



AT SPRINGS...

WSC Stage Challenge 2015 - #WSCPROUD

WSC Stage Challenge is well underway with rehearsal and planning for this year's performance night coming up soon – Friday 26th June 2015. We are 8 weeks away from competition at the Aotea Centre and for the 100 participants, leadership team and teachers involved there is a lot of effort going into every element of the production. For the students, getting ready to hit the stage after months of rehearsal is definitely the most exciting part.

The production team is student-led/coordinated and this year it is a pleasure to work with Y13 Leaders - Hannah Rayneau, Julia Roberts, Paige Reeves, Jemma Barclay, Lucia Hocking-Whitehead and Nadia Ward. Each leader chooses to take on an element of concept, choreography, music, set, costume, make-up plus technology for the day which has and will keep them very busy in the coming months.

The wonderful thing about Stage Challenge is that it promotes leadership and self management, participation and relationship skills in all aspects of production and performance. The overall achievement and pride that students take away from the event will stay with them for future performance in years to come. It really does encourage students to focus on personal interests for continued learning and will most certainly prepare them for adventures in life outside of school.

This year WSC Stage Challenge is titling the dance 'Proud' and the theme recognises what all students leaders are promoting about school this year – pride. The dance follows a narrative that tells a story of "reasons why students should celebrate their school and its achievements. This also links to the idea of individuals in society (especially New Zealand) not wanting to publicize their success because they either want to be overly modest/humble or it is 'uncool' to show off. The music used reflects people achieving in different areas in the school environment. The songs chosen show the adversity the students are faced with and the obstacles they must overcome to be in a mindset where they are comfortable recognising their pride is worth celebrating. We want to show the change between the student body starting off in a controlled environment where differences and individual success is not welcome, to a school where individuality and self pride is encouraged with a warm and positive attitude. The message we aim to portray is the idea that being proud of yourself is a positive thing, and something that should be celebrated. #WSCPROUD." – **Hannah Rayneau, Stage Challenge Leader 2015.**

It is truly wonderful to see the Y13 leadership team teaching and encouraging participation across all year levels. We are very proud of their efforts so far.

Thank you Hannah Rayneau – 13 Art Design for the ArtsNews Heading in this issue. All headings are the work of 13 Art Design students 2015.

DRAMA



Ariane Lenihan – Record of Travel – Drama goes to London!

Day One - Leaving Auckland for the UK

Everyone was so excited that we could hardly contain ourselves the day we left Auckland. For me, I was ecstatic - I was in the departure lounge off on an experience of a lifetime that I will never forget. WSC Drama en-route to London! The plane rides were long, cramped and believe me we were all thankful and exhausted and relieved by the time we got to our destinations Changi Airport, Singapore and finally Heathrow, London. We arrived in London Heathrow airport early morning, had a couple of hours to wait for the coach and then a two or so hour drive to Bristol. The teachers were committed to tiring us out but denied us the pleasure of sleeping as we went for a Banksy and Bristol tour led by Ms Kayes. Also, several others went on to hear a choir singing at the cathedral in the square. By the time we went to bed that night we could hardly be bothered to say goodnight to each other.

Day Two - Bath

Mr James must have had a lot of faith in us, as the next day, early in the morning, jet lagged, but still ready to take hold of every moment, we took a train to the stunning city of Bath. There we hopped on a bus and drove to St Greg's, a school competing in the same Festival as us. At St Greg's we performed each of our plays and had a good chat with a lovely bunch of people - we fully immersed ourselves in the schools culture, with kids our own age from the countryside and it was rewarding. The conversations mainly evolved around imitating accents and exchanging slang that we can now use back home without anyone knowing what on earth we are talking about.

Day Three - Rehearsal

Day three was solely for rehearsal, which we needed, as we had been extremely preoccupied the last couple of days in a very new country. Following hours of work we also got to venture out by ourselves to do the one thing everyone had been dying to do since the day we landed. Shopping.

