

Sorority life is not a stretch for Legally Blonde's Kyle



By Brock Weir

After heading off to university, Aurora's Rhiannon Kyle got her first taste of sorority life.

When people think of sororities, Rhiannon says most people think all they do is party, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Through her time at university, they have worked with charities ranging from the Sick Kids Foundation, to smaller grassroots causes.

And even when she comes home this summer, she will still be challenging the stereotypes of sorority life ? but this time in a very different way.

Next Thursday, July 10, the curtain will go up at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts as Aurora's Wavestage Theatre Company stages Legally Blonde: The Musical.

Rhiannon plays Elle Woods, the quintessential sorority girl in the musical based on the hit Reese Witherspoon film. It follows Woods, a much-underestimated blonde, who ditches a life of clothes and shopping to hit the books at Harvard Law School.

?It's such a positive show and it is a definite cult favourite,? says Rhiannon. ?I remember in my first few weeks of joining a sorority, the girls got together and we watched Legally Blonde in the house, so it is a really positive memory for me. I remember how positive a role model Elle Woods was to break all the stereotypes, and that is something I really wanted to take on.?

Rhiannon got her start at Wavestage at the age of three when it was then known as the Aurora Opera Company.

?As the company grew into Wavestage, I grew up alongside of it,? she says. ?Now that I am at university, it is really great to come home to my community.?

Over the years, she has played Beth in Little Women, alongside her own sister, Sally in You're A Good Ma, Charlie Brown, as well as Toby in Sweeney Todd and Bianca in Kiss Me Kate. The company has provided her with a variety of roles, and that is reflected in the variety of people who have found an outlet at Wavestage.

?It is really great having such a positive process,? says Rhiannon of their collaborative efforts. ?What is special about Wavestage is there are people in all sorts of different fields, not just the people who want to make it in the theatre world, but people who are passionate about being on the stage and making great art. It is great being around really passionate people and that is what led me to stay alongside the company for such a long time.

?Growing up in Aurora, most kids either did soccer or hockey, and as someone who isn't the most athletically inclined, it was great to find a place with a whole bunch of different kids of a similar age to focus on building leadership skills and actual skills training within the actual arts. You don't realise how performing makes such a difference in people's lives but just going to a show for two hours can make all the difference. This show also has such a positive message for the community.?

Legally Blonde: The Musical runs July 10 ? July 12 at 7.30 p.m., and July 13 at 2 p.m. For ticket information, visit www.wavestagetheatre.com.