



## **Croydon Schools' Dance Association – 2002/2003 report**

**CSDA has continued to grow, both in the number of member schools and in the number of events and activities held. Currently, 44 schools belong to the Association and of those, 41 took part in the annual performances at the Fairfield Hall on 9 and 10 April – several participating for the first time. This year the dances were all based on signs and symbols. Each school chose the interpretation and music and over 800 Croydon students (ranging from 5 to 18 years) performed to packed houses - there was standing room only on both evenings.**

**Croydon dance teachers were given the opportunity to receive some help with ideas and choreography for their dances as Amanda Gough, a lecturer at Laban, was employed to run a workshop based on the concert's theme in early November. She gave ideas on approaches and content during a practical session held at Thomas More School on a Saturday morning.**

**Further inspiration came from a performance of Cirque du Soleil at the Albert Hall in January. CSDA subsidised tickets for 25 teachers from affiliated schools who watched the movement-based performance that certainly gave food for thought.**

**Last year, CSDA received an award of £1,000 from Awards for All to set up a resource centre for dance. The resulting Resource Centre opened in February this year. It is in the Davidson Professional Centre and teachers from affiliated schools are able to borrow CDs, videos and books to aid with teaching dance to both primary and secondary students. Many of the resources are relevant for GCSE dance students and it is hoped to have funds to continue expanding the resources according to the needs of the Borough's dance teachers. There is also a CSDA notice board above the Resource Centre cupboard. This will be used to publicise dance events.**

**Continuing with the idea of improving communication between dance teachers in Croydon schools, the Association introduced a newsletter updating member schools on dance events. It is planned to publish this termly.**

**More events are scheduled during this school year. The first, a new event to be held in May at the BRIT School, is a Day of Dance for years 5-8. It is open to students who performed in the Fairfield Hall concert and will be based on the Elements. After warming up, the dancers will split into groups, each with a different teacher, to produce a dance on one of earth, air, fire or water. At the end of the day, all the dances will be combined into a performance for family and friends.**

**Country dance has not been neglected. Festivals are planned in July, one for primary schools in the North of the Borough and one for primary schools from the South.**

**The following schools participated in this year's CSDA performances, *Signs of the Times*, at the Fairfield Halls on 9 April 2003:**

**Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School  
St Mark's Primary School  
Spring Park Primary School  
Riddlesdown High School  
West Thornton Primary School  
Priory School  
St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary  
School  
Norbury Manor High School for Girls  
Purley Oaks Primary School  
St Aidan's RC Primary School**

**BRIT School  
Selsdon High School  
Woodmansterne Primary School  
St Johns Primary School  
Parish Church Junior School  
Westwood Language College for Girls  
Oval Primary School  
St Andrew's High School  
British Street Dance School of Excellence  
Ridgeway Primary School  
Woodcote Junior School**

**These schools performed on 10 April:**

**Smitham Primary School  
Atwood Primary School  
St Mary's Catholic Infant and Nursery  
School  
Coloma High School  
Kensington Avenue Junior School  
St James the Great Infants School Ashburton  
Infant and Junior School  
Haling Manor High School  
Addington High School  
Wattenden Primary School  
Parish Church Infants and Nursery School**

**Thomas More High School  
Woodcote High School  
Beulah Nursery and Infant School  
Wolsey Junior School  
John Ruskin Sixth Form College  
Kingsley Primary School  
Shirley High School  
St James the Great Junior School  
Selsdon Primary School  
BRIT School  
Good Shepherd Roman Catholic  
Primary School**