



Croydon Schools' Dance Association – 2004/2005 report

This year 55 schools belong to CSDA comprising one sixth form college, one special school, 15 high schools, 9 junior schools, 20 primary schools, 9 infant schools and South Croydon Bollywood Dance School.

Of these, 44 took part in the annual performances at the Fairfield Hall on 7 and 8 March 2005 – 22 schools performed on each night. This year the dances were all based on a famous personality and set to music without lyrics. Each school chose their own interpretation and music and over 800 Croydon students (ranging from 5 to 18 years) performed to packed houses - there were full houses with standing room only on both evenings.

Croydon dance teachers were given the opportunity to receive some assistance with ideas and choreography for their concert dances when teachers from the BRIT School, Suzanne Priest helped by Jenny Williams, ran a workshop based on the concert's theme in early November. They gave ideas on approaches and content during a practical session held at the BRIT School on a Saturday morning.

A Day of Dance for students in years 5-8 who performed in the Fairfield Hall concert was held in April at the BRIT School. Each participating school sent a maximum of 5 students. After warming up, the dancers split into groups, each with a different teacher, to produce a dance. At the end of the day, all the dances were combined into a performance for teachers, family and friends.

For the first time, high school students were given a chance to showcase their own choreography in a performance, *Choreographics*, held at the Fairfield Halls on 28 January 2005. The standard of choreography produced by students from the BRIT School, John Ruskin College, Selsdon High School, Virgo Fidelis RC Convent School and Woodcote High School was of an exceptionally high standard and well received by the capacity audience. The event was directed by Suzanne Priest (BRIT School teacher) and was so successful that it is planned to make it an annual event.

Another new event this year was a twilight workshop for students in year 10 and 11 held at Archbishop Lanfranc School. Jenny Williams, from the BRIT School, taught a session based on the repertory of Adventures in Motion Pictures: *The Car Man*. For some students this was their introduction to contemporary dance and it is hoped to hold similar workshops this year based on the GCSE Dance syllabus.

Unfortunately, the country-dance festival had to be cancelled as too few schools wished to take part, but another is planned for this summer.

Three specialist dance teachers from CSDA (Barbara Richardson, Corrie Lunghi and Mary Cox) are still visiting schools to give dance teaching which is funded by an initiative of the Croydon Schools Sports Co-ordinator Partnership.

Teachers from CSDA affiliated schools are able to borrow CDs, videos and books to aid with dance teaching for both primary and secondary students from the Resource Centre established in the Davidson Professional Centre. As the Davidson Centre is closing, the Resource Centre will move to a temporary home at John Ruskin College until a permanent place can be found for it.

The following schools participated in this year's CSDA performances, *Look Who's Dancing!*, at the Fairfield Halls on 7 March 2005:

**Beulah Junior School
St Chad's Primary
Smitham Primary
Virgo Fidelis Convent High School
Woodside Infants
Selsdon Primary
Beulah Infants
Keston Primary
St Andrew's High
Ridgeway Primary
Parish Church Infants
St Thomas Becket Primary
Priory
Norbury Manor High
Parish Church Juniors
Kingsley Primary
Norbury Manor Primary
St John's Primary
Spring Park Primary
Archbishop Lanfranc High
Cypress Juniors
St Joseph's Juniors**

These schools performed on 8 March:

**St Mary's Infants
Coloma High
St Cyprian's Primary
St James the Great Infants
Shirley High
Rockmount Juniors
Ashburton Infants
Wattenden Primary
West Thornton Primary
John Ruskin College
Woodcote Juniors
St James the Great Juniors
Byron Primary
Kensington Avenue Primary
Duppas Juniors
Selsdon High
Oval Primary
Woodcote High
Good Shepherd Primary
Heaver's Farm Primary
Riddlesdown High
St Mark's Primary**