



**York School of Dance & Drama**

## Summer 2005 Newsletter

**Welcome** to our summer newsletter, sponsored by the Friends group. We had a great show in April that brought a lot of critical acclaim for all pupils and supporters, June saw the medal tests with more wonderful performances and now we're motoring towards the Summer School and work for the next show. In this edition you'll find dates for your diary, news, Lesley Ann's regular page, comment from pupils and supporters, congratulations, awards and plans for our Summer Picnic. If you'd like to contribute just let us know!

### **Summer Edition Content:**

- *Lesley Ann ponders family life and worms*
- *Kate and Eliza Mallender swap steps*
- *Medal test success with Nicola Tully*
- *Hello James...*
- *School Soap Box...Gemma's new challenge and congratulations to Elise Hart*
- *Did you know...Ebay offers*
- *Know your 'Friends' –*  
*Summer Picnic on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July and*  
*Friends Excellence Awards*
- *School Stuff – new classes, contacts & dates for your diary.*
- *Art Gallery*



Visit our website at:

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

*“Nullos Limos”*

## Lesley Ann's bit...

*Do they have worms in Heaven Mummy?*

Our last show was not only memorable for celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday, it was also, for me, tinged with nostalgia and a little sadness. For almost as long as the school has existed I have had one of my own children attending classes and 'Time Bandits' was my daughter, Gemma's, last performance as a pupil in the school.



I feel that the school has been so successful over the years because we are family based, connecting with all families, from grannies to tiny tots! It was wonderful last Saturday to be able to call upon family members to help our young ones learn new steps. Filling the gym we glided through the 'vine step' and I saw with great pride how the children quickly mastered it with the extra help! Similarly, our Tuesday Baby Class has wonderful mums and dads who regularly gallop and skip across the floor with little ones in tow and who helped our pre-beginners in their recent medal test, giving our children that added confidence to perform brilliantly!

All four of my own children have been nurtured by the school and have benefited from experiencing the joy of performance. My eldest daughter, Sarah, reminisced about her first performance as a 3-year old baby owl at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre. Unfortunately, we hadn't rehearsed with the special moving cloud effect, so as Sarah lead her little flock of chicks onto the stage she was enthralled by the clouds, turning her back on the audience to watch the amazing effect, whilst all the other little owls following her, piled up in a heap on the floor! In the same vein, my second daughter Nina, was so excited about performing that she needed to go to the toilet, ran off the stage and missed her big speech and my son Benjamin had a giggling fit on stage with his friend, bringing the show to a standstill... As a family we have so many funny and fond school memories.

Now, Gemma has chosen to follow her love of dance further, and has accepted a place at Northumbria University. I am proud that the School has given her a good grounding for the hard road ahead. Also congratulations to Elise Hart who has won a place at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance - natural talent and good teaching have helped Elise and I wish to reiterate to parents, that it is essential for our students to receive the 'correct' training if they wish to take their interest to higher levels. I am proud to say that our School's work has been the backbone for many students who have furthered their career in dance.

Just after the show, I met the mother of two of our students in Tesco's and she was full of praise for everyone and admitted shedding a few tears after the final show as it would be the last time her daughters would be dancing those particular dances and although she knew that they would be ready for the next stages, she felt sad. I knew exactly what she meant! I always feel a little sad when a show is over and especially when my own baby is about to fly the nest.

I shall always keep with me the memory of Gemma prancing around on the side of the stage, displaying to me her new 'Brigit Jones' big pants, making me laugh before going on! Very different from her first performance as a "first year elephant" (first year infant) and Fuchsia Flower when before going on she looked up at me and asked... "Do they have worms in heaven Mummy?"

*Lesley Ann Eden*

# Swapping steps

When I sat down to tot up how many years I've actually been dancing (about 20!) I realised I really should be so much better than I am!

I first went along to one of Lesley's classes with a professional dancer friend who was getting fit for a tour of the Far East. I warned her that I hadn't danced since I was 10 so it had better not be 'a proper dance class' I walked into St John's College dance studio to be met by fit, athletic dancers with legs up round their necks and I almost left there and then! Thankfully I stayed & became hooked and have danced in many different venues with Lesley from above Betty's Tearooms to the Railway Institute.

