

Welcome to our Summer 2007 edition

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter, the weather is particularly rubbish but the school's activities are hot!

In this newsletter you'll find...

- Lesley Ann's bit...
- Winners of Achievement Awards 2007
- Dance City
- First steps for the Academy – introducing our newest students
- How is your "Black Bottom"? All you ever wanted to know about Swing
- School Soap Box...
- School Stuff, including Summer School Information



This early shot from the YSDD archives shows the current Senior Performers... and they're still trying to get it right...

Lesley Ann's bit...



As the end of another academic year draws to a close, it is wonderful to look back on all the School's achievements and to see the amazing, ongoing development of our pupils. People are still full of praise for the last show and it is great for me to build upon our student's recent experiences, in order to push them forwards into new challenges.

This year the School has embraced more new pupils in both dance and drama classes, and the opening of our Academy has meant the "Search for Excellence" has been heightened by the students' presence in Saturday Class 2.



The Academy has meant that our teenage students also now have a specific goal to aim towards and must work hard to earn their place. Some of our Academy students travel from Leicestershire every Saturday for the specialised training and it is hoped that they will put on an introductory performance for the School and general public in the late autumn. We also intend to give another performance in Loughborough for those that travel so far.

This year we have not been able to hold an Open Academy Weekend for all our pupils due to other commitments but this hopefully will take place in November – details to follow in September.

Some of our Academy students will be helping in the Summer School and this will give our pupils extra tuition in their chosen activities. The Summer School, as usual, will be held at Arch Bishop Holgate's School and promises to be great fun, offering all our usual thrills and surprises. Unfortunately, this year we cannot use the School's swimming pool as it is in use, and last year, Water World was so full that I felt some of our little ones didn't have the chance to enjoy themselves to the full, so for safety reasons swimming will be replaced by circus skills.

As always during the Summer Holidays, I undertake a new challenge that helps to inspire and expand my experiences in order to enrich the School and Academy's horizons. This year I am attending a Dance and Music Course in Cuba. The course consists of travelling across Cuba from the hot spots of Havana to Trinidad and Camagüez.

Experiencing the music of the people, learning indigenous dances and playing their music, culminating in a chance to record a song at Cuba's famous EGAEM studios. Then returning to Havana to see the world-famous Tropicana Show, where many great singers have performed. Hopefully I will bring back some wonderful new ideas for our next show, "**The Music Box**", which is booked in at the Grand Opera House, on **Sunday 3rd February 2008**.

Only performing one show worked very well this year and was much better for the little ones, so for our next major show the same rules and regulations will apply. For newcomers to the school, information about everything will be issued in the autumn term.

In order to secure the same wonderful high standards of the last show, the Sunday afternoon rehearsals through the winter months will begin the second week we return in September. A rehearsal schedule will be handed out during the first week we return - **Saturday 1st September**.

Thanks so much to our Friends group for sponsoring the end of year Achievement Awards... here come the winners!

Tue Class 1 **Iola Clayton – outstanding progress**

Tue Class 2 **Nina Butterworth – outstanding new pupil**

Thurs class 1 **Nicholl Lynch – outstanding progress**

Sat class 1 **Lucy Williams & Georgia Knaston-Blake – outstanding progress**

Drama **Edward Mitten - outstanding new pupil**

Sat class 2 **Erin Burbridge – outstanding progress**

Academy **Tia Hancy – outstanding performance**

The winning pupils will receive a Capezio shoe bag and feature in our autumn newsletter. WELL DONE to them and to everyone for your hard work over the year. Thanks to Jacky and Wendy for assisting with the awards and our regular newsletters.



Have a lovely summer everyone. Hope to see many of you at the Summer School and look forward to our new work in September. Thank you as always for your wonderful support.

Lesley Ann Eden

The Academy

Welcome to our new Academy students. Find out how taking their first steps with the school as been for them...



Left to right: Tia Hancy, Emma Harrison, Lauren Smith and Jessica Mahy

Tia

"From starting the Academy I've found myself working harder. Also, I have met some new friends and that's nice because now I have a range of friends in different classes."

