



Croydon Schools' Dance Association – 2007/2008 report

The number of schools involved with the CSDA and the number of events held by CSDA during the year continue to grow. Fifty-five school groups have affiliated to the Association this year. The membership comprises one special school, twelve high schools, eleven junior schools, twenty-one primary schools and ten infant schools.

Of these, 53 took part in the annual performances at the Fairfield Hall on 12 and 13 March 2008. For the first time, CSDA had to include a matinee performance in order to accommodate all the schools wishing to perform. Community groups of older citizens were able to attend the matinee free of charge and the special ticket rates for schools meant that whole schools were also able to come and watch the performance. Peter Westlake was the guest of honour at the matinee, and he escorted the Mayor of Croydon and the Deputy Mayor who each attended an evening performance as a guest of honour. The lists of schools dancing at each performance follow at the end of this report.

The performances were entitled *Any theme will do*: all the dances had to be based on a theme used by CSDA during the past ten years of performances. The themes that inspired the dances were:

Flights of Fancy (fantasy and imagination), *Look Who's Dancing* (famous people), *Dance The Universal Language* (using music without words), *Signs of the Times* (signs and symbols), *Moving Pictures* (pictures), *Think of a Number and Dance* (numbers), *Letters Dance* (an alphabet letter), *Moving towards the Millennium* (twentieth century), *Watch This Space* (places and spaces), *Say it with Dance* (quotations), and *Film Action Dance* (films).

Each school chose their own interpretation and music without lyrics and over 1,000 Croydon students (ranging from 5 to 18 years) performed to packed houses. Dances in a wide range of styles were performed; including for the first time a group of junior age ballroom dancers. There were two all male groups dancing and several schools sent more than one group to dance.

High school students were again given a chance to showcase their own choreography in a performance, *Choreographics 4*, held at the Fairfield Halls on 25 January 2008. The standard of choreography produced by students from the BRIT School, Virgo Fidelis RC Convent School, St Andrew's High School, Bensham, Addington High School and Woodcote High School was of a high standard and well received.

Following from the success of last year's Senior Day of Dance for students in years 9 to 11; two twilight workshops were held in January at St Andrew's High School. Two groups of dancers worked with dance teachers to produce dances which were included in the *Choreographics* programme and one in the Fairfield matinee performance.

This year, due to demand, the number of dance workshops for boys has increased from one to three. A workshop has been held each term at the BRIT School and taught by BRIT male students in order to raise the profile of boys' dance. Boys from years 5 to 8 participated enthusiastically in street dance and contemporary dance workshops after school. At the end they performed the dances for their family and teachers.

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 inspired by props. At the end of the day, all the dances were combined into a performance for teachers, family and friends.

Every Country's Dancing held at Smitham Primary School will be repeated this year as it was so popular. Last year primary children had the opportunity to learn a Morris stick dance, an Irish dance and a Greek folk dance. The Morris side gave a performance of several traditional dances which the junior age children watched before they ate a picnic, which unfortunately had to be inside due to the inclement weather. Everyone present joined in circle dances to conclude the afternoon. During this year's event, children will be able to learn salsa dances, belly dance and Morris dance as well as enjoy the picnic and group dancing.

A Newsletter is distributed to all member schools. This gives notice of future dance events, reports on past events and includes useful dance information for teachers. This year, CSDA also produced a glossy brochure which gave details of all last year's events and achievements. This was sent to all Croydon Schools.

The CSDA Resource Centre is still 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. CSDA held its AGM in the Library this year, so that teachers could be made aware of the whereabouts and contents of the Resource Centre.

Yet another event was inaugurated this year – a gifted and talented summer dance school. This was run in conjunction with Croydon SSC0. Two gifted and talented students nominated from each school attended dance sessions at the Ashcroft Theatre each day for a week and the resulting dances were performed in front of a paying audience on the final Friday evening. CSDA was responsible for the junior group of students from years 5 and 6 who created a complex dance based on a poem *Slow Down*.

CSDA Committee 2007-2008:

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

Co-opted: Janet Brett, Gemma Coldicott

The following schools participated in this year's CSDA performances, Any theme will do, at the Fairfield Halls on 12 March 2008:

St James the Great Infant School

Keston Primary School

St Andrew's High School

Smitham Primary School

St Aidan's RC Primary School

Addington High School

St James the Great Junior School

Coulsdon C of E Primary School

Edenham High School

David Livingstone Primary School

Woodcote Junior School

Priory

Virgo Fidelis RC Convent High School

Elmwood Junior School

St Joseph's RC Junior School - Boys' group

The Hayes Primary School

Woodcote High School - Girls' group

Kingsley Primary School

Margaret Roper RC Primary School

St Joseph's RC Junior School - Girls' group 1

St Thomas Becket RC Primary School

Woodcote High School - Boys' group

Ballroom dance group from Coulsdon C of E & Keston Primary, Woodcote & Woodside Junior Schools

These schools performed in the matinee at the Fairfield Halls on 13 March 2008:

Parish Church Nursery & Infant School

Emma Jewell (BRIT School)

Wattenden Primary School

Step Into Dance (*funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation*)

St Andrew's High School

Selsdon Primary School

Woodcote High School - Boys' group

Howard Primary School

St Mark's C of E Primary School

***Choreographics* Group - St Andrew's High School**

Oval Primary School

St Joseph's RC Junior School - Girls' Group 2

St Andrew's High School - Group 2

BRIT School

Ashburton Junior School

These schools performed in the evening of 13 March 2008:

St Mary's Catholic Nursery & Infant School

Ridgeway Primary School - Infant group

Bubble...gum Dance

Beulah Nursery & Infant School

Shirley Performing Arts High School

Woodside Nursery & Infant School

Duppas Junior School

Winterbourne Infant School

Ashburton Nursery & Infant School

Atwood Primary School

Broadmead Infant School

Monks Orchard Primary School

St Chad's RC Primary School

Ridgeway Primary School - Junior group

Benson Primary School

Parish Church Junior School

Norbury Manor Business & Enterprise College for Girls

Spring Park Primary School

Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Orchard Way Primary School

Winterbourne Junior Girls' School