

Welcome to our *Spring 2007 edition*

It's a new look and a new title for a new year. Find out the reaction to **Odyssey** and what Lesley Ann's got planned next. Welcome to all our new pupils and good luck to those moving classes and discovering new challenges and talents!

In this newsletter you'll find...

- Lesley Ann's bit...
- Adult's a go-go!
- Did you know? All you ever wanted to know about Belly Dancing
- School Soap Box... our competition winner
- School Stuff

Odyssey Review

"A wonderful show such enthusiasm, it is great to see the enjoyment on the faces of you all. I thought it was very slick, professional and entertaining. The costumes were very innovative and I know many hours had been spent in their creation. I don't think there was a dry eye in the house, among the mums, dads and grandparents, when the little ones came on - concentrating so hard, or lost in the awe of the occasion.

I admire all the hard work you put in over the year for our enjoyment and hope there will be many more shows to come - well worth my trip from Cheshire."

Beryl Brindley – Friend of YSDD



Odyssey Sparkle!

Hope you're enjoying the DVD of the show, if you have any photos of the night, please bring them in and we'll put them in the next newsletter!

Lesley Ann's bit...



Well done everyone for yet another amazing show! I am still receiving compliments to pass on to everyone, even from strangers in the street, who, quite by chance, came to see our show, not knowing what to expect and found to their delight they had a wonderful experience – so a great pat on the back to you all.

I have to say a big thanks to all who helped with the running of the show - without Val Hart's stage management expertise and hours of work behind the scenes the show would not have run so smoothly. The costume makers: Val again who spent many laborious hours on Egyptian costumes and kilts; a big thank you also to Christine Parkinson whose continuous dedication to the school and her creative ideas for design raises the overall aestheticism of the choreography.



Thanks too, to all the mums and dads who gave their usual wonderful support, helping in the dressing rooms, with the music, knitting hats and making props and not forgetting Elise Hart, who helped backstage, and Bethany Parkinson for designing the programmes. My thanks also go to Jacky and Wendy and our Friends of YSDD - they keep our newsletter running with behind the scenes

glimpses into the School's life and class information, fund our website and present us with the financial backing to reward our students with special end of term awards.

Now with another great success behind us, we have more fantastic work to look forward to. I had expressed a wish to raise funds in order to take back educational supplies to the children in the mountains of Guatemala, but unfortunately some unforeseen events have occurred, which mean I'll have to put this idea on hold for a while.

On Wednesday 11th July, some of our pupils will be taking part in an international concert at Millthorpe School, York – more details will be given nearer the time.

Our next show, **The Music Box** is a very exciting new venture, which will explore some famous classical pieces choreographed in original and exciting ways, enriching and expanding our students' knowledge and skills in their dance training.

In this vein I would like to welcome our Academy Students, who have auditioned to become trained as young performers and are working within the school to help raise our standards to an even higher level. They are dedicated dancers, some of whom travel a great distance each Saturday to join us, follow their love of dance and enjoy the rigorous training we offer. I know we all look forward to watching them perform some thrilling new work.

Lastly I would like to welcome all new members to our School. Many have commented on the wonderful, close-knit family atmosphere in which they have been encompassed. This is due to everyone's kind and caring attitude, together with their supportive appreciation of their children's love of dance.

Thank you everyone and I look forward to more exciting training together during this summer term.

Lesley Ann Eden

Adult's a go-go!

Get out those neglected trainers and join in the fun.

The adult dance class on Thursday evening from 7 - 8pm is a drop-in class, which means you only pay for the classes you attend. The class caters for complete beginners to those with some experience and the emphasis is on FUN. We generally have a thorough warm up, including plenty of stretching and then get into the dancing.



We're taught a new dance each week and you never know what kind of music you are going to get, you'll find you go home dancing bangara, African, salsa, street or jazz to name but a few!

The class is relaxed and friendly with a number of long standing regulars who attend every week but also those who can only make some classes.

New faces are always appearing and are very welcome. We have lots of fun but at the same time learn a lot of new dances – it's a mental as well as physical work out, with some great music to inspire and enjoy.

Lynne Whitehead – Adult class

Did you know?

The performance dance form known in the West as the **Belly Dance**, is based on one of the social dances native to the Middle East. In Egyptian, this social dance is called *Raks Baladi*, and is performed by people of all ages and both sexes during festive occasions such as weddings and other social gatherings for fun and celebration.

