



Wow – what a busy time we’ve been having!
Despite having to deal with COVID changes, we’ve been able to push ahead
with projects and show activity.
2021 is proving to be a BIG year

Just to summarise our show activities over the last couple of months:

- Around 70 young performers and 20 crew have now finished rehearsing up at the showground, in our new space, for **“Alice in Wonderland”**. What a colourful and professional show it was! The transition to the auditorium stage of the SEC was smooth because of the hard-working team behind the performers. Julie Fraser lead the sterling production team; and Julia Armstrong pushed, cajoled, inspired, encouraged (and ALL the other positive terms you can think of) the cast to reach the heights of a superb show. Oli Gait constructed the large set. Costumes were sewn and sorted, props were created, many set pieces and props were painted and repainted, cast and crew were fed...there are far too many people to mention individually, but we are truly thankful for the huge input from parents and young cast to create the magic of this show. We welcomed newcomers to both the crew and the cast, and we hope they will remain **JAM family** for some time to come. Special thanks to Kristy Lochrin for bringing so many creative ideas to life.

Audiences absolutely loved the show, with some disappointed locals unable to secure seats for the last 2 sold out shows. One patron told us “It was a little bit of shining in a dark time” We have had many recent enquiries about children joining the JAM program. JAM will start again next year for children over 10 and under 16 at the time of the performance. In the meantime, **Annie** will be on stage before JAM, see below.

Parents and kids alike will miss the JAM fam – until 2022!
As one parent put it JAM is a ‘phenomenon’ in which we take great pride and pleasure.

- We were thrilled to receive a **NSW state government grant** to support local industry professionals who had lost work through COVID. You have to work hard to demonstrate you can use the grant money to best advantage for the community. It has enabled us to plan and proceed with three **workshops for locals to gain skills and confidence in musical theatre and the audition process.**

We were able to secure Emma Hawthorne to lead these structured workshops, with the help of Scott Bowcher and Claire Honeywood. 24 participants have been able to take part in the professionally lead workshops in Nowra, at no cost. As well as her professional show experience, Emma has had previous experience leading NIDA workshops and teaching dance at the Sydney Dance Company. Emma and Scott are also presenting a fun filled workshop for people living with a disability.

Quick profile of our three local, industry trained professionals:

Emma grew up in the Shoalhaven, went to NHS and performed in AMTC shows before going on to train and perform professionally in many popular show tours such as ***Wicked*** and ***Mamma Mia***; **Claire** attended BHS and has appeared in AMTC shows and recently graduated with a **Bachelor of Stage and Screen**; **Scott – an Arts Educator**, who **toured with Jon English** amongst many professional engagements, and played lead roles in our shows AND taken on the daunting role of Musical Director.

We are thrilled to have their valued involvement, and hope this will not be the last we see of them in this capacity.

Emma is currently assisting with choreography for AMTC's upcoming *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Scott is playing the demanding role of Jesus.



- **AMTC's first show for 2022 is Annie.**

This will be the fourth attempt to produce the show in recent times -COVID interfered with the original production in June 2020 and then also the postponed production in November 2020. THEN renovations at the SEC prevented the planned production in May 2021.

Most of the Production Team are still available and keen to get *Annie* up and running, and there are a few exciting replacements in the team. **The show will be re-cast** with all roles vacant. Roles available for girls over 8 years old and males and females with a believable adult look.

There will be an information evening in September this year, followed by auditions.

We will begin rehearsing before we break for a Christmas/ January holiday.



- **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** has been in rehearsal for a couple of months now. We are hearing wonderful voices in the cast – both the leads and the ensemble. It is such a strong ensemble show...lots of parts to enable audiences to hear some very talented locals. We were lucky to be able to include some talented Illawarra performers in the cast. It has been impossible for them in lockdown to physically continue rehearsing with us, but “Zoom” has been really useful. It provides them with a screen presence at the rehearsals, and creates some fun moments for us all. After learning their harmonies with Merrin Ross, the cast is now starting to block the show under the directorship of Ron Hawthorne, adding moves from the choreographers, and the orchestra has had a first rehearsal under the baton of Mark McKinnon. **The production team is very happy with the progress so far.**

COVID UPDATE - AMTC has been dutifully following the required Health Department recommendations for rehearsals and performances, and we have been grateful to be able to continue working towards the performances of JC Superstar in November.

The sudden State lockdown has however delayed our second workshop, and cancelled JC rehearsals in the short term. We will re-schedule the workshop, and re-commence rehearsals as we are permitted. Committee work goes on non-stop in the background, and AMTC will re connect with our cast and crew soon.

- **The Youth Hall at the Showground** continues to develop into a space we feel we can inhabit well into the future. AMTC is working with Council to secure our tenure and create a space to facilitate all the facets of musical theatre rehearsals and set building. We feel very fortunate to have been given this opportunity and hope our future production developments can take place in this building. We'd love to call it 'home'. The community at large will benefit and we are grateful to all the councillors who have supported us on the journey so far.
- At our last scheduled **tri-monthly** we had a very disappointing turn out, and we now consider the future of these meetings in the current COVID climate to be unsupported by the members. We will endeavour to keep everyone up to date with company matters through these newsletters, and **put a hold on any anticipated tri-monthly meetings.** You can still contact the secretary with any queries, or keep an eye to our fb page and website for information.

secretary@amtc.org.au

www.amtc.org.au

Albatross Musical Theatre Co on Facebook

Diary dates:

Jesus Christ Superstar November 12th – 21st 2021

Tickets NOT on sale yet, keep an eye on our social media

AMTC Christmas Party – 14th December venue and time TBC

Want to get more involved in AMTC? Our AGM is in February each year.