

The Arts a Go Go! 2021 Show Commitment Booklet

This notice explains what is involved in committing to the 2021 Show.

Please save this booklet and read it carefully before committing your child to be in the show.

A Word from Rachel - Arts a Go Go! Director/Founder

Last year, we were unable to do our show in the Lower Hutt Little Theatre where we normally perform. We instead created a pop-up theatre at The Spot in the large space. This turned out very well and we are so grateful our students were able to perform in such an uncertain Covid year. This year we are back in the Little Theatre in Lower Hutt. This is great news, as there are certain things that we need the big venue for, such as stage size for our large casts, wing space for set/props/performers, being able to go behind the cyc (large white screen) for entrances and exits, technical capabilities of the venue and back stage facilities. Interestingly, it also works out cheaper to hire the Little Theatre than create a pop-up at our own building because every single thing needs to be hired for a pop-up, from black wall draping to a porta-loo! Although we have students from all over, including many from Lower Hutt, most of our students are from Upper Hutt and you may wonder why we do not hire an Upper Hutt Theatre. I review this often and The Little Theatre is currently still the best for our particular Arts a Go Go shows in terms of facilities, costs and the ability to utilise our parent volunteers and technical partners who we have formed good relationships with over many years. You will see in the online commitment form that there is the option to make contact with other parents to carpool.

Although we are back in the theatre, there are some things from last year that actually worked very well and after discussions with teachers, parent crew, some audience and some students, there are things we would like to continue. Our show has been growing over the years in terms of student numbers, length and back-stage congestion and some changes will help keep it sustainable for all involved.

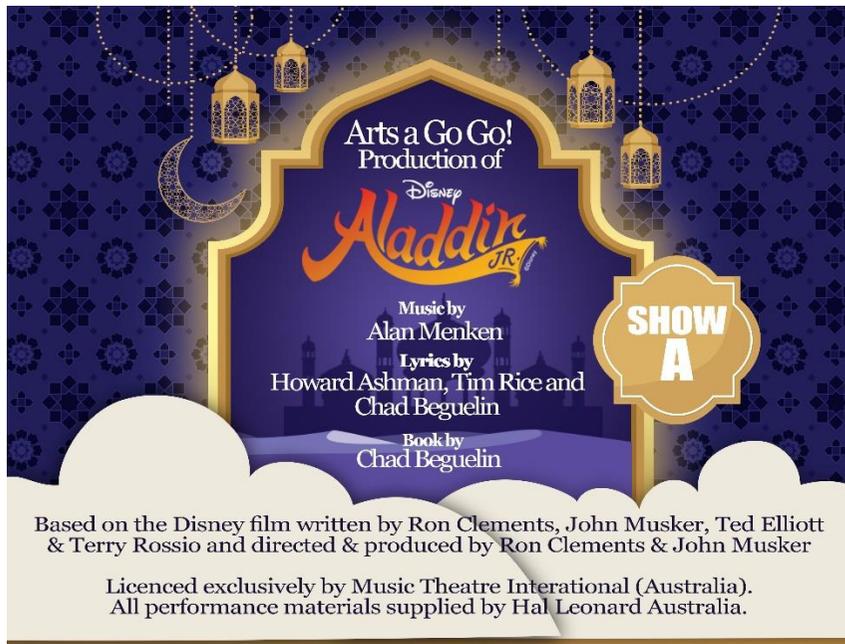
Key Things We Are Taking from Last Year into 2021:

The 2021 show will be split into Show A and B as it was last year. (Show A: Combo Classes. Show B: Weds Drama, Musical Theatre and Irish Dancing). This keeps each show at a more manageable length for the audience and it helps with backstage dressing rooms as we are bursting at the seams back there. The audience can choose to buy tickets to Show A, Show B or a special price for both. The major downside of the show split last year was missing the important tradition of students watching each other's scenes when they are all together at the one dress rehearsal. We have worked out a way to solve this that you will see later in the notice. Show A will get to watch Show B and vice versa. We also love that many parents like seeing the other students perform each year, not just their own children, and there is an affordable and timetabled way for parents to see both shows this year and we encourage you to do that. We don't need to do as many performances as last year, as we are back to the large audience seating capacity of the theatre. AND finally, the all-important pizza (previously fish n chips) tradition will continue!

