

# Extravaganza

NEWSLETTER OF THE YORK  
SCHOOL OF DANCE & DRAMA

Winter 2008

## National Recognition for YSDD

Welcome everyone to our new autumn term! It's wonderful to be back with all the children who seem to have grown so much over the holidays and all the adults and parents who give so much support to the school.

During the summer I had a surprise phone call from a TV programme researcher who was interesting in our School taking part in a programme called, 'Home or Away'. The researcher told me that YSDD had been her first choice of dance and drama school, as we appeared to be very much a 'family' orientated school offering many diverse aspects of the performing arts. The programme was focused on a family from Yorkshire who went to live in Cyprus and have the difficult decision to make of whether to return home or not.

One of the deciding factors that the family had to think about was their children's love of acting, dancing and singing, as, although Cyprus offers some performing arts teachers, there doesn't seem to be the same emphasis on these skills as here in the UK.

The three children, aged nine to twelve, settled in to our Summer School well and loved all the fun, games, water fights, custard pie throwing and technical lessons. The parents on the programme gave wonderful praise to our school and everyone involved. The programme makers also greatly enjoyed their time with us and had not expected so many different activities to be on offer. They also praised all the children involved in the filming, so expect a taste of our summer antics sometime in November!



### This issue?

- © Leslie Ann's Bit...
- © International Friends
- © Rachel's 'Creases and Folds'
- © A Stitch in time...
- © Spotting Sarah
- © Classes and Fees
- © Jorvik Academy



'Creases and Folds' photograph: Rachel Templeman

"Nullos Limos"

Local press were also keen to get in on the act and took some great photographs ready to coincide with the programme airing, so please watch out for us!

Back into the swing of autumn classes and with our focus on our next show, 'Masquerade', we have our usual Sunday rehearsals. A schedule has been distributed (please let me know if the dog has eaten yours!). Not everyone is needed for every Sunday, please do check the list carefully.

I am very pleased to introduce our new Drama Assistant **Michelle Greenley**. Some of the children in the Summer School have already met Michelle and she is currently working with pupils in the Saturday Drama Class. I first met Michelle when I was directing a show at Leeds City Variety Theatre quite some time ago and it is marvellous to welcome her to our School and be working with her again. I know she will be a great hit with the children. Also, as our shows are becoming more sophisticated and complex, it is great for me to have experienced extra help!

Tickets for '**Masquerade**' will soon be on sale and like the dance fees, the cost will remain the same as last year. It would be great to see people coming in fancy dress this year, especially (but not exclusively!) the children, as there is a point in the show where they will be invited up on stage to show off their costumes and receive a prize!

**Many thanks to everyone for your continued support:** Mums, dads and carers, please don't forget that we have adult tap and jazz classes on a Thursday evening. They are informal and fun—great ways to unwind, keep fit and enjoy time together. Why not find out why the children enjoy dance so much?!

Lesley Ann Eden

### A stitch in time...

Can you sew and have a few free hours? If you do can you perhaps help Val and Christine with making some of our show costumes? All help is very much appreciated and it's a great way to become involved!



## Friends' News - supporting the school

**We're proud to announce our first International Friend. Wendy Davies**, a former Senior Performer, who now lives with her family in Perth, Western Australia, hasn't forgotten us and joined last month—thanks Wendy. Children George and Hattie also used to dance with the school and we miss you all, thank you for your kind support!

Please consider either yourself, or encouraging someone you know who enjoys the school's performances, to join the YSDD Friends.

For just **£20** a year so much is achieved and many distant friends and family supporters are kept in touch with pupils' progress and upcoming events. Our School stands out, not only for Lesley Ann's innovative work but also for all the behind the scenes voluntary support. **Join and be part of our family!**



Send your name, address and email along with your cheque made payable to **Friends of York School of Dance and Drama** to:

Jacky Frere  
20 Fountayne Street  
York  
YO31 8HL

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## Spotting Sarah

There is some wonderful talent within our School, not least from within the Senior Performers and one such is Sarah Herbert. Sarah's daughters Bethany and Katie also dance with the School and Sarah's experience of performing hails from a celebrated gymnastic career. A member of the Scottish Rhythmic Gymnastics Team from 1985 until 1990, Sarah represented Scotland on numerous occasions and her titles included North East Scottish Champion, Scottish Novice Champion and Senior Scottish Champion in Rope and Clubs.



You have to be slick and supple!

In our forthcoming show Sarah will be giving us a glimpse of just how she wowed the judges some 17 years ago with a lead performance in the Seniors ribbon dance. It will also be a first for husband Andy, as not meeting her until after her gymnastic career ended, he has never seen her skills!



Sarah Herbert's championship teens

## Visit Val's Swap Shop

We have a great resource at YSDD that allows us all to buy second hand dance shoes and clothing at next to nothing prices. Take your outgrown shoes and dance gear to Val and see if she has something that will fit you. **Thank you to those swapping, the money raised ALL goes to the hard pressed costume budget and Val's little tin is nearly empty!**

## 'Creases And Folds'

Our stunning front page photograph is of Val's daughter Alise. A student at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, the picture was taken by Senior Performer Rachel Templeman, as part of her art project. Rachel explains:

"As part of my art project on 'creases and folds', I produced a portfolio of photographs of my friend Elise Hart who was a former dancer at YSDD. We worked together to photograph many different positions with props used in shows. I have been studying the style of an artist Marta Wiely and the costumes and positions were used to portray my artist's style."

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## Contacts & Classes

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

**Secretary:** Val Hart  
Tel: 01904 479 447

**Classes\*:** Park Grove community School, Park Grove, York.

Tuesday	4.15pm to 5.00pm	Beginner Dance
	5.00pm to 6.00pm	Intermediate Dance
	6.00pm to 8.00pm	Senior Performers
Thursday	5.00pm to 6.00pm	Beginner Youth
	6.00pm to 7.00pm	Adult Tap
	7.00pm to 8.00pm	Adult Jazz
Saturday	9.15am to 10.15am	Elementary Dance
	10.15am to 11.15am	Drama Group
	11.15am to 12.30pm	Intermediate Dance
	11.00am to 1.30pm	Academy

\* Check term dates with Lesley Ann or Val.

### 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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