



York School of Dance & Drama

Spring 2006 Newsletter

Welcome to our BUMPER EDITION of the Spring Newsletter, sponsored by the Friends.

“WOW” was the overwhelming reaction to *Children of the Lost Planet* – there was a lot of praise for the hard work of everyone involved in producing such a professional show. Inside this newsletter find out what YOU all thought of the show as it happened; check out too some great photos and how you can get hold of them. So **who’s new, who’s who, what’s that? AND what’s next...**

Spring Edition Content:

- **Lesley Ann’s bit...**
- **Pocket Rocket Drummers**
- **School Soap Box... didn’t we do well?! Hear it from the pupils...**
- **Did you know?**
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Children of the Lost Planet

Get your photos now at www.katemallender.co.uk

Visit our website at:

www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk

“Nullos Limos”

Lesley Ann's bit...

Congratulations to everyone for yet another amazing success, *Children of the Lost Planet* was a wonderful show, brilliantly acclaimed by all. Derek Fowlds, our Patron, said he thought it was our best yet!



So many thanks and congratulations to everyone – I would especially like to say thank you to Val Hart for her dedication and hard work to ensure the smooth running and professionalism of our performance – “gracias” Val.



Our school continues to grow with all our newcomers and the rising standards of all our pupils project a wonderful professional image to our audiences. So much so that after a recent visit by Jorvik Academy participants, Shepshed Youth Dance, a talented young dancer applied to join us for specialist training. Chris Brown, who also won a place for six weeks in a West End show, now travels every Saturday from Loughborough, Leicestershire to attend our classes at Park Grove. I am sure many pupils have already met Chris and he has received a warm welcome as he begins his work with us and becomes involved in our forthcoming shows.

Chris Brown – performance training with Y.S.D.D.

The first show in the diary is scheduled for the summer term (dates to be confirmed) and is ***Who Are You?*** The show will be an amalgam of our Senior drama students and dancers, together with a new senior drama group I have formed at Millthorpe School called ***Take Five***. This new drama group has proved, so far, to be an exciting and rewarding venture, providing another link for our School and Academy where I can apply my musicianship. Most of you know me in my capacity as a choreographer but I also have a music degree and will be bringing my specialist skills to craft this new venture.

Odyssey will be our main show, which is planned for the New Year (2007) and is already beginning to take shape and already I feel that this new project is going to be thrilling and exciting for all our performers.

I am so proud of our School and Academy with all the efforts from pupils and costume ladies – we have not only got a great School but a caring family. Other young dancers from further afield are going to be given the chance to apply for specialist training for the stage with us and I foresee this as a lovely opportunity for us all to reach out and expand the good work we are all dedicated to developing.

Thank you everyone for all your help and support.

Lesley Ann

Pocket Rocket Drummers

Have you been asking yourself, “Who were those fantastic drummers that joined our show and added such a “punch” to the finale?” Well, wonder no longer as we reveal all...

Leader of the Pocket Rocket Drummers, **Jon Ward** is a self-taught musician from York who has been drumming (at least hitting things) since a very, very young age. Now working as a percussion teacher in York, Jon teaches as many age groups as possible, believing in the social bonding qualities of music.



Jon teaches West African and South American percussion, music and culture to groups of infants, primary, teenage and adult pupils. The historical and cultural significance of the music is vital to the teaching, so, Jon was delighted to get some of his pupils to Ghana in 2004 to study with some of the country's finest musicians.

Jon became involved with the Y.S.D.D. group when one of his groups **The Pocket Rocket Drummers** were heard playing by Lesley Ann during a rehearsal at Millthorpe School. The sound seemed to fit the show and rest, as they say, is history!

Jon and the great Pocket Rocket Drummers

Photograph: Kate Mallender

Did you know?

Photographs now available from *Children of The Lost Planet*



Backstage pass

If you would like to get your hands on some of the great photography taken of our recent show here's how...

Log on to www.katemallender.co.uk and enter the password: **Yorkshire2**. Click on the **Lost Planet** tab on the right-hand menu then scroll down the pics and make a note of the ones you would like to order. Order form also on the website. Bring your money and order form into class and leave them with Lesley Ann, the photos will soon follow.

With thanks to Heather's Mum, Catriona, for this great photo of the juniors waiting back stage.

~

Did you know that in the impressive world of English country dancing you might find yourself **gathering peascods**, watching **Jenny pluck pears**, doing **Dick's maggot**, performing a **whirligig** or taking a **trip to Kilburn**...amongst other fantastically named steps?! Check out: <http://www.cam.ac.uk/societies/round/index.htm>

~

Did you know that the first ballet school was in France, and the terminology was crystallized there? Nearly everything in ballet is described by a French word or phrase.

