



## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2019

I hope you are all having a lovely summer holiday and enjoying some relaxing time with family and friends, away from the stresses of work and school!  
We are looking forward to seeing you all back at The Purple Playhouse on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Exact term dates are listed at the end of this newsletter; please take note we are not running every Saturday this term.

### NEW CLASSES

We are going to trial opening all day for this term.  
Phoenix Saturday workshops will now run from 10am until 4pm, from September 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have our usual three-hour musical theatre class in the morning, from 10-1, and this remains for this term at a cost of £25 per session (siblings half price). The afternoons will be filled with small group classes including:

- LAMDA** group class (working on monologues and duologues for exam entry)
- FESTIVAL ENTRY** class (preparing speech & drama and singing entries for Springboard, Eastbourne, Worthing and East Grinstead)
- AUDITION WORKSHOP & PREPARATION** class (very important for all those represented by PTCPerformers)
- GROUP SINGING** class (working on singing in harmony and general ensemble)
- GLEE CHOIR** (this will be by invitation)
- GROUP DANCE** class (working on learning full MT dance routines)
- PARENT Musical Theatre ZUMBA/DANCE/KEEP FIT** class
- FOUNDATION MT/DRAMA** class (for those who are not yet ready to concentrate and maintain boundaries for the full morning class). This class will be more games based and a gentle introduction to the discipline of a full length group class.

Decisions on which classes are offered each term will be dependent on how many of our students are signing up.

Any student who is able to stay without parental input is welcome to spend the afternoons at Phoenix, as long as they are signed up to at least one class. (Parents are of course able to pop in for break-time support for those students who have additional support needs) There will be adult supervision, but we will be reliant on students being able to remember which class they are attending and behaving appropriately while waiting with friends. There will be time between classes for self-

directed rehearsing of singing, drama pieces etc. We really want this to be a useful and fun social time, which is so important for our diverse students.

Financially we do appreciate how expensive children are! There will be two payment options for the afternoon:

**Option 1:** £25 per session and the student can access as many classes as they can fit in!

**Option 2:** £10 per extra class per student. We feel that this is a fair cost for a very small group class.

If we are also able to fit in individual singing lessons with Brogan or Amanda we will try to do so. However, these will be at the usual price of £18 for 30 minutes.

### **EVENTS:**

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|----------------------------|--|
| August 31 <sup>st</sup> :  | Orphest Festival at the Orpheus Centre. Arrive at 11:15am  |
| October 19 <sup>th</sup> : | Kangaroos Fundraiser at Woodlands Mead School, Burgess Hill.                                     |
| October half-term:         | If we can sign up 30 students, we will do another amazing Show-In-A-Week                         |
| December:                  | Nursing Homes Christmas singing (various dates)<br>Purple Playhouse Christmas Concert (date tbc) |
| February 14-23:            | Eastbourne Speech and Singing classes  |
| March 6-8, 13-15, 20-21:   | Springboard Speech and Drama classes   |
| March 21-22                | Springboard Singing classes  |
| April 4-5:                 | East Grinstead Singing classes   |
| April 4-5, 18-19:          | East Grinstead Speech and Drama classes  |

### **FESTIVALS:**

Taking part in local music, dance and drama festivals is a great experience for any performer. It is a really useful tool for gaining confidence in a safe environment. The feedback received is always constructive and kind and can help performers look at how well they are achieving and also at improving their skills. I also think it is important to support these local arts events, because without support they disappear, and performing opportunities then reduce for our children and young people.

This term we will be encouraging all our students to enter at least one class in a local festival next year. These range from memorising a short poem, to sight reading prose, to acting alone or in a group, to singing solo or duets, to the ensemble piece we were so successful in this year! Every entrant receives feedback from a professional and usually a nice certificate!

**CLOTHING ORDERS:**

We will be ordering named hoodies (£25) in time for the beginning of term. We can only place an order in bulk, otherwise the costs rise substantially. So please do let us know asap if you need a new hoodie, with the name you want and whether you want that on the back or arm of the garment. The next hoodie order won't be until January. We also have t-shirts (£15) and trackie bottoms (£25). These are all high quality and that is reflected in the price we pay our supplier. We are also looking into the price for onesies, which may be useful for those spending the whole day with us on Saturdays. Although clothing is not compulsory, any student taking part in Phoenix events outside of our Saturday classes will need to wear either a Phoenix t-shirt or hoodie, plus light grey trackies, shorts or leggings.

**NEW STUDENTS:**

In order to keep costs down to parents/carers for our sessions, and to enable us to offer more and more extra activities, we need to encourage new students. We are an inclusive group, and as this is lacking locally, we have found that we are mainly getting enquiries from students with additional needs. We want to reflect a fully inclusive society and try to keep our numbers of those with needs and those without at a good balance. Please do let friends and family know about us and spread the word about all the amazing experiences we offer our students. We are not a franchised group, we know our staff and our students as individuals and work out our curriculum and timetable accordingly.

As always we remain open to any student who can access our teaching and maintain our boundaries, respect our other students and staff, and who really wants to be part of a theatre group.

**PTCPERFORMERS:**

Our Spotlight registered inclusive agency was launched in April. We have 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. So far we have had clients working on commercials, a musical summer event, and 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 open until September 7<sup>th</sup>, when we are holding an open audition day for the agency. Please email [PTCPerformers@gmail.com](mailto:PTCPerformers@gmail.com) if you would like to be considered. We are also keen for any parents who would like to be considered alongside their children, as we are often asked for family groups for commercials.

**TUCK SHOP:**

As promised last January (!), we will now have our tuck shop available on Saturdays. Please bring small change with you. We will be selling all the terribly unhealthy options such as crisps, chocolate bars, sweets and also cans of sugar free drinks and bottled water. Food will be nut free as we have allergies in the group.

**PAYMENT TERMS:**

Just a reminder that four weeks' written notice is needed to leave our Saturday workshops.

We are slightly changing payments this term to make our admin easier, and also to help parents with banking etc. Although payments seem higher, we unfortunately have to pay the entire term's venue hire in advance, and therefore need to have all accounts for the term paid in full by November.

Payments are due as follows by Standing Order please:

September 1 <sup>st</sup> 2019:	£110 (sibling £55)
October 1 <sup>st</sup> 2019	£110 (sibling £55)
November 1 <sup>st</sup> 2019	£105 (sibling £52.50)

Afternoon sessions, for this term only, can be paid four-weekly by cash or bank transfer (please do put PM session on your reference), however you must agree to attend for all four weeks at a time, and there are no refunds for non-attendance.

**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 or performing situations. Please do contact your local council about becoming a licenced chaperone. We are always in need of extra adult support.*

**TERM DATES:**

September 7, 14, 21, 28,  
October 5, 12, 19, 26  
November 16, 23, 30  
December 7, 14

Looking forward to working with you all this year!

Amanda, Brogan, Harris, Liz, Olly, Raefn

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