



## NEWSLETTER 4 August 2020

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Hi everyone.

Firstly, we want to thank all of you who stayed with us during lockdown. We worked hard to provide as many opportunities and experiences as we could, and we really appreciated all the support. We just want to remind you of all the amazing things that have happened for Phoenix students and families over lockdown.

Our Saturday West End Covid workshops were taught by:

Jodie Steele  
Charlotte Anne Steen  
Jennifer Tierney  
Helen Anker  
Christopher Tendai  
Garry Lee  
Jenny Legg  
Megan Louch  
Erica-Jayne Auden  
Matt Gillet  
Adam Crossley  
Sam Lathwood  
Harry Francis  
Jo McShane  
James-Royden Lyley

We had our Night At The Musicals Quiz, online of course! We enjoyed our socially distanced picnic, singing competitions, monologue competitions, and we have made two amazing videos which have been viewed online by nearly 200,000 people! Our agency clients have had lots of self-tape castings, recalls, pencils and even jobs! We have gained new members, who we are very pleased to welcome to the Phoenix family! We started our LAMDA classes, we have had rehearsals for our play Girls Like That! We appeared online for Disability Pride 2020 and we were awarded the main festival cup again for the highest marks overall at the Springboard Festival! We learned a Hamlet Rap and played loads of drama games over zoom. We have our amazing Phoenix facemasks and even a whole new uniform! We did a Guess the Baby challenge and ran a brilliant audition preparation workshop with Matilda MD Michael Steel. We also had a very moving and heartfelt talk about being a performer of Colour in the industry from Chris Tendai.

## INVOICES & PAYMENTS

Due to the complexity around charging weekly and the different term lengths, and also due to some parents wanting to only pay for when their children attend, or taking a long time to settle invoices, we moved to a termly fee from March 2020 (similar to most other groups)

Our termly fee from Easter 2020:

**Morning fees** will be **£312** (£78 a month over 12 months)

**Sibling discount** will still be 50%. (£39 a month over 12 months)

**Afternoon fees** will be **£224** per term (£56 a month over 12 months)

**Phoenix Chicks** will be **£180** per term (£45 a month over 12 months)

**FEES ARE DUE THE 1<sup>st</sup> OF EACH MONTH STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.**

Termly fees can also be paid in full in advance.

We spend so much time chasing monthly payments that this will enable you to simply set up a standing order each month and it will reduce our stress and admin time substantially.

We may also need to look at charges if fees are not paid on time, or stopping students attending until fees are paid. This is not a route we want to go down, but every month there are fees outstanding. Thank you to those of you who always pay on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month or who pay in full.

**We will still require a term's written notice if you intend to leave. Fees will be due until the end of that term's notice.**

**This is also relevant to anyone who is not continuing with us once we return to our venue. We feel we have maintained sessions well during lockdown, at a reduced rate and will continue to provide Phoenix sessions every week.**

**We would really appreciate the fees in lieu for those who left at lockdown and are not returning in September.**

We are still non-profit; all fees, and all commission from PTCPerformers, go into the Phoenix account and this pays towards venue hire, staffing, insurance, licencing, printing, music costs, training, creative enablers, and so much more.

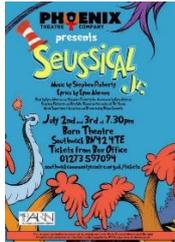
## SEPTEMBER COVID TEMPORARY FEES

At present it appears we may have to return in small socially distanced groups from September. In which case there will be different timings and fee schedules.

**Fees will be £65 a month for the morning classes and £36 a month for the afternoon sessions.** The new temporary times and rules for arriving/leaving are further down this newsletter.

## OUR SHOWS

We are very sad that we have to put Seussical on hold again!  
We lost too many members of the cast during lockdown, and now we will need to recast it and plan a new date! It may well be that we do this as originally planned, as a Show In A Week in a half term break.  
Watch This Space!



## OLIVER!

Our all age, completely open to all, musical, Oliver! will now be in April 2021!  
We will be holding auditions in the autumn, and hope to have a large cast (and hope that social distancing in theatre can be worked around!) Dates may have to change again depending on Government guidelines.  
This will be open to anyone to audition age 4-99! Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings, and nearer the show will be on Sundays too.  
We hope that all our Saturday students will want to be a part of this. It will be a full-scale musical show, with a live band and amazing sound and lighting.



## **TEMPORARY TIMETABLE**

### **10:00 – 11:30**

We have a brand new and exciting class starting!  
Our Phoenix Chicks will be our students aged 4-6 years! They will meet from 10-11:30 and work on their drama, dance and singing skills in a relaxed and friendly session, with our new and very experienced teacher, Clare. The age range will be flexible based on the needs and ability of each individual student. When we think your child is ready to join the main group, then they will be moved up!