You even wish dancers good luck in French. Actors wish one another good luck before a performance by saying, "*Break a leg!*" Dancers say, "*Merde!*"

The drawback of this is that you must learn the French names for the steps and movements; but you would have to learn *some* names in any case, and the advantage is that you can take a ballet class anywhere in the world and, no matter how unintelligible the rest of the talk is, the terminology will still be in French and you will understand it.

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Here's an interesting site if you're surfing around <http://www.danceart.com/>

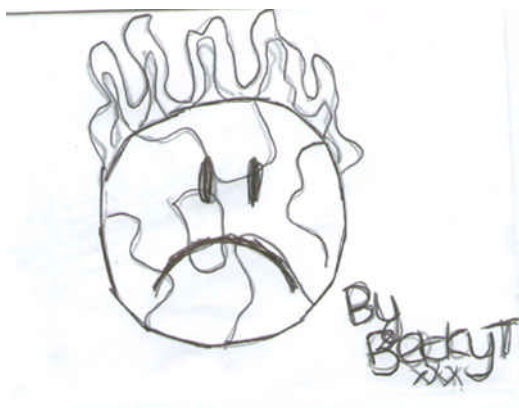
School Soap Box...



During the show at the Opera House we left some paper in each of the dressing rooms to find out what you were all thinking, here are just some of the comments from you. "Thank you", to all those who wrote down or drew your thoughts.

This is from India:

This is Lesley Ann who plays Miranda she is an actress we are doing a show at the grand opera house Lesley Ann made up the hole show. Mum and dad are coming to see the show. I liked the Night Cather dance I really enjoyed the hole thing.

