

Dance Festival 2010 Thursday 17th – Saturday 26th June

It's a Small World – Thursday 17th June

Over the past year students from Wildern School's Senior Choreographic Team have been leading dance clubs in their feeder primary schools. They have explored the theme of carnival and created dance pieces which were then performed on the Leigh Road recreation ground. The schools that took part were Berrywood, Shamblehurst, St James, Kings Copse and Botley. A total of 130 primary school pupils and Wildern students took part in the project and the performance was attended by approximately 200 people. The children all worked very hard and produced a fantastic end product. The students from Wildern gained valuable leadership and team-working skills as well as experience in teaching and choreographing dance.



Class Moves – Thursday 17th June

This annual event provides an opportunity for local schools and colleges to perform their latest dance works. This year the following groups took part: Wildern School, Bitterne Park School, Romsey School, Crescent Primary School, Totton College, Wyvern Technology College, Norwood Primary, Chichester College and South Downs College. There were a total of 105 performers who were watched by an audience of 100.



Teacher feedback:

"Great job and very much appreciated"
"The event is absolutely brilliant and I have enjoyed taking part"
"Thank you for letting us participate"
"Well organised and ran smoothly"
"Very calm and on time, thank you for the experience"

Performers' feedback:

"I have learnt life skills, communication with others and working in a new environment"
"It was a really organised day and a fabulous evening!"
"It was nice to be involved in a dance event and to have the opportunity to perform"
"Everyone was friendly and it was clearly organised"
"I loved performing in front of everyone!"

Street Breakin Beatz – Friday 18th June

This performance event hosted by The Point saw some of the UK's best hip hop dance crews come to Eastleigh for a fantastic sell out show. Displays of amazing street and break routines were performed by Unity, Zooyouth, Peridot, KnoLove Productions and NoCo Youth Dance Company. Before the event there was also a street dance workshop held for any budding hip hop dancers, and during the interval there was a chance to listen to some hip hop beats with the DJ in the foyer. The event saw much excitement throughout the evening with a few audience members having the opportunity to freestyle on stage with the nationally known JP Omari who was compare for the evening.

Audience feedback:

"I wanted to thank KnoLove for his brilliant and insightful performance at Streetz Breakin Beats in Eastleigh the other night, I was there with my son and we were both really moved. If you reach just one kid that's one life you've turned around."

"Oh my goodness, you guys rule! Mind-blowing!"

"This performance was immense!"

Hothouse – Saturday 19th June



This event takes place annually and provides a platform for local and regional youth and community groups to perform their latest dance pieces. This year featured 13 groups – West Sussex Youth Dance Company, FuzzyVision, Dub Dance, Jajouka, Movers and Shakers, Coat of Many Colours, Headliners, Adult Tap, Hampshire Youth Dance Company, Fluidity, FuzzyLogic and Feet First Youth Dance Company, Junior and Senior groups. There were a total of 143 performers and over 150 audience members. The event was attended by a number of high profile VIPs.

Group leader feedback:

"Good schedule and excellent rehearsal time"

"Everything was explained clearly and all ran smoothly"

"Enjoyable, and always plenty of notice to practise and build confidence"

Performers' feedback:

"It was great to gain more experience in a variety of shows"

"The performance has given me a confidence boost!"

"I have developed as a dancer"

"It's given me the chance to create new material and showcase my new choreography"

"I enjoyed watching and performing with other youth dance companies, great atmosphere and experience"

Wellbeing Day – Sunday 20th June

This event saw all participants at The Point relax and unwind throughout the day with our many exercise classes and workshops aimed at helping to kick back and let go of day to day stress. Throughout the day participants took part in a host of classes including Pilates, Nia Technique, Yoga, Feldenkrais, Tai Chi and contemporary dance. 102 people attended the workshops and also had the chance to experience Indian head massage, reflexology and Thai massage. As well as browsing the many stalls dedicated to health and wellbeing, participants also had the chance to attend a healthy eating discussion. With participants clearly wanting more sessions like this we hope to develop the wellbeing day into a regular feature of the festival.

Participant feedback:

"I really enjoyed yesterday, you are so passionate about your subject and getting the message across to people, it's great." – Healthy eating talk

"An excellent day, more days like this please. A great taster for different forms of exercise."

Nia Technique was very interesting and enjoyable, please hold regular Sunday workshops!"

"A very good day, I wish there was more time to fit in even more classes!"

"It's really great to have these day long events"

Pointing the Way Careers Day – Thursday 24th June

New to the dance festival, the Careers Day was organised by the Creative Learning team at The Point to offer young people in the area the opportunity to receive hands on practical advice and find that next step towards a career in the arts. The afternoon and twilight sessions included a practical workshop in dance, drama or music, followed by a panel discussion with industry professionals and a chance for the young people to look around many stalls of information from universities and vocational institutions from across the country. Over 100 young people attended the event which we hope to become annual.



Participants' feedback:

"I am now going to start doing more volunteer work, I also learned that I need to network"

"I have learned how to achieve my best"

"By talking to experienced people I have learnt to keep going and not give up"

"I have benefited by creating a better understanding in how to advance in the future"

"I have been made more aware of the industry and where to go next."

Swing Night – Friday 25th June



Swing Night saw the return of the award-winning Jiving Lindy Hoppers to The Point for a night of exciting music and dance that recreated the atmosphere of a by gone era. The Jiving Lindy Hoppers captivated a sell out audience of 120 with there dance numbers including the Charleston, the Lindy and Rhythm Tap. The audience didn't sit still for very long as the Lindy Hoppers had them up out of their seats to have a go themselves. The evening saw a great mix of performance, participation and social dancing to live music from the Swing Shifters. The evening formed part of The Point's celebration of 100 years of aviation in Eastleigh which was followed on the Saturday night with the same performance for a VIP event with BAA.

Feedback:

"What an amazing night, and the Point was the perfect venue"

"Jiving Lindy Hoppers and Band were fantastic!"

Jump Out – Saturday 26th June

Jump Out event was a free dance event for the entire family. The event took part on within the Point and on the Garden Stage and was a chance for local people to join in with many different dance workshops for free. The workshops included taster sessions in tap, belly dance, hip hop, lindy hop and salsa. These workshops ran along side a number of performances on the garden stage by local dance groups including a contemporary showcase to close the event. This was a huge success and a very memorable day with over 500 people attending the day, which included 89 participants in the workshops, 150 children taking part in the *Emerge* performance on the recreation ground and 74 performers on the garden stage.



Primary School Workshops

This project took place over the whole of June and saw 1,805 children aged between 4 and 11 years old take part in a variety of different dance workshops including street dance, ballet, capoeira, creative, tap, bollywood and African. A team of 6 professional dance practitioners delivered 69 workshops between them. These workshops are always a highlight of the festival and are looked forward to by the schools who often plan specific topics around the workshops.

Feedback:

Headteacher

"Due to the success of these workshops and the wide variety of multi-cultural and cross curricular links, I would very much like to work with The Point on future projects"

Special Needs Teaching Assistant

Speaking of a pupil she supports with Downs Syndrome

"I have never seen him so engaged and so focused during the class. The African Dance workshop was exciting for him and it proved he can join in with anything"

Teacher (Norwood)

"If it wasn't for The Point's generosity, we would not be able to provide such activities within the school"

Pupil (year 6)

"I enjoyed learning about another culture through dance"

Pupil (Year 1)

"I learnt to work as a team"

Pupil (Year 4)

"Dance made it exciting to learn new things at school"