Emma

"Since starting at the Academy I have been pushing myself further and further as a dancer in the hope of improvement. Every Saturday I travel up from Loughborough to the Academy, I enjoy the time I spend there and I have met some great friends."



Lauren

"From starting at the Academy I have improved a great deal with the help of Lesley Ann. I am working harder than every before to reach my full potential as a dancer. Originally from Loughborough I have to travel 1¾-hours every Saturday to attend classes. I do this as I am very committed to the Academy and enjoy spending time with the friends I have made there."

Jess

"The Academy has given me the opportunity to discover new types of dances from different cultures. My dancing is now more varied and I feel I have a good foundation from which to do whatever I want in dance. I have also made new friends who are lovely and share the same dreams as I do. I know that the Academy girls will strive to do great things!"



Watch this space!

Gemma at Dance City

One of Lesley Ann's daughters, Gemma, who still comes to dance with the School is currently studying hard at The National Dance Agency for the North East of England - Dance City. Based in Newcastle this centre of excellence welcomes all kinds of people with a passion for all kinds of dance.

Opened in the autumn of 2005, Dance City's pioneering £7.6m centre for dance has given the organisation the perfect home from which to develop and drive dance forward as one of the most exciting art forms of the 21st Century. If you'd like to find out more visit: www.dancecity.co.uk for further information and upcoming events. You can also take a look at their newsletter online at www.dancecity.co.uk/media/newsletters/jan_newsletter.pdf

We hope to get the low down from Gemma on how she's getting on in the next newsletter.

How is your Black Bottom?

The term "**swing dance**" is commonly used to refer either to a group of dances developing in response to swing music in the 1920s, 30s and 40s, or to lindy hop, a popular partner dance today - the majority of swing dances began in African American communities.

Though they technically preceded the rise of swing music, and are commonly associated with Dixieland jazz which developed in New Orleans in the south of the United States, dances such as the black bottom, charleston, and tap are still considered members of the swing dance family.



Particularly "hep" cats...

These sorts of dances travelled north with jazz to cities like New York, Kansas City, and Chicago in the Great Migration of the 1920s, when black Americans from rural areas travelled north to escape persecution.

Swinging jazz music features the syncopated timing associated with African American and West African music and dance - a combination of crotchets and quavers which many swing dancers interpret as 'triple steps' and 'steps' - yet also introduces changes in the way these rhythms were played - a distinct delay or 'relaxed' approach to timing. Winging jazz developed from Dixieland jazz, and travelled north with black dancers, again, during the Great Migration.

Source: Wikipedia

Surfing around – stage and screen

Look up 'actor' in many careers publications, and the message can be dispiriting. Yes, it's hard work, the hours are long and unsocial, regular employment is unlikely and, for many, income may be low and other jobs go to supplementing day to day living. But acting is a profession in which the personal rewards are immense.

Check out: www.drama.ac.uk/careers.html

Acting Up... anecdotes...

Sir Michael Redgrave, the great British actor, was onstage once, with a young actor who had a small part as his attendant. The scene called for Redgrave's character (who was preparing to commit suicide) to say,

"Bring me a pint of port and a pistol."

Redgrave fluffed the line and it came out,

"Bring me a pint of piss and a portal."

The young actor tried to help... *"A pint of piss, m'lord?"*

Redgrave, livid, said very loudly... *"Yes! And a portal!"*

School Soap Box

We've still got rhythm... but just in case you haven't yet!

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



Know your Friends!

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

"We would like to put on record our full support for all involved. We have not had the opportunity to see a show, but even better, we have seen the behind the scenes work at rehearsals. The enthusiasm and effort displayed by all, from teacher right down to the youngest child, is truly heart warming and all involved deserve all the support and encouragement possible."

A couple of Grandparents

Thanks to all our Friends for all their continued support as they make newsletters and the annual Achievement Awards possible



Still looking... We're 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

If you would like this magazine emailed to you as a PDF please let us know via the website and we'll arrange that for you.





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 |
| | 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.

Summer School 2007- Places still available!

Arch Bishop Holgate's School from Monday 30th July to Friday 3rd August

9.30am – 12.30pm Half days and full days available Full week £130

1.30pm – 3pm

Please bring packed lunch and change of clothes. Tuck shop available!

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www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk