

Research

Scrubs - There are different colours per function. Some nurses/doctors have to buy their own uniform so that's why they're different colours as well. Nurses usually have different coloured scrubs to doctors.

Health Care in New York - New York is classed to be home to the largest public healthcare system in the US but unfortunately has some of the worst rankings when it comes to quality and safety of the country. There are various types of healthcare plans in New York, but as we know, healthcare is rather expensive in the USA. The average cost of health insurance in New York is \$713 per month for a Silver plan and it gets even more expensive every year.

Nurse training - Taking part in a practical nursing degree/other form of education is an investment and it's very costly. It all depends on the place and the training that they provide, it could cost anywhere from around \$3,200 up to nearly \$72,500. That does not include accommodation or any living costs. It's rare that people can afford this. To become a registered nurse in New York, the person must be at least 18 years old, meet education requirements of having received at least a two-year degree or diploma from a program in general professional nursing - though this has to be on that is accepted in New York City. Grants, scholarships, and awards for students are available at local, state, and federal levels. This funding is from private foundations, colleges of higher education that cater for nursing programmes and also can be from the U.S. government.

Comparing this to the UK NHS system, I think it's bizarre how much money is needed to receive training in order to become qualified as a registered nurse. Not only does it cost a lot to become one, but those who are using the services pay a crazy amount as well. As UK citizens we are very fortunate to receive free healthcare. As well as that, pretty much everyone is able to have access to student finance which pays for our college and university tuition in order to get a degree to become a doctor/nurse. There are various places that you can train, most of which have the degrees that are needed in order to become a successful nurse. The only time we really have to pay for any medical treatments is if we're going private which admittedly takes less time but it also comes at a cost. I think the price that they pay in the US just to have a baby, or to call out an ambulance is absolutely insane and it's crazy that there are some people out there who are wealthy enough to afford all this.

Rehearsals so far

So far in rehearsals, we have been learning the harmonies to the songs that we're in. I have always found it challenging to pick up harmonies as well as follow sheet music. To make things a little easier for me, I decided to highlight the parts that I sing in any ensemble pieces. I can't read music so it doesn't help with picking up the actual harmony but I can follow the lyrics more. As for learning harmonies, I've requested if the pianist could notebash through the alto lines for each song that I'm involved in as I find that the easiest way for me to drill harmonies into my head and that I don't forget them. Hopefully, when I receive these, my harmonies will sound a lot better than they're sounding currently. For the time being, I'm listening to the others who are singing the same part as me to get an idea of what I'm singing. The challenge for me now is to be able to sing these harmonies as well as remembering any staging or movement that we've done. At the moment, I have snippets of

every alto line recording which is somewhat useful but at the same time, it means I have to keep flicking back and forth and then the harmony that I had just learnt has been forgotten. I'm still working on trying to remember things but that also is a struggle at the moment. Once I nail down the harmonies and know I can sing them without thinking about them, I think I'll be more confident doing any movement/choreographed sections. In Heart and Music, we're doing a lift which I've never done before but so far everything is going really well.

References

Nysed.gov. (2015). NYS Nursing: RN License Requirements. [online] Available at: EduMed. (n.d.).

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