

# Extravaganza

THE YORK SCHOOL OF  
DANCE AND DRAMA

Newsletter  
Spring 2008

## The Music Box — packed with talent!

*“So many dances, so many styles... wow!”*

*“Brilliantly slick, professional and polished.”*

*“Another beautiful show... they just keep getting better all the time!”*

These comments and lots more came flooding in after the curtain came down on **The Music Box** and I was proud of the impact all our hard work made on so many people.

A big congratulations and heart-felt thanks to everyone involved. It was another amazing success, due in large part to the tireless work backstage by Val and Christine and our team of wonderful mums and helpers who took great care of our children throughout the day and during the performance.

A very big thanks too, for the attention to detail and many hours that Val and Christine spent making our costumes, which enhanced and elevated the choreography.

I am pleased to say that the new work for our next show **Masquerade** will present even greater challenges to our pupils and take them into new realms of learning in both dance and drama.

It is interesting to note that a Masque was a type of theatre developed during the reign of King James I and contained spectacular theatrical effects, music, dance and bizarre mythological characters; ending with the triumph of virtue, peace



The Music Box ~ 2008

View all the fabulous show photographs at  
[www.photoboxgallery.com/katemallenderphotography](http://www.photoboxgallery.com/katemallenderphotography)

**“Nullos Limos”**



### What's in this issue?

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and beauty with harmony restored on all levels – just like our productions! Masquerade will contain many of these elements and incorporate some of the dance and rhythm work I learnt in Cuba last year.

On a very happy personal note, I would like to announce my recent marriage to Paul. On a beautiful sunny day during half term we were married and celebrated quietly and without any fuss. One or two people have expressed a wish to buy us a present, but please, your good wishes are enough, thank you. One little story I would like to share concerning Paul, was when he first came to the school and helped me to hand out letters. One child said to her mum, “That was Paul”, the mother replied, “How do you know Paul?” and the child simply said, “He’s Lesley Ann’s friend, he delivers the letters”, a new career beckons...

Recently during my own research I have been studying pre-historic cave paintings and came across something quite astounding. To my surprise a position I choreographed in for the Seniors’ American Indian dance appears on some of the earliest cave drawings in France. The position requires the dancer to bend forwards, head towards the floor with one arm extended upwards and one towards the floor. Shown quite clearly in the early cave

paintings, experts believe that the stance is part of a healing process, which helps improve the body’s potency, increasing health and energy levels. I pass this on so that whenever you feel the need to better your health you could try and imitate this position... let me know if it works!

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support and good wishes. I would like finally, to send our very best wishes to Christine who has recently been ill in hospital and to wish her a very speedy recovery from everyone.

Lesley Ann Eden



Lesley Ann and Paul’s happy day

**Become a Friend** – Join us! For just £20 a year you’ll receive our regular newsletter and be an important part of supporting and recognising the efforts of the pupils and furthering the work of the school through the production of newsletters, annual awards and show programmes.

Contact Jacky via our website at [www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk](http://www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk)

**News!** Having lost our treasurer Wendy Davies to the lure of Perth, Western Australia, we would like to thank and welcome Frances Holroyd, Senior Performer, who has become our new treasurer.



**Don't miss out!** Order your DVDs and Videos of **The Music Box!** Orders to Val by Saturday 15th March 2008 stating your name and the number required of: DVDs £22 and/or Videos £16

**A Special mention and thanks** to Kate Mallender and daughter Eliza who are responsible for the wonderful selection of photographs from this year's show. Our only complaint is there are too many to choose from!



The Music Box

**Did you know?**

Apparently someone has calculated that a male dancer lifts over 1- 1/2 tons worth of ballerinas during performances... that's a lot of ballerina.

**A Dancer:** One who moves, leaps, stretches and turns while panting, moaning, groaning and complaining, usually accompanied by music.

**Got something to say?**

If you have something to tell us about, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch through our website contact form at: [www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk](http://www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk)

"When we take up a mask to dance in, use in ritual, to work magic with, we transform ourselves. Magical masks are not there to hide ourselves from our embarrassment or to conceal ourselves for villainy but to offer a face to a character waiting "over there" to come "over here" and act."



Masks in Magic



Backstage at the Grand Opera House, York



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# 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
	5.00 – 6.30pm	Intermediate Dance
	6.45 – 8.45pm	Senior Performers
Thursday	5.00 – 6.00pm	Beginner Youth Dance 10-13yrs
	6.00 – 7.00pm	Adult beginners - Tap
	7.00 – 8.00pm	Adult beginners - Jazz
Saturday	9.15 – 10.15am	Elementary Dance
	10.15 – 11.15am	Drama Group
	11.15 – 12.30pm	Intermediate Dance
	1.00 – 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.



## Jorvik Academy

Giving students, the opportunity to explore excellence in the field of ART, DANCE DRAMA AND MUSIC, whilst offering a unique opportunity to discover the historic delights of York – England's second city. Weekends, or longer stays are available together with any combination of Arts tuition, tailored to suit any needs. Other specialist courses can be devised such as history visits or language courses in Spanish or French.

Courses are open to all, contact **Tel: 07971 230 716**



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