Day Four- Showtime

This was a wonderful day dedicated to acting and experiencing on of the oldest theatre's in England. While we did a workshop we also went on a tour of The Old Vic, which was an honour in itself. Everyone was in awe of the space we were in, the history and the beauty of the theatre is something we cannot really experience in New Zealand. We also couldn't forget the big names that had performed on the same stage we were standing on! On top of this, we also performed in a smaller theatre that night and the praise we got from the schools and others that attended was insane. While the other schools we saw were great, they had nothing on us kiwis.

Day Five- London Town

This was the time we were truly waiting for. The pressure of the play was over and we could finally really enjoy being out and about without the background nerves of performing. We were still on a buzz from the night before and so when we saw the palace, London Eye, buildings, everything we couldn't contain ourselves. This was also the first time Mr James braved the underground and took us on the tube. While he was freaking out about the whole ordeal we kids handled it like pros. There were minimal glitches and we all made it there and back safely.

Day Six- Frantic Assembly

We were all excited and very impressed when we found out that it was Frantic Assembly that choreographed 'The Curious Incident of the Dog' which we had travelled to see. The workshop was very physical, and we did a lot of lifting and tricks that used a chorus of movement- for example, flying or doing flips in the air with the help of others. After this we went with Mr James and Ms Goldsmith to Buckingham Palace, for a walk through the gardens followed by a trip to watch 'The Play that Goes Wrong'. As most of you probably know, some of the kids were lucky enough to see Kate (the Duchess!) driving with a procession of police and cars, Shayla even got it on film! This was a massive highlight for Mr James and he was certain that he could go home right then and there and be content. I have to admit, it was a very surreal experience, as some people go to London many times and never see a glimpse of the royals, but we did.

Day Seven- Theatre Complicite

Theatre Complicite was a full day workshop and we loved every minute. The workshop focused a lot on working as a whole team and we did a lot of chorus games and challenges, walking and moving to establish how we could work together. We also played many games which each worked on a certain element of acting, whether it be spatial awareness, taking offers or just being more connected to actors you are working with.

Day Eight- Sightseeing

Seeing the sights - we first went up the London Eye, then into the London Dungeon, which is sort of like Spookers, but less scary and more informative instead of just a thrill seeking experience. We visited Madam Tussaud's - the wax museum, where we took as many photos with the celebrities as humanly possible. Finally, 'Radiant Vermin' was the performance we saw that evening and even though the plot was a bit of nonsense everyone enjoyed it.

Day Nine- The Globe

Finally, we got to visit The Globe. It was a place that we were all able connect with, as we had all had some connection to Shakespeare – there is a huge amount of respect amongst us all for his writing and plays. Some of us have continued learning the language of Shakespeare by studying and performing it at school, and others continue to perform his works outside of school. We started off by doing the tour, which was extremely interesting, and we learnt a lot just from this. We then had a lecture about Shakespeare and the way they used to rehearse in his time. After lunch we did a couple of hours of workshops, learning how to portray the language and different ways to decipher what he was trying to say in order for us to make more sense of it.

Day Ten- Shopping!

This was a day we all loved. We split up, with a couple of students going to The V&A's and the rest of us going to Camden Markets, Carnaby Street and Oxford. After long day of shopping we dropped the bags back home and headed off to see the last show in London - Matilda. We all left the theatre extremely happy and in awe of the young kids who were performing. The talent they had was incredible and I think it is safe to say we were all pretty jealous of the awesome opportunity they had.

Day Eleven- Home to Auckland

Our last day and we weren't that happy about it. We weren't leaving until late so did a bit more exploring and made another trip to the V&A's before having to get our bags and head to the coach. The drive to Heathrow was a quiet one, there wasn't much talking, we were tired and sad that the trip was coming to an end.

This trip was incredible. We learnt so many skills through the workshops and were extremely lucky to be mentored by some very prestigious acting companies. I would like to thank Rebecca, the parent who came on the trip to help out the teachers; you were a great help and thank you for putting up with a bunch of teenagers, even though it isn't your job. Also a MASSIVE thanks to Mr James and Ms Kayes. Mr James; for organising the trip for us, we can't imagine how stressful it was planning the events and also pulling it off once we got over there. We certainly saw the pressure it

put on you closer to the departure date. Ms Kayes, thank you for your direction and enormous contribution with 'Remote'. It was such a huge deal, creating something that could be taken overseas, and you did so well. The play was brilliant, and thankfully we all pulled it off and were able to make the show awesome. Getting a chance to participate and do something this awesome at our age is a great achievement, and the people that were a part of it were all so lovely, we created a bond that would not have been made without you guys pulling together and making this happen. This was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity, and we couldn't be more happy by the way it turned out.

