

VICTORIAN YOUTH THEATRE NEWS

Term 4 - October 2009



Term Four 2009

It's hard to believe that it's Term Four already, and only seven weeks until performances of "THE WORLD'S A STAGE" commence at the Gasworks Theatre. The culmination of an exciting year that has launched a new rehearsal hierarchy, performing structure and curriculum, we have a lot to look forward to. Already, all groups have finished staging one of their plays, and will now be commencing their second piece for the semester. Highlights of the season promise to be "PETER PAN" and "TWELFTH NIGHT" from the Actors Ensembles, "PERSEPHONE" and "THE LAND OF THE MUNCHKINS" from the Players, and the Lewis Carroll trilogy of "WALRUS AND CARPENTER", "JABBERWOCKY" and "ALICE IN WONDERLAND ~ THE COURTROOM" which will feature the Youth Theatre classes.

On the production side of things, everybody is now busy with preparations of lighting designs, costumes, sound effects, stage plans, props – a huge collaborative task. With all that is going on behind the scenes, we wish all Youth Theatre students the best for the final weeks of rehearsal and look forward to seeing how you have developed over this semester. See you at the theatre. Chookas!

End of Year Performances

Ticket Bookings

Tickets for the end of year performance season "The World's a Stage" at the Gasworks Theatre 24 November - 12 December will go on sale online from **9am, Monday 12 October**. Information regarding ticket bookings will be emailed and distributed to all students in the first week of Term 4. The easiest way to secure your tickets is to book online: www.cpcpa.com.au/book-your-tickets. Students in the performance do not need to purchase a ticket.

Performance Checklists

While the Youth Theatre provides costumes for all students in some cases students are required to supply some items. All Youth Theatre members will receive a Performance Checklist in Term 4 (week commencing Monday 19 October) in class and via email.

Teacher Profile – Spotlight on Stefan Bramble

Stefan previously taught for the Youth Theatre and rejoined the team this year. He teaches at our Croydon, Essendon, Ivanhoe and Mount Waverley venues.



What training have you had?

An interesting question, because I am a serial studier I have racked up quite a tally. After high school I studied performing

arts at Monash University, during which I also completed an education degree and a shiatsu massage degree at the Australian College of Shiatsu Massage. After this I studied acting at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Do you have any tips for aspiring performers who would like to work professionally?

A career in the performing arts is not a sprint, its a marathon. Excellence has little to do with talent and more to do with perseverance and a love of learning and improving your skills. The world is full of people who will tell you that you can't, shouldn't and will not. Listen to those who say you can, should and will. I can't be certain but I am fairly sure that every performer has experienced knock backs, hard times,

doubts and rejection, a good performer stays focused on a goal and sees these obstacles as stepping stones to greater understanding and skill. Finally, take all this advice with a grain of salt, lots of people will tell you lots of things, listen respectfully, then make up your own mind.

What are your top three audition tips?

Get lots of sleep the night before and use a good moisturiser (seriously). Dress in layers with different looks, that way the casting director can see you as different characters they may be casting. See the audition as a means in itself. Enjoy the time then let it go and don't think about it any more - you'll be doing a lot of them.

What do you most enjoy about performing?

It's a long list, so I'll limit it. Firstly, the people in this industry; they will give you the shirt off their backs, the roof over their heads and the pie off their plate. Secondly, I love the creative problem solving; a performance is a puzzle and a challenge with infinite rewards. Lastly,

I can think of no other industry that requires such a broad range of skills and general knowledge; my study of performance has expanded my horizons beyond what I ever expected.

What has been your most embarrassing moment performing?

I have a list of the usual: forgetting lines, wardrobe malfunctions, popping knees out of joint - just the regular stuff. But my favourite is when I passed out on stage during the final moments of a one man show. I'd been rehearsing pretty hard and feeling a little sick, so I should have been taking it easy, but I decided to push it (there is a lesson for young performers), anyway in the final seconds I had to hold my breath and in order to get the biggest dramatic pay off I held it too long and passed out. Everything went black slowly and I got a flash of my feet, still standing as I swayed. I then decided to calm down a bit, took a few deep breaths, my vision returned, I said the final line and walked off stage. The moral of the story is: know your limits and be gentle on yourself, no performance is worth pain.

Youth Theatre Calendar

Term 4 commences

Monday 5 October
Rehearsals resume this week.

Ticket Sales

Tickets will go on sale online at **9am, Monday 12 October**.

Performance

Checklists

Week commencing 19 October - distributed via email and in class.

Melbourne Cup Long Weekend

Friday 30 October -
Tuesday 3 November
No rehearsals will be held over the Melbourne Cup 'long' weekend. This applies to all students who usually have classes from Friday to Tuesday inclusive.

End of Year Performances

Season dates Tuesday 24 November - Saturday 5 December at the Gasworks Theatre, Albert Park.

Term 4 ends

Term 4 officially finishes with your end of year party. A reminder to check your *Rehearsal and Performance Schedule* for your final class date.

For full details of rehearsal and performance dates and times please refer to your **Rehearsal and Performance Schedule**.

