

# Extravaganza

NEWSLETTER OF THE YORK  
SCHOOL OF DANCE & DRAMA

## YSDD is a Strictly Sensation!

**Welcome and Happy New Year everyone!**

It's been another amazing term with wonderful opportunities for the School to perform and help raise money for **Dance Against Hunger**. When I was asked to be a judge at the Strictly Come Dancing Ball held at the Royal Hotel, York and to train nine couples for a dance championship I was honoured and delighted.



Strictly's Karen Hardy

I was also asked if I would perform, but having just recovered from my hip replacement I didn't think I could or should!

It was a group of senior dancers: Tia, Rachel, Erin, Imogen, Nicole, Shannon, Sophie and Timon who took on extra training and gave a wonderful performance of a dance taken from the new American 'Steps' genre usually performed on top of cars (see the film *How She Move*). Many thanks to them and supportive Mums and Dads, it was a wonderful experience for them to

dance in front of a critical audience and they were a huge success! Seniors Jacky Frere and Sally Miller entered the Tango and Latin competitions with partners Thomas and Ramsay. Six weeks wasn't long for all the couples to learn, practice and polish routines and I enjoyed working with all the couples who entered and who danced extremely well in the final competition. Sally and Ramsay gave a beautiful performance in the Mixed Latin and Jacky and Thomas won their Tango section — well done Jacky and Thomas!

Karen Hardy, winner of *Strictly Come Dancing*, together with her husband and myself judged the dancers and they were very impressed by the standard of dance and unique choreography.



YSDD dance group at Dance Against Hunger ball

Winter 2010



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YSDD Online  
reducing our CO2...

"Tread softly because  
you tread on my  
dreams"

"Nullos Limos"

© YSDD 2010

The glamorous evening raised over £22,000 for the charity **Action Against Hunger** that works in forty of the world's poorest countries to support malnourished children and vulnerable populations to preserve and restore their livelihoods with dignity. Please do visit their website and find out more about the charity and their great work at:



[www.actionagainsthunger.org.uk](http://www.actionagainsthunger.org.uk)

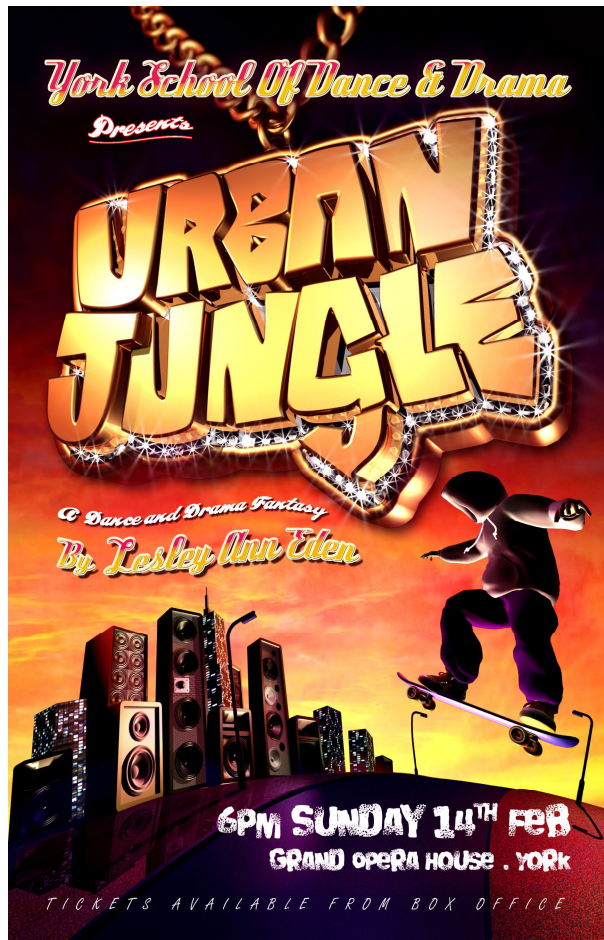
Back from her American adventure I would like to welcome back Gemma my daughter. Gemma has been teaching dance in the States, which included travelling to San Francisco where she worked and also lived in renowned dancer Isadora Duncan's house. Gemma will be dancing in our forthcoming show, Urban Jungle, and afterwards hopes to take a greater role in teaching in the school.

Right now we are all working hard towards *Urban Jungle*, which involves extra rehearsals — please can everyone do your best to attend, it is vitally important that everyone knows where and when to come on! I am sure the production will be another huge success, as all the children are working very hard and enjoying the

new challenges. After the show we'll all be looking forward to more exciting and interesting projects.

Thanks to **everyone** for all your wonderful support.

Lesley Ann



### Join the YSDD Friends - supporting the school

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.

Send your name, address and email along with your cheque made payable to **Friends of York School of Dance and Drama**  
to: 20 Fountayne Street  
York YO31 8HL



Be part of our family!

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**YSDD Senior Jacky Frere having a ball!**

When Lesley Ann mentioned the Action Against Hunger Ball and the 'Strictly' style ballroom dance competition I was sorely tempted...

Enjoying the long running BBC programme with the family was very different to having a go, but why not? And it was for such a good cause. Happily it didn't take much to persuade hubby Thomas, as our two girls insisted we wouldn't have the guts to do it — challenge laid down.

Joining other nervous couples including fellow senior dancer Sally Miller and her fiancé Ramsay, for six weeks of ballroom lessons with Lesley Ann turned out to be great fun. Dancing with a partner demands different skills and, the Tango in particular, quite a bit of hammy acting; we practiced 'smouldering' particularly hard.



Smouldering or just grumpy? You decide.

CDs were distributed by a kind sole for home practising, tips swapped and outfits decided before the big night. For both Latin and Tango couples there was a real sense of joint accomplishment and the outcome of the judging wasn't really our worry — we'd all done it and had a great time.

Thomas and I were amazed to be picked as the Judges winners for our Tango, all thanks to Lesley Ann! So, next time you're asked to get up and dance, don't hesitate, step on to that floor and enjoy (especially if someone tells you, you won't have the guts). Jacky



The Tango group in action...

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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	5.00pm to 6.00pm 6.00pm to 8.00pm	Intermediate Dance Senior Performers
Thursday	3.35pm to 4.35pm 5.00pm to 6.00pm 6.00pm to 7.00pm 7.00pm to 8.00pm	Beginner Dance Beginner Youth Adult Tap Adult Jazz
Saturday	9.00am to 10.00am 10.00am to 11.00am 11.00am to 12.15pm 12.00am to 1.00pm	Elementary Dance Drama Group Intermediate Dance Advanced Dance

\* Check term dates with Lesley Ann or Val.

<b>Fees:</b>	
Beginner/elementary/drama	£ 6.00 per class
Intermediate:	£ 9.00 per class
Adult:	£ 6.00 per class
Senior Performer:	£10.00 per class
Advanced:	£ 9.00 per class
Pupils attending a dance plus drama class:	£11.00 single fee for both classes



## 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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For all enquiries please visit our website at  
[www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk](http://www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk) kindly hosted by [semlyen.net](http://semlyen.net)  
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