from me this term! Lots of other things to read below:

- During the Elf Jr performance season, a giving tree will be placed in the foyer to collect gifts for the Starlight Foundation Christmas Toy Drive
- Forward notice that the YPT Christmas Function (party) for parents and volunteers (adults) will be held at the theatre on Tuesday 18 December – keep the date free!!
- Please note that preparations for the first two productions for the 2019 season start this year. Dates in the Fridge File!!
- Thank you to the many volunteers who have contributed to our successes in 2018

Monica Skehan, President

YPT Family Community - Facebook Group

We are excited to announce the launch of a Closed Facebook Group, called *YPT Family Community*, for internal communications and questions.

Our team at YPT aims to provide a range of communication options to our families. Already we communicate regularly via Spotlight and eMail. The new Facebook group will enable you to ask questions and to more quickly access current documents relevant to productions and performance opportunities. Membership of this group is optional, however, you are encouraged to join to forge an even stronger connection within our community. Please be assured that we will continue to communicate all information via email.

However, over the coming weeks we will be phasing out Skoolbag - as the pricing has recently tripled and is now an unaffordable cost.

There are two (2) sections of the *YPT Family Community* group that we will be regularly using:

- Files: for documents such as current rehearsal schedules and performance lists
- Units: certain posts related to Productions. These will be tagged by our Administrators. For quick access to posts for your group, go to your relevant Unit e.g. Elf Jnr. This is a NEW Facebook feature.

How do you join?

- Go to Facebook and in the Search field type *YPT Family Community* and ask to join
 - You will be required to answer 3 questions
- Membership of the group is approved by an Administrator only. The group is restricted to current YPT members. We thank you all in advance for keeping this communication forum positive and inclusive. We look forward to you joining the *YPT Family Community!*

Katie Heath, Management Committee

Spotlight

Artistic Director writes...

Another successful period of productions and creative events! My thanks to the cast, crew and creative team for a wonderful season of *Pinocchio*, which was very well received by a series of sold out performances.

Elf Jr rehearsals are progressing, well with the production team demonstrating the next step in terms of high quality and effective digital promotion – my thanks to the creative team for this achievement! The wardrobe team are working well to generate a whole suite of Christmas-inspired costumes that will make this production as magical as the audience expects it to be.

Disney's Sleeping Beauty (KIDS) is in rehearsal with the very young cast enjoying the challenges of live theatre.

It is also pleasing to see rehearsals for *Life and Love*, a concert of Sondheim songs, progressing well. The effort put into this by concert directors, Brent and Freya, is commendable.

Chelsea Willis and her team have been working hard to get the Junior Theatre Celebration organised for another year. Over forty students and nine tutors will attend the Celebration at the Civic Theatre in October.

Recently we held an induction, information and concept meeting for the 2019 directing teams. Feedback from the 2018 meeting informed the agenda for this meeting.

Training, focusing on effective leadership qualities, was attended by senior crew, some directors and members of our YPT leadership team. The intention of this training is to support our young leaders to, in turn, support less experienced students.

While we have been very busy, we should take time to reflect on the wonderful opportunities and learning experiences made available to our students.

Aaron Taylor
Artistic Director

From Claire.....

We have hit the road running this term with the Primary School Monologue Fair and Individual Drama Tuition.

The YPT Factor Song Competition, scheduled for Sunday 23 September at the Theatre is fully subscribed. The Monologue and Song Competitions are attracting more interest each year.

As forward notice, we have included some information about the Theatre School Jamboree, the annual presentation of class work to parents and families.

Held in December each year, every student is given the opportunity to perform on the YPT stage with their class group.

A preliminary Jamboree schedule is attached to this newsletter. Please check your commitments for December and try to keep the dates free so that you can see your children perform on the stage.

Claire Thomas
Principal

YPT Policies: keeping you informed

- **Audition Policy** eligibility criteria include attendance at a PIM, 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
- **YPT Dress Code:** students are required to wear a YPT logo black T-shirt to classes, auditions and rehearsals. As of February 2019, students will also be required to wear black pants.
- **Theatre School Refund Policy:** unless special circumstances are demonstrated, fees are not refunded after the first three classes
- **Photography Policy:** taking photos or filming students engaged in YPT activities is not permitted
- **Working with Children legislation:** YPT employees (above the age of 18 years) and all volunteers are required to submit a Working with Children Clearance (WWCC) before engaging in YPT activities.
- **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
- **Late Pick-up Policy:** parents who are late picking up their child from classes will incur a late pick-up fee. "Late" is defined as more than 15 minutes after the designated end of the class.
- **Working With Children Check (WWCC) Policy:** at least one parent in each family is required to submit an WWCC number to the Office; if a second parent or other adult family member volunteers on Parent Production Rosters, they are also required to submit a WWCC.

Box Office News

Our holiday productions are continuing to sell spectacularly well with *Pinocchio* being no exception. Congratulations to all involved in this production for an occupancy rate of 98.3%.

There are multiple group bookings in the opening week for *Elf Jr The Musical*, despite the opening day, Monday 1 October, being a public holiday. We encourage the families involved in this production to book their tickets as they will not want to miss their preferred performances.