Last year for the first time, a lot of the students were able to get into costumes and do hair and makeup at home with instructions given, unless they were called in for specialty hair and makeup or costuming on-site. I have always loved us doing all of that for the students and making the students feel special with our fast working and skilled team of parent hair and makeup volunteers backstage. Getting through 120 plus students is in an amazing feat. Last year, most of this was done at home and I got to see that all did not fall apart, it reduced pre-show pressure a lot and more importantly, the students were still very happy and excited getting their hair and makeup done before they arrived. (Parents even sent me photos and videos of this!) Having most students arrive in costume also reduced the lost property significantly (one bag as opposed to a full carload every other year) and rubbish was less. For these reasons, we will continue all but certain characters getting ready at home. However, we know that for some parents, hair and makeup really is not something they are comfortable with and it could cause stress. We will be asking for parents who would be willing to have a child pop to their home before dress rehearsals and shows to help with this. We will also still have parent volunteers on-site to do the more difficult hair and makeup work and certain costumes will also be kept at the theatre.

THE SHOWS *(Poster Art & Design by Hannah McKenzie Doornebosch)*

SHOW A: ALADDIN JR – 11am & 1.30pm Combo Classes



SHOW B: FANTASTICAL – Irish Dancing, Wednesday Drama, Musical Theatre



Show B Fantastical Scenes *(Titles to be confirmed)*

3.30 Drama: Based on The Lost City of Atlantis

4.45pm Drama: Shamalot - a most definitely accurate history of Camelot

6pm Drama: Set in The North Pole

Advanced Drama: 2001: A School Odyssey

Irish Dancing: Set in Space

Musical Theatre: An extract from the musical Pippin

THE COMMITMENT

Class rehearsals begin in term 3. These must take priority over other activities. (We ask that if birthday parties are on when classes are on, children arrange to arrive at the party late to or to leave it early.) It not only affects the confidence of your child if they miss class but also the confidence of the other performers around them as they try to learn lines, learn dances, manage props and remember stage directions and blocking. If there is an important family or school event that your child must attend, please let us know on the commitment form. We can work around things with advanced notice.

The theatre schedule on page 7 is particularly important and compulsory for all.

Things to think of: Are you going away? Does your child have school camp? Is your child in another performance in the same week? Do you have difficult childcare arrangements or transport problems? Does your child have exams? Please let us know on the commitment form now. We can try to make it work.

So, a serious commitment is required to attend all classes in term 3 and 4, unless there is an illness, something important that is prearranged that you have notified us about or there is a family emergency. Attending in Term 3, also means your child must attend in term 4 and take part in the show. Students cannot just attend term 3.

If you lose a notice or want to double check something,
please see www.artsagogo.co.nz

(Current Show Information page in menu bar).

Join the Show Facebook group if you can – a link will be sent.

Please check emails regularly.

Rachel and the teachers are here to help, but please
do your best to check back before asking questions.

It's a very busy time.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE COMMITTING?

Tickets and Fundraising

Arts a Go Go! does not aim to make a profit on its shows, with much time volunteered. Ticket income alone does not cover the costs of putting on the shows. To cover costs, we have already started fundraising with the Clean- Up Crew at the racecourse after The Wellington Cup in January, and we have been successful in receiving a Creative Communities Grant once again from Creative NZ. We very much believe in the show's worth, as I know parents do too from all the feedback we get, but there does need to be help from parents and an additional fee to make it possible. Our major fundraiser is the raffle, and details will come out about that next term.

Show Fee

As well as the normal term fee, there is an additional show fee per child to be paid in term 4. In 2021, there is a different Show Fee for Show A and for Show B. The show fee helps cover extra costumes and accessories, hair and makeup products, thank you presents and other miscellaneous show costs. (Costs including venue, projection, lighting, sound, set, props, printing and staff are mainly covered by ticket sales, grants and fundraising but the show fee does help towards these too.) Show A is higher because of holiday rehearsals, extra combined class rehearsals and a contribution to buying in the rights to a Broadway Jr show. If your child is in both Show A and Show B, you just pay the Show A show fee, not both.