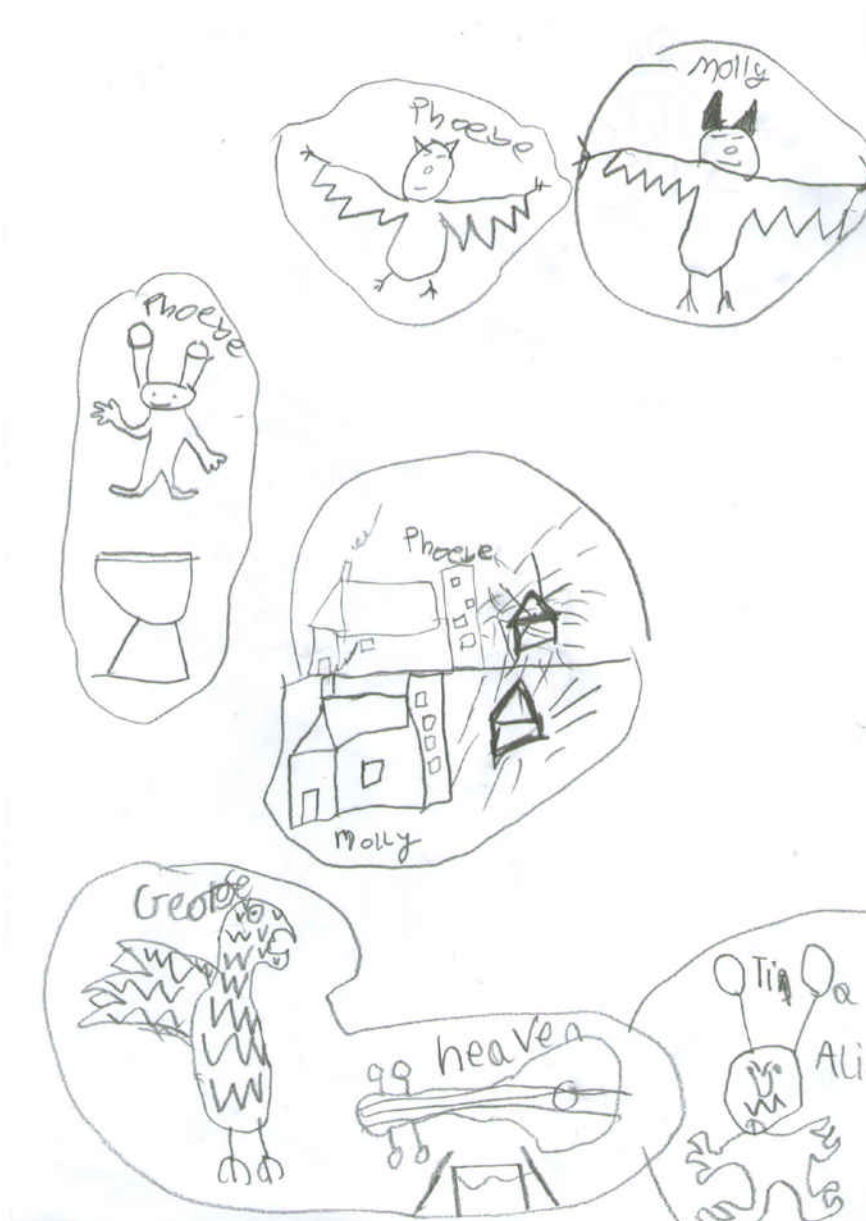


*It's an unhappy earth from
Becky T... Are you doing your bit?*

Reduce, reuse, recycle!



Esmée thinks her mum looks this good on stage...thanks Es. x



Spot the aliens and the night creatures from Phoebe, Molly and George



Drama, was excellent and fantastic. The Drama had clear voices even the little ones.

There was a different range of dances. The best dances I liked were The Cap dance, Night Creatures, Tap dance, Antz and the two songs.

Somewhere in your dreams was a really good song to sing

In drama I could hear Tia, Elise and Georgia and Shannon ☺ drummers were fabulous.

Caitlin's favourite dance was the play Dance

Bethany's favourite dance was the Night Creatures

Hattie's favourite dance was Antz

Eliza's favourite dance was The White Cap dance.

Love Hattie, Eliza, Bethany, Caitlin and Hattie



← Lesley Ann

Know your 'Friends'...

Welcome to all the Friends of the school and thank you so much for your support. But, who are the school's unsung heroes? You can find out as we introduce them to you in each newsletter.

As a proud grandparent I sat watching 'Children of the lost planet', and along with many other parents and grandparents, I found that I was watching and being amazed at the ability and versatility of all those I had come to watch and finding that apart from applauding my own, I was enjoying the show. For it was a great show, and showed off the ability, of not just those I had come to see, but of an obviously dedicated cast. The work behind the scenes and in the preparation must have been stupendous.

Proud Granddad, Michael Frere



Thank you to all our Friends – aunts, uncles, grandparents, godparents, carers, mums, dads and industry professionals...

Join In!

Become a Friend! For just **£20** a year you'll get our regular newsletter and invitations to exclusive events as well as supporting and furthering the work of the school. Contact Jacky Tel: (01904) 622 326 or Email info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk for a membership form.



Young performers backstage: George Davies and Phoebe Frere

School Stuff...



Dates for your diary...

Here's our handy '*rip out and stick on your wall*' page!

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| School Principal: | Lesley Ann Eden | <i>Kidscape Champion</i> |
| | Tel: 07971 230 716 | <i>B.Ed. Dance Drama</i> |
| | | <i>B.Ed. Music</i> |
| | | <i>M.A. Choreography</i> |
| Secretary: | Val Hart | |
| | Tel: 01347 824 719 | info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk |
| Classes*: | Park Grove Community School, Park Grove, York. | |
| | Tuesday | 4.15 – 5.00pm |
| | Tuesday | 5.00 – 6.00pm |
| | Tuesday | 6.00 – 6.30pm |
| | Tuesday | 6.45 – 8.45pm |
| | Thursday | 5.00 – 6.00pm |
| | Thursday | 6.00 – 7.00pm |
| | Thursday | 7.00 – 8.00pm |
| | Saturday | 9.15 – 10.15am |
| | Saturday | 10.15 – 11.15am |
| | Saturday | 11.15 – 12.30pm |
| | | Beginner Dance |
| | | Intermediate Dance |
| | | Invitation Performers |
| | | Senior Performers |
| | | Beginner Youth Dance |
| | | 10-13yrs |
| | | Adult beginners - Tap |
| | | Adult beginners – Jazz |
| | | Beginner Elementary Dance |
| | | Drama Group |
| | | Intermediate Dance |

**Check term dates with Lesley Ann Eden or Val Hart.*

Class Fees: £5 per class £8 per double

Millfield School Show - Dates in June - TBC

Odyssey - New Year 2007 – Grand Opera House, York



Senior girls' dressing room (with added extras) at the Opera House, 2006

Academy News

The Jorvik Arts Academy is open for business to give students, the opportunity to explore excellence in the field of ART, DANCE DRAMA AND MUSIC, whilst giving them 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**
www.jorvikartsacademy.co.uk

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10% discount available for pupils of Y.S.D.D.

Summer Newsletter will be out in July – editorial contributions to Jacky Frere
info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk www.yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk
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