

Newsletter 13

October 2003

What a performance!

Well what a show "A Stage Further" was!

In case you didn't know, the word is that it was a fantastic night, and that we keep on getting better and better – more professionalism, more fun and just more entertaining.

Huge numbers of people came only to see a friend or relative and ended up enjoying a great night out and vowing to come again. So a great big well done to everyone who performed and those that helped back-stage.

Another comment we received was praise for the snazzier costumes this year. Again a lot of people put in a lot of their free time to create these on the usual miniscule budget, so don't forget to thank them too. And please, if you haven't already, *return them to the studio!* We are still missing a few.

In case you haven't seen them yet there are photos in albums in the entrance area (which you can order) and there is also a brilliant DVD/VHS available with all the numbers on it. Look for the order forms in the studio.

And talking of the video....

Fright night!

Sunday 14th September was video night at Woking Dance Space - aka Fright Night – where eager performers wait to see what mistakes their colleagues also made in the show, and die of embarrassment at their own imagined gaffes.

Seriously Kate has created a really professional video (carefully editing out the occasional wobble don't worry) and

everyone on the evening was hugely impressed with the quality of dancing in the Show. Often when you are performing yourself it's hard to actually take a step back and see what we have produced together.

So if you're short of that ideal Christmas present for your aged aunt, why not show her what you get up to after work? Easy to wrap and post!

New classes

Have you heard about our new absolute beginners classes? We are running short courses in ballet and tap for those who have never done it before. Both classes run on Wednesday 6.30pm, and its only £20 for six sessions. The ballet one is already up and running with Eithne, and is already proving popular with newcomers and current dancers alike. The tap one occurs later this term. If successful we hope to repeat them next term.

Fancy something a bit different? We have been asked to host Historical Dance classes on Sunday October 19th, November 9th and December 7th. Probably in the afternoon from 2pm. Interested? Contact a trustee or Eithne Last for details.

Spread the word, and contact any trustee or teacher for details.

Dates for your diary...

Tap for Absolute Beginners

Wednesday 5th
November, 6:30pm
for 6 weeks

Autumn Term

Half-term break
27th to 31st
October

Term ends
5th December

Mincing Pies Christmas Party

Friday 12th
December

Spring Term '04

Term starts
5th January

Half-term break
16th to 20th
February

Term ends
3rd April

AGM

Chairman Tina Morcom

Secretary Delva Robinson

*Finance Officer
..... Pauline Barnes*

*Show Director
..... Gretchen Fox-Kiefer*

*Marketing and IT Officer
..... Catherine Ferris*

*Wardrobe Mistress
..... Gill Barnes*

*Studio Manager
..... Carol Sands*

And welcome to:

*Information Officer
..... Claire Evenden*

*All that is important is this
one moment in movement.
Make the moment important,
vital, and worth living. Do
not let it slip away unnoticed
and unused.*

Martha Graham

In a mean move the trustee sprung the AGM on the unsuspecting audience at the video night with the result it was the most well attended AGM on record! Zipped through in 20 minutes the audience heard how the Studio is now on a firmer financial footing and has therefore been able to fund a new costume store (which you can see in the kitchen). This was urgently needed as the studio's costumes were languishing in lots of people's attics rather than being available to hire/re-use. Money was also spent last year on the redecorating and updating of the basic facilities. Pauline, our Finance Officer, ran through our expenditures in the year (did you know we have to spend almost £6,000 on rent every year?) but generally the Studio is really buzzing and we are pleased to see lots of new faces in the classes. It was generally agreed that the Studio is a unique facility that many other areas in the UK would love to have.

The next big project we are likely to undertake is the heating. This is proving difficult as dance studios require special considerations (we couldn't just have radiators around the walls for example). So, we are going to investigate a number of options and match them to our available funds. At the minimum we shall try to get the current heater on a weekly timer so that the studio is pre-warmed up for the first classes.

A request was made for all dancers to not wear street shoes in the studio (they bring in grit and dirt). The floor was very badly marked and even with 4 people scrubbing it on hands and knees over the summer, it hasn't properly cleaned up and there are some indelible black marks and scuffs. This floor cost over £1,000! Lets all make sure it lasts.

The AGM also provided a chance to thank and elect the Officers. These guys give up their time for free, alongside the trustees, to keep the place running and do special projects. The majority of people were re-elected to their posts with a special welcome to Claire Evenden who has volunteered to become our Information Officer with responsibility for maintaining our address book and contact details. The posts and volunteers are shown in the box opposite.

At the AGM the dates for the next show were discussed and we are aiming therefore to book the Rhoda in late Spring 2005. However budding artistes don't despair, we are expecting that many of you will get a chance to perform on an ad hoc basis during the year next year, as our reputation spreads.

It was also revealed that we are hoping to put on some special events throughout the year in 2004 – open days or Master Classes and possibly a summer school. If you have any ideas that you think would be popular, or dance groups you think would come to us, please pass the info on to one of the trustees or Gretchen, our Events Director.

Finally a question was asked about the rumour of a new housing estate on the Mayford site. The trustees have investigated this as far as they can and can find no definite plans, but it is believed that this has been raised as a project previously and there is always the possibility that the council will sell off the land at some date in the future. Until that happens, and we believe we should receive at least 2 year's warning if so, we can only enjoy it while we have it! Unless you know of a Surrey building needing converting with plenty of spare parking and available very, very cheap?!!!

Christmas is coming...

Put it in your diaries, our not-to-be-missed Christmas Party (Mincing Pies) is scheduled for the 12th December. Thrill to the antics of the American Jazz class in silly costumes, murmur over the sensuality of the mulled wine, coo over the metamorphosis of the studio into a magical grotto, or just come to pig out on mince pies and gossip! Watch for further information.

And some special thanks to...

Claire Tabraham who has managed to secure us a share of Unilever's charitable fund. We are hoping to receive a generous donation of £250 shortly – our first ever corporate gift. So our thanks to Unilever and Claire for requesting the grant on our behalf.