We predict an occupancy % in the very high 90's for both *Elf Jr The Musical* and *Disney's Sleeping Beauty (Kids)*. Don't miss out – purchase your tickets early!

Tickets are now available for the *Life and Love Sondheim Concert* which will have three performances between 14 October and 4 November.

Robyn McLean
Box Office Manager

Student Safety

We have had numerous parents and tutors contacting the Theatre Office to show concern for student's welfare resulting from parents (grandparents or others) parking down and/or across Lambton Road from the school gate and beckoning their children to come to them.

Our policy is that the tutors will keep the children on the fence side of the footpath and wait for parents to collect their child in person. If parents sit in their cars and beckon a child to cross the road or walk substantially away from the gate, the tutor will instruct the child to stay with them.

Older children who use public transport to access classes are asked to speak to the tutors supervising the gate area to let them know that they are walking to the Bus Stop.

If you are unable to park safely in front of the school, please park in Australia Road, the side street near Sharp Electronic. Sharp Electronic have given YPT permission to use their off street, fenced carpark on Saturdays. It is a short walk from the carpark around to the school gate. Alternatively, there is parking available on Perth Road, the street behind McDonalds.

Following reports by the public of dangerous and illegal stopping and parking on Lambton Road on Saturday mornings, we feel we should make you aware that Newcastle City Council Parking Officers may canvas the area.

We ask for your co-operation in this as it is the welfare of your children that underpins this policy which covers both Theatre School classes and production rehearsals held at HSPA.

We ask that, in the best interests of all concerned, you follow the road rules and have consideration for our young people and other drivers.



While this message is specifically about behaviour on Lambton Road, parents dropping-off and picking up on Lindsay Street Hamilton in front of the theatre and from Scot's Kirk on Murray Street, are also asked to keep children safe and to show consideration for others.

Reminder! Late Pick-up Policy: parents who are late picking up their child from classes will incur a late pick-up fee. "Late" is defined as more than 15 minutes after the designated end of the class.

YPT Office & Box Office Hours

Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm

Office Ph: 4961 5345

Box Office Ph: 4961 4895

Email ypt@ypt.org.au

Website ypt.org.au

YPT Ticket Policy

YPT has a 24 hour Box Office service!!

Ticket purchases may be made 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 during Office/Box Office Hours using a Visa or MasterCard

Ticket Gift Certificates are available at the Box Office

Spotlight

YPT Theatre School Jamboree Schedule - Advance Notice

The Drama Jamboree is the annual presentation by the Theatre School classes for parents and families. Every student is given the opportunity to perform on the YPT stage with their class group. Classes will begin to work on their Jamboree item at the beginning of Term 4 - it is essential that students attend all classes up to, and including, the Jamboree. Musical Theatre and Dance Classes also perform at the Jamboree.

To identify when your child will perform, look for their class name on the schedule below. Just to clarify, Theatre School Drama class names are a combination of the year the child is in at school and the time the class is held, eg.

- Class 4.1 is students in Year 4 who attend the 9.00am class
- Class 4.2 is students in Year 4 who attend the 10.30am class

Musical Theatre, Jazz and Dance classes are in class groupings, eg. the students in the Musical Theatre (Years 5 & 6) class, are in Year 5 and Year 6 at school.

The YPT auditorium is licenced to seat 148 people. As per the legislation, tickets must be purchased for children aged 2 years of age and above. Please respect this policy.

Tickets are not yet released for sale; we will let you know when the tickets are available online at www.ypt.org.au

Monday 3 & Tuesday 4 December				
Student Call Time	Start Time	Drama Classes		Musical Theatre/Dance Class
Monday 5.00pm	6.00pm	Senior Classes 3, 4 & 5		Musical Theatre Senior Tap and Jazz (Advanced)
Tuesday 4.00pm	5.00pm	2	3.2	Musical Theatre (Years 2, 3, 4) Musical Theatre (Years 5 & 6)

Sunday 2 December				
Student Call Time	Start Time	Drama Classes		Musical Theatre/Dance Class
10.30am	11.00am	3.1	4.1	Tap Dance (Years 2 to 6)
12.00pm	12.30pm	5/6.2	4.2	Tap Dance (Years 2 to 6)
2.00pm	2.30pm	5.1	6.1	Jazz Dance (Years 2 to 6) Musical Theatre (Years 5 & 6)
3.30pm	4.00pm	5.2	6.2	Jazz Dance (Years 2 to 6) Musical Theatre (Years 5 & 6)

Sunday 9 December				
Student Call Time	Start	Drama Classes		Musical Theatre/Dance Class
10.00am	10.30am	7.1	8.1	Musical Theatre (Years 7 & 8) Jazz Dance (Years 7 to 12)
11.30pm	12.00pm	7.2	7.3	Musical Theatre (Years 7 & 8) Tap Dance (Years 7 to 12)
1.30pm	2.00pm	9.1	Senior 1/2	Tap & Jazz Dance (Years 7 to 12)
3.00pm	3.30pm	9.3	9.2	Tap & Jazz Dance (Advanced)