



Happy New Year: Welcome back

On behalf of all the trustees we hope you had a great Christmas and New Year.

Thank-you to everyone that took part in our Mincing Pies Christmas Show. I hope

you all agree it was a wonderful evening, and a fitting end to a busy 2002 for the studio.

Show Time:

As you may already have heard, a last minute opening has become available at the Rhoda McGaw theatre, so we are going to have a show this year!

The booking is for the week starting Sunday 6th July, to Saturday 12th July. This is a few weeks before the end of our normal summer term, so it leaves us plenty of time to get things right (nearly five months).

The trustees and teachers had a meeting last week to start the ball rolling. Gretchen has agreed to act as show director, Gill will be taking charge of costumes, Kate looking after sound and video, Tina looking after advertising and Pauline keeping an eye on our budget.

Our first action was to pick a name for the show and from several suggestions we picked 'A Stage Further' as our title, which was suggested by Gill.

Based on our previous ticket sales we have opted to have three performances, on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. We may also sell tickets for the dress rehearsal if we have sufficient demand.

The show format will be much like previous years, with a mixture of Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Street Jazz and Contemporary. There will be two acts, and based on your feedback from last year we will not have any bows but go out with a last big Jazz/Tap number for everyone.

We are also looking for some small individual or group pieces to add variety to the programme. If you have any ideas please approach your teacher.

Whilst we will try to organize the programme so you can be in as many pieces as possible, please understand that if you take more than one class we may have to ask you to pull out of a piece. This is primarily to make sure there is adequate time for you to change costumes, but also to make sure we aren't wearing you out. Performing three nights in a row is a big undertaking.

To give you all time to put things in your diaries we have already agreed on the rehearsal schedule in the last weeks before the show. The dates are as follows:

Rehearsals at WDS Studio

- Sunday 29th June @ 2pm
- Sunday 6th July @ 2pm

Rehearsals at the Rhoda McGaw

- Monday 7th July – Act One
- Tuesday 8th July – Act Two
- Wednesday 9th July – Dress Rehearsal

As with all our previous shows, performing is optional, but please do keep coming to classes and learning the routines. If you don't want to appear on stage there are plenty of other things you can help us with, back-stage, front-stage, tickets, costumes, make-up etc.

If you have any questions please grab a trustee and ask. We have allocated the large notice board at the end of the studio to the show, so check this regularly for any updates in the coming months.

Term dates

Spring term starts
6th January

Half-term break
24th to 28th
February

Spring term ends
3rd April

Summer term
starts 28th April

Rehearsal dates

Sunday 29th June
Sunday 6th July

Monday 7th July
Tuesday 8th July
Wednesday 9th July

Show dates

Thursday 10th July
Friday 11th July
Saturday 12th July

Have you noticed the paint job?

I'm sure you cannot have failed to notice how brilliant the studio looks...in fact it's hard to remember how dull it was before. This was all down to the fantastic effort of a few people last summer! Each of these hard workers well and truly earned their free classes last term. Mind you, the perfectionists among them (mentioning no names!) have been heard to mutter "missed a bit" when doing their barre work!

In addition, the sash windows have now been repaired. This now means that all the windows open, and more importantly close. Hopefully this should reduce the draughts in the studio and help to keep in the heat. We are now looking at different methods of improving the heating and insulation.

In connection with the new studio, you may have noticed that we have a proper First Aid box on the wall, and the fire extinguishers have all been serviced and/or replaced. Please familiarize yourself with the position of this emergency equipment– just in case.

The Big News

Remember how our future seemed to be under threat by Surrey County Council? Well the trustees are very happy to report that it looks like we have some big supporters, and for now the threat seems to have receded. After the decoration we had a grand re-opening to which we invited not only our Borough Councillor, James Palmer, but also the Vice Chairman of SCC, Sheila Gruselle, and our local MP, Humfrey Malins.

Humfrey honoured us by formally opening the studio and then expressed great support for our organisation and what we do. Furthermore, when he found out about the threat to our survival, he told us he would not let it happen. Equally Sheila Gruselle told us she would provide funds from her own department if we needed them to pay a rent increase.

So, we are not out of the woods yet, but be assured that your trustees will fight tooth and nail to keep the studio going.

Fame at last...part II

Not content with performing at Wisley Flower Show, the theatre Jazz class were thrilled to be asked to perform Cats at a recent fashion show in aid of Marie Curie Cancer. The show, at Cranleigh School, was compered by Peter Gordon of Eagle Radio, and attended by the Guildford Flames Ice-Hockey team (who seemed to find our Cats costumes somewhat appealing, judging by the "hear kitty, kitty" comments heard!)

WDS opened the second half of the show, and despite dancing on a stage that was more like an ice-rink itself, (but the size of our kitchen), produced a faultless performance. The show raised over £4,000 for charity, and WDS have been formally invited back for next year!

A few teacher changes

As many of you know Lynn is taking a short sabbatical from teaching at WDS so Margaret Brown has very happily agreed to cover all of Lynn's Monday classes. We all wish Lynn the best on her extended break.

Also Emilie has found that driving to her Wednesday street Jazz class was taking longer than the class itself, so has reluctantly decided to stop teaching. However we are very pleased to announce that Katie, Emma's sister, has agreed to run her own Street Jazz class in the Wednesday 6.30pm slot, so all you Streeters can get down to it two nights a week.

"Dancing is as a great mystery as painting or drama. It serves no obvious purpose – yet it is as much a part of human life as food gathering and sleep."

Dr. Maya V. Patel