

Susan Robinson School of Ballet

Newsletter Summer 2007

Dear Parents,

We were delighted with the results of the Royal Academy of Dance examinations. We had 44 candidates for grade examinations, all of whom were successful, 34 passing with distinction and 10 with merit. Outstanding results were 96% Olivia Leitch and Sophie Lewis, 95% Michelle Breese, Camilla Foulger, Lauren Hurst, and Lucy Wood, and 90% Kerri Brown and Jessica Simpson. The vocational results were equally pleasing:-Advanced 2 with distinction, Laurantta Summerscales, rarely awarded and at such a young age; Advanced 1 Michelle McLoughlin, with distinction; Intermediate Sasha Mehan with merit; Intermediate Foundation Lara Lucano 95% distinction (!) and Emma Riggs and Georgina Woodward also with distinction.

Laurantta Summerscales was the only entrant in the Young Dancer of the year competition from a non vocational school to reach the final and was awarded a scholarship to the Royal Ballet School Summer School. We wish Laurantta every success when she takes up her scholarship to train at the English National Ballet School in the autumn. It has been my pleasure to see her develop from the nursery class to a beautiful young dancer on the verge of a professional career. We also extend all good wishes to Becky Grosvenor Taylor for her future and in particular with her singing. She also has been a pleasure to teach and watch develop from a small child to very accomplished young lady.

It has been an action packed time for the school. The lead roles of Hansel and Gretel were taken in the Byfleet pantomime by Jessica Cook, Lauren Hurst, Lara Lucano and Emma Riggs and other students provided colourful dance scenes and also sang in the production. The BBC visited the school to film Henry Perkins for a documentary about Henry's tuition at the Bolshoi School. They filmed him working in class with his old friends. It is to be broadcast in October. The big ballet scenes in Die Fledermaus were performed by our students in March at the Rhoda McGaw theatre swiftly followed by a performance in a charity gala in aid of Woking Hospice at the New Victoria Theatre, when Bobby Davro had the girls in fits of laughter in the Green Room. Nine amazingly lucky students will have the privilege of performing with the Bolshoi Ballet at the Coliseum Theatre in London in August. Dreams coming true! More news later.

Lastly nineteen students are to be congratulated on learning the long dance sequences from Aida in only two rehearsals when they performed at the New Victoria Theatre. We were congratulated by the Ellen Kent Ballet and Opera Company who said "they are the best team we have ever had." Take a bow girls.

I felt all the students danced well in the Regional Finals of the All England Dance Competition and for me it is particularly thrilling to have representatives in each ballet solo section right through from baby ballet to the seniors and five groups in the finals at the Peacock Theatre in London in July.

Thank you to Mrs Woodward for continuing to run the coffee shop. New barres have been bought with the profits.

Ballet term ends 10th July except Saturday classes (7th July) and Mondays (16th July)

Ballet watching classes 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 16th July

Tap and Modern classes end 2nd July

Next term will commence on Monday 10th September for all classes (ballet, tap and modern).

Class times and term dates can be found on the school web site www.susanrobinsonballet.org.uk

Miss Sue