

The Dean Pratt Mentor

Program

The **DPMP** in conjunction with **PLOS Musical Productions** would be a chance for a secondary school or university aged musician to experience being in a musical theatre orchestra pit and gain practical skills and knowledge that only being in a live pit can offer.



Who is eligible?

- Any secondary school or university aged student who is currently receiving instrumental music lessons or studying music on ANY instrument featured in the upcoming show.
- Recipients can only be part of the program once

Where are the recipients found?

The program would encourage students to be sourced from:

- The current show's Musical Director's knowledge
- Pit musicians
- Local secondary schools and universities

What is required from applicants:

Students wishing to be eligible for the program should submit a short application which would be forwarded to the Musical Director. The application should outline

- the instrument they play
- years of experience
- past performing credits
- why they would like to be considered.

What does the recipient receive:

Recipients of the DPMP would receive:

- The musical score for their chosen instrument to practise
- The opportunity to attend all orchestra rehearsals and sitz probe with the cast
- Play alongside/ shadow/ share playing duties with a more experienced member of the orchestra. This is at the discretion of the MD and the mentoring pit member.

- A \$25 call fee (funded by the DPMP) for any rehearsals and shows attended (*the student may not attend all shows due to study and school commitments but there should be a minimum of 80% attendance to calls*)
- Their name in the show program listed as the recipient of the DPMP along with the other orchestra members
- A certificate of recognition A bit about Dean

About Dean and PLOS

Dean Pratt started his musical theatre journey in the PLOS orchestra pit at the age of 15. Thanks to his then trumpet teacher John Lucas and Musical Director Bev Woodford, Dean was able to experience the fast paced, endurance heavy skills that only a live pit can offer by playing 2nd trumpet alongside his teacher. As the years went on, Dean then took on the role as 1st trumpet on dozens of PLOS shows and found joy in helping younger players in the pit like he was helped years before.

Dean was a graduate of the VCA and was one of the few trumpet students who were permitted to cross over between the classical stream and the jazz stream. Dean often credits these early years at PLOS, and especially his training in reading musical scores, as the foundation towards his success as a musician in adulthood.

In his later years, Dean became a successful musician overseas, playing professionally in the middle east, Europe and the US. Upon returning to live in Australia in 2018, Dean was diagnosed with stage 4 colorectal cancer in May 2019 at the age of 35. During his time receiving treatment, Dean would often reflect on his time at PLOS as being the reason he was so successful in not only his music career, but also in life.

Many of Melbourne's successful working musicians had their start in the orchestra pit of a PLOS show. His family and friends could see no better honour for Dean, who felt so much love and gratitude to the company, then to pass on that opportunity to another young, hungry to learn musician.

How to Apply

Those wishing to apply for the **Dean Pratt Mentor Program** should submit an email addressed to deanprattmentorprogram@gmail.com The applicant should outline the following information:

- the instrument they play
- years of experience
- past performing credits
- why they would like to be considered.

All applications will be forwarded to the committee of PLOS Musical Productions. All decisions regarding the successful applicant are final.