Sacred Heart Girls' College
New Plymouth

2027 School Production



Dear Parents / Caregivers and Interested Students

I am excited to share that our Production for next year is about to get underway! A school musical is much more than just a performance. It is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves, discover new strengths, and work towards a shared goal. Throughout the production process, students develop confidence, resilience, creativity, communication skills and a strong sense of teamwork. The experience encourages young people to take risks, support one another, and contribute to something far bigger than themselves. These are the reasons we proudly continue our tradition of a major school production every second year.

With those goals in mind, we are excited to begin preparations for our 2027 production of Disney Junior's Moana. Here is what you need to know:

Performances	4th Wall Theatre		
Tuesday 30th March [public holiday]	Full-day Rehearsal	WHOLE CAST	10am - 4pm
Wednesday 31st March [school day]	Full-day Rehearsal	WHOLE CAST	8:30am - 3:10pm
Wednesday 31st March	Performance 1	WHOLE CAST	7:00pm - 8:20pm
Thursday 1st April	Performance 2	WHOLE CAST	7:00pm - 8:20pm
Friday 2nd April	Performance 3	WHOLE CAST	7:00pm - 8:20pm
Saturday 3rd April	Performance 4 [Matinee]	WHOLE CAST	4:00pm - 5:20pm
	Performance 5	WHOLE CAST	6:00pm - 7:20pm

WHAT: A musical means that **all participants will sing, dance and act**. I will not have separate teams for these areas as the power is in the ensemble. The dances will thus be choreographed in such a way that even those who do not have dance training will be able to join in. The same

goes for the singing; lots of voices add impact. All I insist on, as a director, is that you learn the moves, learn the lines of songs *and* do them with energy and enthusiasm!

WHO: I am looking for a committed **ensemble** of students and welcome everyone who is keen to come along and audition. I plan to have lots of ensemble style work and as much stage time for bigger groups as possible. You ***have*** to audition to be considered for the cast. This shows me that you are prepared to put in the mahi. I am also looking for **leads**. This list is attached. If you are interested in being a part of the **backstage crew**, come to the PAC at lunchtime too and fill in a form. I will need help on set, prop and costume creation. If there are any parents out there who would be willing to help with costumes, in particular, please send me an email. [has@shgcnp.school.nz]

HOW: **Auditions** are informal and will run through lunchbreaks from the **17th November – 24th November**. If you are interested in the ensemble, then get into a pair/ three or maximum group size of five and learn one of the songs and choreographies in the audition pack in TEAMS. Come to the PAC at lunch and share this with Mrs Ashton. It will only be your group in with me. If you are interested in trying out for a lead role you need to select a song, again from the audition pack in TEAMS, of the role/s you are interested in and perform this alone and do a choreography either alone or with a group. I will do call backs to finalize the lead roles. This will all be done by the end of the school year. Rehearsals are going to run for 8 weeks. This is a fairly tight turn-around and I will need the whole cast of performers to commit to every rehearsal. This is when they are scheduled:

Rehearsals: PAC	Week 1 – Week 8 of Term 1	
Monday [Afternoon]	WHOLE CAST	3:30pm – 5:30pm
Wednesday [Afternoon]	WHOLE CAST	3:30pm – 5:30pm
Sunday [Mid-morning till lunch]	WHOLE CAST	10:00am – 1pm

All auditions can be found in the TEAM: MOANA. I look forward to seeing you in auditions!

Yours Sincerely,

HAshton

Heather Ashton (PiC Drama)

Welcome to *Moana JR.*

When the Disney Theatrical team first saw *Moana* in 2016, we knew it had to be our next musical for young performers. Of course, this may seem quite obvious, as the film had a brilliant score by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetaia Foa'i, and Mark Mancina, plus a set of instantly beloved Disney characters. But more than anything, it was Moana herself that moved us to create this stage adaptation.

Moana is a strong, empowered, and brave young woman who becomes a hero for her community. Whether it is the villagers she works hard to protect, the family she hopes to make proud, or the ancestors she strives to honor, Moana is motivated in everything she does by her selfless desire to help others. What better model is there for young people beginning to shape their sense of self?

As we began to adapt the film into a stage musical, we realized that what the movie does so brilliantly with impressive feats of animation, we would need to do with ensemble storytelling and creative theater magic. Thus, *Moana JR.* became a true ensemble musical, each actor breathing life into not just the characters, but into the world of the play itself. No matter who or what they play, each actor is an integral part of Moana's adventure. We hope this show offers an opportunity for young performers to think outside the box and engage creatively with innovative stagecraft and choreography.

Most importantly, *Moana JR.* is a celebration of the cultures and peoples of the Pacific Islands, inspired by their shared history of ancient wayfinding and exploration. The Walt Disney Animation Studios and the creators of *Moana* went to great lengths to develop this animated feature in respectful conversation with diverse experts from across Oceania so that its representation of culture could be both accurate and celebrated by Pacific Islanders and non-Pacific Islanders alike. Throughout this ShowKit®, we have provided both general and specific guidelines for your production's responsible representation of the Pacific Islands. We thank you for your diligence, and we thank the wonderful people of the Pacific Islands for inspiring this story.

In the spirit of *Moana JR.*, we hope your theatrical adventure is one of self-discovery, unlikely friendship, and remarkable courage. More than anything, we hope it inspires a generation of young theater makers to believe that, like Moana, they can accomplish anything they set their minds to.

Break a leg,

Your friends at
Disney Theatrical Productions