### **10:00 – 12:00**

Age 6-11 years

### **12:00 – 14:00**

Age 11-18 years

### **14:00 – 16:00**

Afternoon small groups and Girls Like That rehearsal

Fingers crossed we can actually re-open with our usual timings, but we will not know until the beginning of September.

## **USUAL TIMINGS:** (hopefully from January if not September)

10:00 – 13:00

All age class, musical theatre, drama, dance

13:30 – 16:00

Small groups, LAMDA, audition technique, individual singing/drama, play rehearsals

## CLOTHING:

We ask that all students wear a Phoenix top for classes. We have a busy and active online presence, and we love to promote our students and our company. Our students are proud that they are a part of the Phoenix family.

We have a wide range of clothing available, including our new lightweight dancewear.

Any student taking part in one of our many extra performing activities will need to wear a Phoenix t-shirt or hoodie, and either Phoenix tracksuit bottoms/leggings or light grey ones. Our cotton branded clothing is very good quality and also washes very well.

T-shirts	£15
Hoodies	£25
Joggers	£25

### Dancewear:

T-shirt	£18
Vest top	£17
Crop Top	£17
Leggings	£19
Shorts	£16
Leotard	£20
Jacket	£20
Bag	£7



**PTCPerformers Agency:**

Our Spotlight registered inclusive young performers agency was launched in April 2019.

We limit ourselves to a small number of clients who we know very well. This means we only put clients forward for jobs for which they fit the brief, which makes us successful.

So far, we have had clients working on commercials, charity films, feature films, a musical summer event, theatre, tv, and professional pantomime success! We have had many recalls and pencils, which is incredible considering that over 1000 children are put forward for most roles.

Our books are always open to Phoenix students. Please email [PTCPerformers@gmail.com](mailto:PTCPerformers@gmail.com) if you would like to be considered.

We are also very interested in any parents and siblings who would like to be considered alongside their children, as we are often asked for family groups for commercials.

**Tuck Shop:**

Sadly, we will not be running our tuck shop for at least the first half term back, due to Covid guidelines.

**Chaperones:**

***Although we appreciate that many parents have current DBS checks, we are only able to have parents helping or staying at our sessions/events who are licenced chaperones. This is simply because a clear DBS in itself does not show any evidence of safeguarding knowledge, or training in looking after children in entertainment and/or performing situations. Please do contact your local council about becoming a licenced chaperone. We are always in need of extra licenced adult support at events and performances.***

***NB: Due to Covid rules, we cannot have any parents in the building at all. Please take note of this, as we do not want to make anyone feel uncomfortable by asking them to leave. Children will need to separate from parents/carers outside until further notice.***

## NEW RULES FOR ARRIVING AT CLASS FROM SEPTEMBER, until further notice.

**Chicks to arrive at 10:05 and leave at 11:35**

**6-11 years to arrive at 9:55 and leave at 11:55**

**11- 18 years to arrive at 12:05 and leave at 14:00 or 16:00**

Parent/carers must wait outside with the student.

A staff member will come to the door and call each student in.

A contactless thermometer will be used to check temperatures; if the student has a temperature over 37.7 degrees they will be asked to leave.

On entry each student must use the contactless hand sanitiser

Each student should bring tissues and their own hand sanitiser gel. Please talk to your child about handwashing and social distancing.

We would prefer it if students wear a mask as they arrive and walk into class, but we appreciate that some may find this difficult and we will not enforce it. Phoenix masks are available for £4.

We will repeat the process at the end of class. Parent/carers must wait outside, socially distanced.

If your child is able to leave and walk to your car alone, then please send a signed permission letter and we will let them leave.

**It is really important, in order to implement a speedy entrance and exit, that students arrive on time.** We have a five-minute slot to get students inside. Staff need to be teaching, and cannot be waiting outside for students to arrive. Students will be let out of class 5 minutes before the end time.

Break will take place in the hall. All students must stay in the hall/room their class is allocated to, and will not be able to mix with the other classes. Students need to bring a bag with them each week for masks, hand gel, tissues, folders etc.

As we will not be able to chat with parents at the start or end of class, please do use the WhatsApp/Facebook groups for any queries, or email/message direct if there is important information we need to know that day.

Hopefully this will not be forever!! Let's hope we can be back to normal in January, but we ask for parent and student support to make this work.

**TERM DATES:**

***Autumn Term***

September 5, 12, 19, 26  
October 3, 10, 17, 24  
November 7, 14, 21, 28  
December 5, 12, 19

***Spring Term***

January 9, 16, 23, 30  
February 6, 13, 27  
March 6, 13, 20, 27

***Summer Term***

April 24  
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
June 12, 19, 26  
July 3, 10, 17

Looking forward to working with you all this year!

Amanda, Brogan, Harris, Clare, Olly, Raefn

Phoenix Theatre Company

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