



Mincing Pies

In case you haven't spotted it, Christmas is coming. And what better way to herald the festive season than sipping mulled wine and munching mince pies while watching a few fun (totally unrehearsed!!!) dance numbers? Yes its our Christmas Party, Mincing Pies, here at the studio on the evening of Friday 11th December. Even if you aren't dancing, come along to meet some colleagues, have a laugh and share some food and drink. All the family are welcome – with or without fairy costumes!

Refurb

Brilliant isn't it? We hope you like the new look, the cubby holes for all your gear, and the bright finish to the studio itself with the larger mirrors (yes, you can now see your feet!). We've a bit of tweaking left to do, but overall we think it looks so much better.

But heartfelt thanks must go to the helpers (the trustees plus Gen, Gill and Zelda) who laboriously moved all the costumes, cleared cupboards, relaid the floor (twice!), chucked out the old furniture and rubbish (you do not want to know some of the things discovered in the deepest recesses) and generally

gave up over 10 hours each of their own time to giving the studio such a great make-over.

New floor

As part of the refurb we have replaced the floor. As it cost £1,600 (no, we haven't got the decimal place wrong, that is **sixteen hundred quid**) please can you take care of it. That means no dancing in outdoor shoes (stones tear it) and check screws are flush on tap shoes. We managed to make the old floor last 10 years – at this price, we need to make sure this one matches it for longevity.

Costume wardrobe

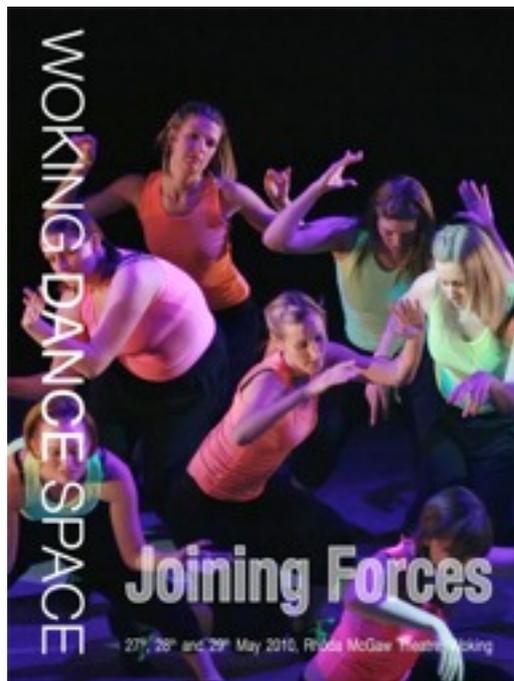
A big feature of the refurb is the creation of a proper storage area upstairs for all our props and costumes (under the tender care of our very own Wardrobe Mistress, Gill Barnes). We plan to make these available for hire to local groups as we now have a fantastic range of adult costumes and accessories. However donations are always welcome - so let Gill know if you have anything you think might be suitable.

Work on the Mayford Centre

We were looking at getting our window blinds fixed and upgrading the heating. However we have learnt that Surrey County Council (our landlord) has finally scheduled some expenditure on the building for next Spring, and this will include sorting out the windows throughout the Centre. This is good news, but at the moment this could apparently range from simply refurbishing the frames through to completely replacing them, so we are going to hold fire on our own works until we know where we stand.

Joining Forces 2010

We are hosting a show next year called Joining Forces. This is where we give other local community organizations a chance to perform at the Rhoda, and it was very popular in 2008.



There is an opportunity for WDS dancers to perform as well – there will be one number per genre (i.e. Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Street and Tap) – with all rehearsals taking place outside of class time.

If you'd like to join in, check out the sign up sheets on the noticeboard. The dates of the performances are 27-29th May 2010.

Even if you don't fancy treading the boards yourself, keep those dates in your diary so you can come along and support our dancers. We'll be selling tickets nearer the time.

Babies babies babies

Mina from Tuesday ballet has had a little baby girl, Alina, on 27th October, weighing in at 2.99Kg.

Teea from daytime Jazz has had a little boy, Olli, on 25th November at 11.51pm (so nearly the 26th!) weighing in at 3.36Kg. She's hoping to be back to classes soon so hopefully we will get to see some piccies.

Congratulations to Mina and Teea!

Competition

We now have a large wall in the studio (above the door to the studio itself) and it has been suggested that we could decorate it eg with a mural, new logo, motivational quotes. So what do you think should go there? Sketch your idea, put it in the suggestions box and we will get a panel of judges to decide the best entry. The winner will get their design on the wall, plus all their classes free for a term.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term Dates

Start: w/c 4th January

Half term: w/c 15th February

Last week: w/c 29th March

Fun stuff

We have created a range of WDS and Equilibrium T-shirts and accessories on a special website. Take a look at

<http://292712.spreadshirt.net/>



We can change some of the designs if you have a good idea that you think will appeal to everybody – have a word with Kate or Tina. A small amount from the price (usually about 40p/50p) will go towards our renovations fund for the floor.