2010 Offers

Saturday 19 December.
Offers for 2010 classes sent via email.

cpcpa head office

PO Box 111, Moreland VIC 3058 Phone: 03 9384 1644 Email: youththeatre@cpcpa.com.au Website: www.youththeatre.com.au

venue managers

Kate Conlan - Essendon, Hoppers Crossing

0417 326 666

Jessie Metz - Templestowe

0429 326 020

Rhiannon Fish - Hawthorn (Wed & Thu)

0417 326 777

Hannah Moore - Taylors Lakes

0429 326 017

Lene Kristensen - Berwick, Frankston

0417 326 444

Scott Santinon - Croydon

0417 326 333

Elijah Makoni - Bundoora, Hawthorn (Sat), Ivanhoe

0417 326 222

David Studley - Bentleigh, Mount Waverley

0429 326 018


CONTACT
details

A Student's Perspective

The Youth Theatre caught up with three current students... Here are some of their thoughts regarding the Youth Theatre:



Luke Axiak
Taylors Lakes Intermediate Youth Theatre



Alex Cullen
Ivanhoe Senior Players &
Templestowe Senior Youth Theatre 2



Alannah Denham-Preston
The Actors Ensemble (Wed) &
Bentleigh ~ The Players

How long have you been part of the Youth Theatre program?

Luke: Nearly 2 years.

Alex: For 3 years.

Alannah: Since the start of last year. But I have been within CPCA since 6 years of age, as I was a member of the Broadway Chorus.

What do you most enjoy about the program?

Luke: Acting out different character roles.

Alex: It gives people an outlet to show their creative and fun side.

Alannah: Performing plays, making new friends and learning different acting techniques.

What has been the highlight of your time with Youth Theatre?

Luke: When we performed at the Gasworks Theatre in front of our family and friends.

Alex: My first semester play at Gasworks Theatre where a mate and I had two characters that came in at different sides of the stage. After we finished our scene with one character we had to run around to the other side of the stage whilst getting changed and my mate and I just got on for our cues. We were still panting on stage!

Alannah: All of the performances have definitely been a highlight.

What has been your favourite play so far? Why?

Luke: *Bully in the Graveyard*. Because it was funny and I could relate to the characters in the play even when they weren't very nice characters.

Alex: *Waiting Womb* because I just loved the characters that I was playing.

Alannah: My favourite play would have to be *Peter Pan*. This is because it is fun and challenging. The characters all have British

accents, and I enjoy the challenges with learning them.

What do you hope to achieve being part of the Youth Theatre program?

Luke: Being able to learn as much as I can about acting and performing in front of a camera or a live audience and develop and grow my self confidence. I do hope one day to use what I have learnt through going to the Youth Theatre Program when I achieve a T.V./Movie/Stage Production role. I enjoy acting very much.

Alex: I hope that I can gain some really good skills, meet some awesome people and have a lot of fun.

Alannah: I hope to continue drama with the Youth Theatre and become a part of the 'Actors Studio'.

General Notices

New Staff - Hoppers Crossing & Taylors Lakes

The Youth Theatre would like to welcome Hannah Moore as the new Senior-Intermediate Youth Theatre director for Hoppers Crossing and Taylors Lakes. She will also be the Venue Manager for Taylors Lakes on a Tuesday night.

Term Four Workshops

All students will have a Term Four workshop in preparation for the end of year show "THE WORLD'S A STAGE". Please check your Rehearsal and Performance Schedule for your groups workshop date. These workshops form a crucial part of the rehearsal schedule, and are compulsory for Youth Theatre members. If you need to miss part of the workshop for any reason, please let your teachers and venue manager know as soon as possible, so that an apology can be recorded.

Assessments & 2010 Offers

All students will be assessed in the first few weeks of Term 4 and at their performance(s). Offers for placement in our 2010 classes will be emailed on **Saturday 19 December**.

2010 Free Try Outs Sessions

Free try out sessions for entry into the Youth Theatre's 2010 classes will be held at 3 locations at the end of the year.

Bentleigh - Tuesday, 1 December
Essendon - Wednesday, 2 December
Hawthorn - Thursday, 3 December

Prospective students may attend one of any of these sessions for placement at any of our venues across Melbourne. Please note, current Youth Theatre students do not need to attend a try out session.

Places in try out sessions are by appointment only. If you have any friends or family who may be interested in joining for 2010 they can call CPCA Head Office on **9384 1644** during business hours to book a session.

We will also be running try out sessions for our sister programmes **Beginners OnStage** and the **Young Australian Broadway Chorus**.

2010 Adelaide Fringe Festival

The Victorian Youth Theatre will be entering a piece in the 2010 Adelaide Fringe Festival programme. Auditions will be held in the last week of October; rehearsals and a Melbourne season will be held in January / February next year. Touring dates early March. Further information will be emailed to eligible students.

Uniform

Students are reminded to wear correct uniform to class each week. As we move toward the warmer months t-shirts should be fine for rehearsals, however please remember if it is cooler to wear a long-sleeved top under your uniform rather than a jumper/jacket covering your rehearsal t-shirt. Please remember that all students will require their Youth Theatre t-shirt for performances. New t-shirts can be ordered through your Venue Manager.

Attendance

As we near performance time it is important for students to be in attendance for all rehearsals. Please remember rehearsals commence promptly so please allow a few minutes to get to class so you don't miss out on anything.

Apologies for absence or lateness should be sent to your Venue Manager, not phoned through to the office. Please check the contact details on the front of this newsletter.

Email us with your News

No student news is too big or too small so please email us at youththeatre@cpc.com.au

Visit the **Youth Theatre** website www.youththeatre.com.au