

Dance Festival 2011 Saturday 11th – Saturday 25th June 2011

2011's two week dance festival featured a wide variety of performances and community events involving a total of 3945 people. The festival allows a large number of people from a range of backgrounds to access dance in different forms, and fulfils one of the key aims of Eastleigh Borough Council's arts strategy to *'engage the community in high quality arts experiences'*.

Jump Out – Saturday 26th June



Jump Out was a free out door dance day for the local community to sample a range of dance classes offered at The Point such as hip hop, breakdance, salsa, belly dance, tap and ballet. Along side the classes there were a number of free community and professional performances and displays on the garden stage as well as professional and school street art shows on the recreation ground.

Jump Out received great feedback from participants and audiences. This was a positive way to interact with the community and promote the dance classes. All ran very smoothly and to time with all ages and abilities able to get involved.

En Pointe – Sunday 12th June

For En Pointe, ballet enthusiasts and beginners alike pulled on their pointe shoes and enjoyed an evening of ballet.

They took part in one of two workshops, before enjoying a screening of the Oscar-winning film Black Swan:

- Beginners Ballet, where participants with little or no experience had the chance to learn the basics in a fun and friendly class.
- Advanced master-class, where the experienced ballet dancers were taught by one of The Royal Ballet School's highly experienced teachers in a challenging and technical class.



It's a Small World – Tuesday 14th June



Over the past year students from Wildern School's Senior Choreographic Team have been leading dance clubs in their feeder primary schools. This year they explored the theme of fairytales to create dance pieces. 80 Children from Kings Copse, Shamblehurst, Berrywood and Botley performed extracts from Peter Pan, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Hansel and Gretal, and others, to an audience of 200 people in a wonderful outdoor dance show on The Point Garden Stage. The primary school children all worked very hard and produced a fantastic performances. The students from Wildern gained valuable leadership and team-working skills as well as experience in teaching and choreographing dance.

Pointing the Way Careers Day – Thursday 16th June

Following the success of this event in the 2010 festival, Careers Day offered young people the opportunity to receive hands on practical career advice and provided budding young artists the chance to explore that next step towards a career in the arts industry. Spending the afternoon at The Point, students took part in practical dance, music and theatre workshops, spoke to leading professionals in a panel discussion session and received advice and information from leading organisations and institutions within the arts, including local universities and vocational institutions from London and beyond. Over 130 young people attended the free event and many also stayed to experience the evening performances by Lila Dance.



Participants' feedback:

"I feel I know more about the different options you can take, not just going to university"

"Taking part in the workshops gave me great for auditioning at vocational institutions"

"Hearing the professionals talk about their own careers in music was really beneficial"

"The theatre workshop and panel discussion were really informative"

"I now have a better understanding of the jobs available in the industry and where I could go next."

Lila Dance 'In Our Blood' – Thursday 16th June

In an evening of professional contemporary dance, Lila Dance presented three spectacular works for an audience of 220. Inspired by the potential of dance to communicate the most tangible and emotional of human experiences, The Point Associate Lila Dance presented a *Readiness*, *Tracker* and *Not about Love*, choreographed by Yael Flexer. The performance featured a special curtain raiser performance by Hampshire Youth Dance Company, who presented their Hampshire Dance commissioned piece choreographed by Lila Dance's Carrie Whitaker.

To open the evening there was also a special site specific performance from a group of 14 adult dancers (aged 21+), who led the audience around The Point performing in the foyer, dance studio, atrium and creation space. Created and facilitated by Lila Dance's Carrie Whitaker, the travelling piece was made over a series of weekend workshops in the lead up to the festival.

Participants' feedback:

"Carrie was very creative and had a good vision of the piece. It was interesting seeing it develop over the course of the sessions. It was also nice to meet other adults and work on the piece together."

"I really enjoyed taking part in professional classes and being part of a professional performance. Working with such a fantastic choreographer and performer (Carrie) was a brilliant experience."

"It was wonderful to be involved in a performance. As a dance teacher, I usually spend my time backstage rather than onstage. I enjoyed the site specific aspect and the use of props, which is something I haven't had a great deal of experience with."



Dance in a Day – Sunday 19th June

A new event on the 2011 Dance Festival, Dance in a Day was an opportunity for children aged 8-16yrs to work with professional dance company Commotion Dance. In a fun one day workshop young dancers had the chance to express their own ideas and work creatively with others to make a piece that they then performed at The Point's Hothouse community dance showcase the following weekend. The 5 young dancers created their piece in just 6 hours with Point Associate, Commotion Dance. Their finished performance explored weight, balance and tension using an interesting prop!



(Photograph by Paul Carter)

Commotion Dance 'Ready Or Not' – Tuesday 21st June

For their new professional production Point associates, Commotion Dance presented a fun and friendly world of movement and creativity in the form of *Ready or Not*. Audience members were invited to take a peek, at a world of hide and seek. With dancing, music and all things round, where things are lost and then are found.

Made for children aged 3 – 7 and their families the performance offered an engaging and stimulating way for children to learn through dance. Over two performances Commotion Dance performed *Ready or Not* to over 130 people.



Audience Feedback:

"A perfect tonic to a rather fraught day, thank you"

"It was wonderful and magical"

"It inspired me to dance"

"I want my god daughter to see it and I want to have grandchildren so that I can take them too!"

Streetz Breaking Beatz with Peridot – Friday 24th June

Following Peridot's massive success at last year's Streetz Breaking Beatz, this year's event saw the UK Hip Hop Champions take to the stage in their first feature length evening. The nine talented dancers, who have appeared on *Britain's Got Talent* and *Move It Like Michael*, took the audience on a journey through their story, from their very beginnings to the present day, with everything in between. They were supported by two pieces from Hampshire's hottest hip hop youth dance company NoCo and performances by Synergy, Street Vibes, Enigma, 2nd2Nun and Project G.

The event saw much excitement throughout the evening. There was a chance to listen to some hip hop beats with a DJ in the foyer, the support crews filled the first half with explosive and intricate routines and Peridot's signature street and break routines and comedy atmosphere wowed the full house audience in an action packed act two.

Hothouse – Saturday 25th June

(Photograph by Paul Carter)



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 12 groups – The Point Tappers, New Motion Dance Company, Norwood Primary School, The Point Youth Dance Company, Movers and Shakers, Shift Youth Dance Company from The Place, London, Jajouka, Dance in a Day, Fast Forward and FuzzyVision Dance Company. A total of 162 dancers took part, performing to over 150 audience members and the evening was attended by a number of high profile VIPs.

Participants' feedback:

"A great evening that was well organised and a fantastic opportunity for community groups to perform on a professional stage"

"It was brilliant to see everyone having so much fun"

"I'm going to keep up my dancing because of this event. It was simply superb and I will keep doing what I love"

"I felt great being a part of Hothouse and I will always remember the experience"

Primary School Workshops – June 2011

This project took place over the whole of June and saw 1880 children aged between 4 and 11 years old take part in a variety of different dance workshops including street dance, ballet, and creative dance. Run by the 5 dancers from Point associates, Commotion Dance, a total of 64 workshops took place in 7 schools; Cherbourg Primary School, Crescent Primary School, Fair Oak Junior School, Hiltingbury Primary School, Norwood Primary School, St Swithun Primary School, St Francis Primary School. 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:

"This was a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience another aspect of dance but more importantly being taught by a professional coach"

"All children were fully engaged at all times and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, as did the members of staff"