In its native lands boys and girls learn the dance from an early age, informally from their elders during family and community celebrations. No one is quite sure of the dance's origins and it's a hotly debated topic but it is generally agreed the dance is a fusion of many styles, most of them ethnic folk dances.



Source – Wikipedia

... love the hat ...

Surfing around – stage and screen

And for all those aspiring film and TV actors, check out this site – full of interesting information: www.screenyorkshire.co.uk

And do remember your hands...

Appendages at the end of the arms used for manipulating one's environment, except on a stage, where they grow six times their normal size and either dangle uselessly, fidget nervously, or try to hide in your pockets...

School Soap Box

We hope you like the new look to our newsletter and the winner of our "Name our newsletter" competition is...

George Davies from Saturday 1 class

WELL DONE George!

George has received the prize of a stylish kit bag.



... another great hat ...

An apology... Apologies to Mairianna MacKinnon, who has been dancing with Lesley Ann since she was seven. Mairianna is not 33 (as outrageously suggested in our last issue), but a mere 25 ... very many apologies... you really only do look a shade over 22 as it is!

We've got rhythm... have you?

Saturday 1 class are working on musicality and this will be integrated into the next show. You will have received information on a discounted bulk order but if you missed out don't worry - check out the following links/contacts. We are not able to guarantee the discounted bulk prices but here are our sources:

Tambourines and maracas:

Music House of Harrogate Tel: 01423 705 770 (Andrew)

Head boppers:

www.Sillyjokes.co.uk/dress-up/acc/hats/boppers/silver-balls.html

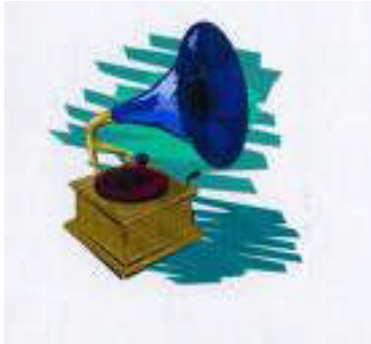
P.S. Why is it cool to be a dancer?

Because no one tells you off for having too much attitude!

Know your Friends!

Welcome to all the Friends of the school and thank you so much for your support.

The Friends' funds supported the production and printing of this year's programme for Odyssey – thanks to Bethany Parkinson for programme design and Mark Thackeray for the eye catching poster.



We're now on the hunt for a second hand PA system to support the school's work, if you have, or know of one, please get in touch. See details below.

Thank you to all our Friends – aunts, uncles, grandparents, godparents, carers, mums, dads and industry professionals...

Join Us

Become a Friend - for just £20 a year you'll get our regular newsletter and be an important part of supporting and recognising the efforts of the pupils and furthering the work of the school.

Contact Jacky Tel: (01904) 622 326 or email us via our website at www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk



Backstage - Odyssey 2007 – Left to right: Frances, Imogen, Mae, Megan and Phoebe



Contacts & Classes

School Principal: **Lesley Ann Eden** *Kidscape Champion*
Tel: 07971 230 716 *B.Ed. Dance Drama*
B.Ed. Music
M.A. Choreography

Secretary: Val Hart
 Tel: 01347 824 719

Classes*: Park Grove Community School, Park Grove, York.

Tuesday	4.15 – 5.00pm	Beginner Dance
Tuesday	5.00 – 6.30pm	Intermediate Dance
Tuesday	6.45 – 8.45pm	Senior Performers
Thursday	5.00 – 6.00pm	Beginner Youth Dance 10-13yrs
Thursday	6.00 – 7.00pm	Adult beginners - Tap
Thursday	7.00 – 8.00pm	Adult beginners – Jazz
Saturday	9.15 – 10.15am	Elementary Dance
Saturday	10.15 – 11.15am	Drama Group
Saturday	11.15 – 12.30pm	Intermediate Dance
	11.00 – 1.30pm	Academy

***Check term dates with Lesley Ann Eden or Val Hart.**

Fees:

Beginner/elementary/drama:	£ 5.50 per class
Intermediate:	£ 9.00 per class
Adult:	£ 6.00 per class
Senior Performer:	£10.00 per class
Academy:	By Invitation

Discounts are available for children/adults attending more than one class.

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