I danced right through my second pregnancy with Eliza and she gave a fair few kicks, obviously practising way back then, so she has really been dancing since before she was born. It is wonderful to have something that we both love in common. We are always dancing round the kitchen and teaching each other our dance routines.

Having only recently graduated to the Senior Performer's class it was a very special experience dancing with Eliza at the Grand Opera House. As I watched her dance from the wings my heart swelled with pride but my stomach then dropped to my shoes as I desperately tried to remember the steps for my next dance!



Before I know it Eliza will be old enough to join the Senior Class then I really will have to be on my toes trying to keep up with her!

*Professional photographer, Kate Mallender is pictured with Eliza after completing this year's Race for Life. Kate gave a great performance as the rear end of the dragon in 'Time Bandits' (amongst other things) so Eliza has a lot to live up to!*

You'll find Kate's website at [www.katemallender.com](http://www.katemallender.com)



# Gallery



*This is 6-year old, Imogen's, fantastic picture of 'Time Bandits'. Who can you spot?*

*More great performers: here is 4-year old, Frances' picture of her and Sophie on stage in 'Time Bandits'.*



*There is more Beginner and Pre-beginner class art in the rest of the newsletter and they all will be on display at the Summer Picnic this year.*

*Please let us have your artwork; we'd love to display it for you.*

# Nicola Tully

Examiner for the recent medal tests, Nicola Tully is a professional actress, dancer and singing coach. Here is a bit about her work and how she met Lesley Ann.

*I met Lesley in 2002 when she taught my students in Spain. With our shared passion for the performing arts we got on from the moment we met each other and stayed in touch when we returned to the UK.*

*Last year I taught with Lesley in Spain and this year I worked for her company in Italy.*

*Recently giving up a Head of Drama position I am pursuing a career in the Performing Arts. This has given me the opportunity to work professionally in TV and theatre, teach singing, dance and drama abroad and in various UK theatre schools, mainly **Centre Stage** in North London.*

*It is always great working with new students who have a love of dance and so meeting the wonderfully talented students at Y.S.D.D. was fantastic. I thoroughly enjoyed working with you and watching your medal test dances. I hope the song I taught you in the brief workshop goes down well in the next show..! Thanks and best wishes,*



Nicola x

# Hello James!



A big, 'hello and welcome' to James from everyone in the school. James' work has been creating a lot of excitement and sore feet for the Intermediate and Senior dancers for some weeks now.

An ex-pupil of Lesley Ann's, James is a professional dancer and has worked in the West End, on TV and toured extensively. He is kindly giving his time to work with the school and take the male lead in the forthcoming show...the word is he's King of the Aliens – who are we to argue? When you watch him leap you may agree... !

*Perhaps there's a drought on his planet?*

# Did you know?

If you are struggling with worn out dance shoes and gear have you thought about e-bay? There are pages of shoes and dancewear on offer, most are second hand but you could scoop yourself a bargain... Also check with Val for second hand children's dance shoes.



And don't forget you can get everything you need with a **10% Discount** at **Lindfoots** – call in for their expert fitting service. See their advert at the end of the Newsletter.

If you're on line take a look at <http://www.ballet.co.uk> for everything you wanted know about top ballet dancers and companies, news and reviews from around the UK.  
If you know of a good link let us know.

## School Soap Box...

*A Talented Bunch!*

As Lesley Ann mentioned in her piece there is a lot of celebration and nostalgia about. Daughter **Gemma** has accepted a place studying Dance at the Northumbrian University, Newcastle from September. Gemma sent us this note,



*"Y.S.D.D. has shown me that dancing was not going to be just a hobby, but my way of life. I'd like to thank the school for that, and with all my training I'm now ready to move on and experience a dancer's life in Newcastle. My advice to pupils is remember that dancing is hard work, so don't rest on your laurels, put in the work and you'll go far!"*

The very best of luck to Gemma and we hope that we'll see her in class again - just to keep Mum on her toes!