Show A: \$50

Show B: \$35

Volunteers

An email will be sent out asking for volunteers. There is all sorts of preparation and theatre work, including supervision, and we appreciate your help very much. If you have particular skills or interests, eg, art, prop making, sewing, lighting, sound, specialty hair and/or makeup, you are very welcome to let us know now. If you are willing to help another student get ready with hair and makeup in your home before the dress rehearsals and shows, please tick the box in the commitment form.

Costumes

A costume notice will be emailed in term 3 with items that you may have to find, eg, from home, \$2 shops and second-hand stores. Some costumes will be ordered online, bought at shops on your behalf or designed and made. If your child's costume is one of these, the cost will be kept to no more than \$50 for you. (Any higher and it will be subsidised.) Some students may have costumes lent to them for a hire fee. Please check your child's costume notice in term 3.

Reading the Rehearsal Schedule and Notices

Please carefully check the theatre schedule and this booklet before committing your child to be in the show. We would appreciate it if you could please do your best to refer back to this booklet, the schedule, emails and other notices before contacting us, particularly when close to the show. I will also be sending you a link to a Show Facebook Group that you will have the option of joining. If you lose any information, you can find it on the special show page on our website www.artsagogo.co.nz Coordinating a show of this nature with around 130 children and young people is exciting but not easy. Communication is always emailed, with really important things being given in hard copy too. A week or two before the shows, there is a “Final Details” notice sent home with all the details for the smooth running of production week.

Extra Rehearsals

If we feel that your child’s scene would benefit from extra practice, we will arrange a suitable time with you. There is no extra charge for these rehearsals.

SHOW GROUP A PLEASE NOTE (This only applies to the Saturday Combo classes, Aladdin Jr.)

From term 3, certain characters in Aladdin may be called in to the 11am combo class, the 1.30pm combo class or both. You will be emailed.

Saturday classes continue over Labour Weekend.

Week 2 of the October Holidays – some students in Show A will be called in to rehearse in week 2 of the holidays at a time that we will arrange with you.

Last weekend of the October Holidays, Saturday 16th October – all students in Show A are required at a rehearsal 10am-4.00pm (at The Spot as normal)

Saturday Classes in term 4 –combo students are likely to be needed at both the morning and afternoon combo classes 11am-3.30pm. The exact dates of these combined classes will be confirmed with you.

Scripts

If your child is in Wednesday drama or has lines in the Combo or Musical Theatre classes, they will bring home a script. For Wednesday drama this may not be until week 2 or 3, because as we write original scripts, these need to be workshopped in the first couple of weeks before the play and parts can be finalised. Can you please remind your child to bring their script to every class with a pencil, even after they know their lines? When practising lines at home, can you please help them with their cues too? (That is the line or action that comes just before their line, so that they not only know what to say, but **when** to say it.) Please do not judge your child’s part by the number of lines they have, as that can impact negatively on your child. Acting is a lot more than speaking and we write plays for the children and young people to experience a number of acting and ensemble techniques. (Combo and Musical Theatre students also have a lot of singing and dancing to learn and Aladdin Jr is very much a large, mainly ensemble/chorus show.)

Show Video and Photos

These are professionally taken by Glass Gecko Films and a notice will be sent with order information.

A BRIEF LOOK AT HOW THE NEW SHOW PERFORMANCE WEEKEND WILL RUN

Show A: Aladdin Jr – purple

Show B: Fantastical - blue

More details come out in the Final Details Show Week Notice, closer to the time.

SATURDAY 20 TH NOV		Saturday 2pm Show	Between Shows	Saturday 5pm Show
Show Group A	Your child's call time will be given	Show Group A performs	Show Group A has pizza after performing	Show Group A watches Show B (Compulsory - no ticket required)
Show Group B	Your child's call time will be given			Show Group B performs
SUNDAY 21 ST NOV		Sunday 2pm Show	Between Shows	Sunday 5pm Show
Show Group A	Your child's call time will be given			Show Group A performs
Show Group B	Your child's call time will be given	Show Group B performs	Show Group B has pizza after performing	Show Group B watches Show A (Compulsory – no ticket required)

SHOW TICKETS

Tickets go on sale later in Term 3.

