

EXPECTATIONS FOR ONSTAGE CAST AND CREW

Please see below for all things related to our production week. Having a full understanding of these things will help us to have a fun, smooth and stress-free week at the J.

ONSTAGE ENERGY AND PRESENCE: You need to do your absolute best to demonstrate your character onstage. Think about how you are presenting your character with your body language and facial expressions. Everyone at THE J WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU no matter where you are onstage. Please make sure you really **BRING IT** to the stage - **remember ACTING IS REACTING!** Live Musical Theatre is all about ACTIONS AND REACTIONS to what is happening onstage. You want it to look like (and sound like) it is ALL HAPPENING FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME! This is crucial for our audience and for them to gain the sense of wonder and enchantment this story is all about. REMEMBER, if you BELIEVE it and ACT that way, the audience will BELIEVE IT TOO!!! YOU NEED TO BE "ON" THE SECOND YOU WALK ONSTAGE UNTIL THE MOMENT YOU WALK OFF!

CHARACTERISATION: Get in character and stay in character. Don't talk to other characters or actors backstage – stay in character and help them stay in character too by being respectful of their role onstage.

BACKSTAGE ETIQUETTE: ABSOLUTELY NO TALKING once the show starts! Voices from backstage reverberate right out to the audience. If you need to communicate with a member of staff, use non-verbal actions to gain their attention, then approach and speak quietly in their ear. Try to solve a problem yourself first and if you know you are someone who asks a lot of questions that you might already know the answer too, this is a wonderful opportunity to show your maturity and common sense. Stay focused when you are approaching the wings – don't distract other performers while waiting for your moment to move onstage. Don't distract other actors or crew members in the wings on the other side of the stage.

ENTERING THE STAGE: You MUST ALL wait for the set to be ready BEFORE you go on stage. It doesn't look good when actors move onstage while the backstage crew are still prepping the stage and this is also when ACCIDENTS TAKE PLACE. It will be very dark onstage for transitions so please wait for your cue to move on from either Amanda or Mrs Mercer. Don't be in the wings **UNLESS** you are to move onstage shortly after (don't be standing in the wings waiting a whole scene for your entrance – you will get in the way and/or get injured)

DON'T STRESS TO GET ONSTAGE: NEVER, EVER, EVER, EVER, RUN TO GET YOUR ONSTAGE MARK. EVER. EVER!!! WALK CALMLY, QUIETLY AND QUICKLY TO YOUR MARK. The lights will come up when Ms Swift knows that you are in place. NEVER SPEAK BEFORE THE LIGHTS ARE UP AND ON YOU. EVER!!! If they don't come up straight away there might be another matter taking place that does not relate to you – stay focused, don't move and breathe calmly.

EXITING THE STAGE: DON'T TALK OR SHOUT OR GET EXCITED IN A VERBAL WAY! Keep in character until the end of the show, or until you are back in the changing room.

MAKE-UP: Don't touch your face once you are in make-up. Don't hug other people in costume or touch other people's faces; you will get make-up on your fingers that will go on costumes or props – this is a big NO NO! Remove your costume CAREFULLY at the end of the show to ensure you don't put make-up on your costume.

COSTUME RESPECT: YOU are responsible for YOUR costume. YOU must ensure you place your costume BACK THE WAY YOU GOT IT; buttons done up, neatly presented etc. If you leave YOUR

costume on the floor, or on the rack in a messy way (e.g. barely done up/falling off the hanger) I would NOT want to be you when Ms Swift or Mr Dean find it! We will practise this at rehearsals tomorrow and once in costume, please sit on a chair between scenes and NOT ON THE FLOOR OF THE RGC – YOUR COSTUME WILL GET DIRTY!

HAIR: Your hair is actually easier to style and look amazing onstage if it is not “super clean”; very clean hair is harder to work with so don’t wash your hair the morning of the show!

LEADS DIALOGUE AND SONG CUES: The majority of the show runs from dialogue cues – please ensure you stick to the script as you have been doing in rehearsals. REMEMBER TO LOOK TO MR DEAN for your cue – make it look natural like you are just looking off into the distance!

LEADS MICROPHONES: Leads, you will be on microphones. You do not touch the mic pack for any reason. An adult will ensure you are set to go/batteries are okay etc. if you have a microphone on, you are not to talk AT ALL off stage. We will know the dialogue cues and will bring you up and on when it is time.

LEADS END OF NIGHT MICS: You will need to remain onstage to safely have your mic removed from your costume and returned to the sound desk. Mics off first, THEN wigs, THEN costumes.

RESPECT THE J: Do the right thing at all times at the theatre. We have St Andrews Anglican College written on our shirts but we expect you to be on your best and kindest behaviour because it is the right thing to do! Be polite to their staff, listen, be respectful of keeping bathrooms, backstage areas clean and tidy and pick up all rubbish.

EVERYONE – AT THE END OF THE NIGHT: You will be extremely excited post-production and will want to exit fast to see your friends and family. BUT, NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE until you have taken your costumes off and hung them up, put on your regular clothes, THE BACK CHANGE ROOMS are SPOTLESS, you have collected all your personal belongings and that you have thanked all staff and volunteers backstage. Again, remember to CALMLY remove your costume so you don’t get make-up on it!

Tomorrow is a full show run through – please wear your Chitty t- shirts to rehearsals. We are running the whole show – no stopping for missed dialogue or cues – we need to see what it is like to do our show without stopping and what we still need to work on.

Next week is going to be one of the most amazing, fun, exciting, nerve wracking and brilliant experiences of your life! I can’t wait to get there and to get started!!!

See you all at 8 am tomorrow for **OUR LAST EVER CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG SATURDAY REHEARSAL!!! YAY!!!**

Kind regards,

Heather Swift
MUSICAL DIRECTOR