Congratulations also go to **Elise Hart**, who has won a place on the Yorkshire Young Dancers Advanced Training scheme run by the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds. Only 15 youngsters, aged 13 – 17 years, are offered places each year and as you can imagine there is a lot of competition. Happily we'll still be seeing Elise in class at Y.S.D.D. too!

*Auditions for the Training Scheme are still in progress so the best of luck to all the dance students taking part!*

*Tell us about your thoughts, achievements, gripes or interests here, email them to:*  
[info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk)





# 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.



Nigel Farrell is a TV producer, director and presenter, partner, Sally Ann, is a co-ordinator with a production company and both are huge fans of the School's work. Having loved 'Time Bandits' they are really looking forward to the next show, Sally Ann commented, *"only someone with Lesley Ann's unique talents could have produced such a show!"*

*STOP PRESS....Friends' News...The Friends Group have sponsored the large trolley for storage of the new 'tap boards', at a cost of £140.*

## Friend's End of Year Picnic!

**To mark the end of the current year there will be a picnic held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 12.30pm at Park Grove School.**

Everyone is invited, bring a ball or game and come in fancy dress if you can! We hope that everyone who comes will bring some food to share and lists to assist with this will go up prior to the day. There will be art on show from the pre-beginner class and the Friends' Excellence Awards will be made.



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## Friends' Excellence Awards 2005

The Friends are sponsoring 4 annual awards. These will go to children who may have overcome a particular difficulty, achieved a personal goal or made an extra special contribution and will be chosen by Lesley Ann. In recognition of their efforts the children will receive a certificate and gift from the Friends.

**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 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](mailto:info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk) for a membership form.

# 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	<a href="mailto:info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk">info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk</a>
Classes:	Park Grove Community School, Park Grove, York.	
	Tuesday 4.15 – 5.00pm	Beginner Dance
	Tuesday 5.00 – 6.00pm	Intermediate Dance
	Tuesday 6.00 – 6.30pm	Invitation Performers
<b>Altered class</b>	<b>Tuesday 6.45 – 8.45pm</b>	<b>Senior Performers</b>
	Saturday 9.15 – 10.15am	Beginner Elementary Dance
	Saturday 10.15 – 11.15am	Drama Group
	Saturday 11.15 – 12.30pm	Intermediate Dance

<b>Sunday rehearsals</b>	<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>2 - 4pm</b>	<b>All</b>
	<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>2 - 4pm</b>	<b>All</b>

Term dates:	Final summer session:
	Tue. 19 <sup>th</sup> and Tue. 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2005
	Sat. 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Sat. 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2005

## Autumn session begins:

Tue. 6<sup>th</sup>/Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005 **until TBA**

*Dates maybe subject to change due to unforeseen circumstance, please check with Val Hart at the beginning of each term.*

<b>NEW CLASSES!</b>	<b>Thursday 5 – 6pm</b>	<b>Beginner Youth Dance 10-13yrs</b>
<b>From September 8th</b>	<b>Thursday 6 - 7pm</b>	<b>Adult beginners - Tap</b>
<b>Park Grove School</b>	<b>Thursday 7 – 8pm</b>	<b>Adult beginners – Jazz</b>

Class Fees:	£5 per class	£8 per double
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## Places still available:

## Y.S.D.D. annual Summer School will be held at:

Archbishop Holgate School, Hull Road, York. YO10

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2005

9.30am – 3pm *Tuck shop available, Bring pack lunch.*

Half day session £ 15.00

Full day £ 30.00S

Full week £125.00

For further information and to book your place please contact: Val Hart



# Gallery



Three-year old Esmée's wax flower is lovely, as is six-year old Phoebe's ballerina. Thanks very much!



Phoebe Frere

# Watch this space...!

**The Jorvik Arts Academy** has recently opened to give students aged 14 upwards, 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.**

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

Autumn Newsletter will be out in November – any editorial contributions to Jacky Frere

[info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk](mailto:info@yorkdanceanddrama.org.uk)

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Newsletter sponsored by Y.S.D.D. Friends Group

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