



Croydon Schools' Dance Association – 2006/2007 report

The number of schools involved with the CSDA and the number of events held by CSDA during the year continue to grow. Fifty-six schools have affiliated this year. The membership comprises one sixth form college, one special school, one south Asian dance group, eleven high schools, ten junior schools, twenty-four primary schools, and eight infant schools.

Of these, 48 took part in the annual performances at the Fairfield Hall on 21 and 22 March 2007 – twenty-four schools performed on each night. This year the dances were all inspired by *Images* and set to music without lyrics. Each school chose their own interpretation and music and about 900 Croydon students (ranging from 5 to 18 years) performed to packed houses - both evenings were sold out. Dances in a wide range of styles were performed and, for the first time, there was a group of junior school boys in the programme.

Croydon dance teachers were given the opportunity to receive some assistance with ideas and choreography for their concert dances when Jenny Barber, the BRIT School's Director of Dance, ran a workshop based on the concert's theme in early November. This gave ideas on possible approaches and content during a practical session held at Parish Church Junior School on a Saturday morning.

CSDA has continued, this year, to give students the chance to dance outside their schools and work with students from other schools. In November, GCSE Dance Students were able to attend an all day workshop which gave insight into *Front Line* (the GCSE Dance set study). The workshop was led by dancers (who had performed the work) from the Henry Oguike Company.

High school students were again given a chance to showcase their own choreography in a performance, *Choreographics 3*, held at the Fairfield Halls on 26 January 2007. The standard of choreography produced by students from the BRIT School, John Ruskin College, Virgo Fidelis RC Convent School, St Andrew's High School and Woodcote High School was of a high standard and well received.

For the first time, a Senior Day of Dance for students in years 9 to 11 was held in March at Archbishop Lanfranc School. Fourteen students attended and in a day they produced two dances of such high quality that the two groups were invited to perform them again at Woodcote High School's dance department's performances in April.

A Boys' Day of Dance was held in April to raise the profile of boys' dance. Fourteen boys from years 5 to 8 participated in street dance and contemporary dance workshops after school. This was held at the BRIT School and taught by BRIT male students and was so well received by the boys, that next year it is hoped to make this a termly event.

A Day of Dance for students in years 5-8 who performed in the Fairfield Hall concert was held in May at Archbishop Lanfranc High 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.

Following the success of last June's Every Country's Dancing held at Smitham Primary School, it is planned to repeat the event this year. Last year primary children had the opportunity to learn south Asian dance, English country dance and Polish folk dance, see a maypole dance display by Smitham children and join in a picnic and circle dances with everyone present. During this year's event, children will be able to learn dances from Greece, Ireland and English Morris dance as well as enjoy the picnic and group dancing.

A Newsletter is distributed to all member schools each term. This gives notice of future dance events, reports on past events and includes useful dance information for teachers.

The CSDA Resource Centre, made homeless following the closure of the Davidson Teachers' Centre, has now been permanently housed at the new Ashburton Library. Teachers from CSDA affiliated schools, once they are members of Croydon libraries, are able to borrow CDs, DVDs, videos and books to aid with dance teaching for both primary and secondary students.

The following schools participated in this year's CSDA performances, *Images*, at the Fairfield Halls on 21 March 2007:

**St Thomas Becket RC Primary School
Norbury Manor Business & Enterprise College for Girls
Parish Church Nursery & Infants School
Coulsdon CofE Primary School
Margaret Roper RC Primary School
Beulah Nursery & Infants School
St Chad's RC Primary School
Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School
St Mary's Catholic Infant School
Whitehorse Manor Junior School
St Mark's CofE Primary School
Priory
Orchard Way Primary School
Ridgeway Primary School
Coloma Convent Girls' School
Kingsley Primary School
Smitham Primary School
Shirley High School
Keston Primary School
St Aidan's RC Primary School
St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary School
Atwood Primary School
BRIT School
Parish Church Junior School**

These schools performed on 22 March:

**Winterbourne Nursery & Infants School
Ashburton Junior School
Duppas Junior School
St Andrew's High School
Woodside Nursery & Infants School
Heaver's Farm Primary School
Woodcote High School
St James the Great Infants School
Woodcote Junior School
St Joseph's RC Infants School
Wattenden Primary School
Ashburton Infants School
The Hayes Primary School
Benson Primary School
Spring Park Primary School
St James the Great Junior School
John Ruskin Sixth Form College
Roke Primary School
St Joseph's RC Junior School (Girls' Group)
West Thornton Primary School
St Joseph's RC Junior School (Boys' Group)
Howard Primary School
BRIT School
Winterbourne Junior Girls' School**

CSDA Committee 2006-2007:

**Chairman: Barbara Richardson, Vice Chairman and Secretary: Mary Cox,
Treasurer: Corrie Lunghi, Newsletter Editor: Vix Kerley;
Members: Jenny Barber, Della Bhujoo, Sheila Bryan, Markie Hayden, Kelly Storey**