Ariane Lenihan – Drama Leader



MEDIA

Term 2! What an exhilarating time for Media! We are mere days away from the biggest 48 hours of the year for any worthy film student with the 48Hr Film Festival fast approaching! This weekend (1- 3 May) our many school teams will be trying their hand at writing, shooting and editing a film in 48 hours. With all our school's successes last year, the hopes will be high for an even larger WSC presence this time around.

We wish the best to all the Springs' students, who will be surely pulling their hair out by the end of the weekend.

The 2015 Scholarship Media class is now kicking into gear. It's an invigorating, collaborative atmosphere where all things media are passionately debated. We get a chance to explore in-depth an aspect of media that interests us for a scholarship exam at the end of the year. However, it barely feels like working!



Clockwise from left: Benjamin Zambo, Olly Clifton, Zac Johnson, Ruby Griffin, Jimi Frizzell, Kate Barber, Tom Rands, Matilda Boese-Wong, Pearl Little

Benjamin Zambo – Media Leader

VISUAL ARTS

Extended Greetings

The term has begun with a hiss and a roar as the department gears up in preparation for the transitional shift up in workload – for the term two Y9 students, the y10 portraits, and the senior

students developing work from one internal into the next. The number of students showing independent initiative to utilise their non-class time to refine their work to a high level of finish is very commendable and will no doubt reflect in their reports and final grades.

A reminder to students and parents/guardians that both Option A and B are currently offered in the Level 1 Visual Art programme this year. At present we have approximately six students who (for a variety of reasons) have signalled an interest in Option B and they will be able to complete all of their work in class and still have the option to continue with senior art classes next year. What follows is a simplified table of the two options, however parents/guardians can contact me directly with queries or see the Course book for further information.

Y11 2015	Standard	Assessment Method	Credits	Internal/External
Option A	1.2 Drawing Standard	Drawing and Mixed Media Painting and Photogram 2xA1 folio	4	Internal
	1.3 Two Media		6	Internal
	1.4 Body of work		12	External
Option B	1.2 Drawing Standard	Drawing and Mixed Media Painting and Photogram Poster/Brochure Sculpture	4	Internal
	1.3 Two Media		6	Internal
	1.4 Art History		4	Internal
	1.5 Visual Art		4	Internal
			4	Internal

As part of the EOTC this term there are a couple of trips planned for the seniors following the school practise examinations and workshop times. The second year 12 Art History trip will involve myself and Kirsty Britton driving minibuses to Pah Homestead, Corbans and Te Uru for the purposes of research and developing their analytical writing for AS91185. The three year 13 Art classes will be travelling to Dilworth during class time to view and discuss the display of Top Art from last years folios. Both trips will be directly beneficial in providing a range of options and resolutions for students to consider and analyse in regard to the unpacking of the standards.

Also later in the term the Department is sponsoring a school wide competition for house points and four individual day tickets to the prestigious 'Semi Permanent' Art Fair. Details and promotion to be handled by year 13 Arts student Ruby Griffin who is also on the Arts committee.

Lastly, we are appreciative of the payments that have come in since the last newsletter and welcome any further fees to be forthcoming, either as instalments or one payment.

Year level	Duration	Art Fees
Year 9	Term	NIL
Year 10	Semester	\$30
Year 11	Year	\$55
Y12 Art Design	Year	\$85
Y12 Art Painting	Year	\$65
Y12 Art Photography	Year	\$80
Y13 Art Design	Year	\$85
Y13 Art Painting	Year	\$75
Y13 Art Photography	Year	\$120

The ability to provide specialised class resources is integral to the quality and innovation of the programmes offered at Western Springs.