This year, row & seat numbers will be selected.

SINGLE SHOW TICKETS

Watch Show A OR Show B

Adults \$20

Children/School Students \$15

DOUBLE SHOW TICKETS

Watch both Show A AND B

Adults \$30

Children/School Students \$25

PRODUCTION WEEK SCHEDULE 2021

THEATRE REHEARSALS AND SHOW WEEKEND ARE ALL AT THE LITTLE THEATRE, LOWER HUTT, AND REPLACE CLASSES.

Please Note: A lot more details are given closer to the time in the “Final Details” notice. Hair and Makeup Instructions will be given.

SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER

(Please arrive and leave in costume. No hair or makeup.)

Who is needed and when?

9.00am – 10.30am: Irish Dancers

10.30am-1.30pm: Combo Classes

2.15pm-3.30pm: Musical Theatre Class

3.30pm-4.30pm: 3.30pm Weds Drama Class

4.45pm-5.45pm: 4.45pm Weds Drama Class

6.00pm-7pm: 6pm Weds Drama Class

7.15pm-8.15pm: Weds Advanced Drama Class

This is a closed rehearsal. Parents cannot watch unless they are helping.

MONDAY 15th NOVEMBER

Pack-in Day 1 – sound, lighting, Show B set

Technical Rehearsal 1

(Arrive and leave in costume. No hair or makeup)

Who is needed and when?

3.45pm – 5.00pm 3.30pm drama class

4.45pm-6.00pm 4.45pm Weds Drama Class

5.30pm-7.00pm Musical Theatre Class

6.45pm-8.00pm 6pm Weds Drama Class

7.45pm-9.00pm Weds Advanced Drama Class

This is a closed rehearsal. Parents cannot watch unless they are helping.

TUESDAY 16th NOVEMBER

Pack-in Day 2 – Show A set

Technical Rehearsal 2

(Please arrive and leave in costume. No hair or makeup)

Who is needed and when?

3.45pm-5pm Irish Dancers

4.45pm-8.00pm Combo Classes

(younger students may arrange to leave at 7.30pm if needed)

This is a closed rehearsal. Parents cannot watch unless they are helping.

WEDNESDAY 17th NOVEMBER

Fantastical Dress Rehearsal: Show Group B

(costumes, full hair and makeup required. Please seek permission to leave school early.)

3.45pm-7.30pm Musical Theatre, Weds Drama Classes, Irish Dancing

Show Group B parents may watch.

THURSDAY 18th NOVEMBER

Aladdin Jr Dress Rehearsal: Show Group A

(costumes, full hair and makeup required. Please seek permission to leave school early.)

3.45pm-7.30pm Combo Classes

Show Group A parents may watch.

FRIDAY 19th NOVEMBER

FIX UP DAY

Everyone must please keep this afternoon and evening free in case their child is called in.

SATURDAY 20th & SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER

SHOW DAYS

Timetable page 6.

Your child's call times will be given.

GOOGLE COMMITMENT FORM

Now that you have read all that is required, please complete the google show commitment form that you have been sent a link to.

This must be submitted no later than Thursday 24th June.

If your child will not be taking part in the 2021 show, please email as soon as possible to let us know.

AND FINALLY, WHAT HAPPENS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR AFTER THE SHOWS ARE OVER?

The normal class timetable does not continue after the show.

Wednesday 24th November

3.30pm-5.30pm: Costume return for borrowed costumes (unless needed for the Christmas Parade)

4.30pm-5.30pm: Student Working Bee at The Spot

Saturday 27th November

11am-12pm Christmas Parade Rehearsal at The Spot

(For those who wish to take part.)

Saturday 4th December

5.30pm-7.30pm Party and Prize Giving at The Spot

(All welcome. Please bring a plate.)

Sunday 5th December (TBC)

Upper Hutt Christmas Parade

(Details to follow. Usually 3pm and a costume theme will apply.)

Saturday 11th December

1.30pm-2.30pm Final costume return for borrowed costumes and last chance to pick up medals and certificates if you missed Prize Giving.