



Papillon School of Dance

Newsletter 2022

2022 has been a busy year for Papillon. There have been 3 exam sessions this year, for graded, vocational and repertoire students with more than a 60 year age gap between our youngest and oldest dancers taking part. We even had several parent-child exam groups with mothers and daughters dancing together. Our pre-primaries took their first ever class award and 5 students took their RAD grade 8 exam, the highest award in the graded syllabus, having been the school's original pre-primaries 13 years ago. The summer session was our best set of results ever with over half the entries being awarded distinctions. We have a new set of vocational students, who have started Intermediate Foundation and spent the summer and autumn terms building up their strength for their first pair of pointe shoes. At the top end of the school, we now have 7 Advanced 1 students.



Zoe has started teaching at Ducklings Pre-School in Creton, with two classes on Thursday mornings for both boys and girls from the age of 2. The children are learning to be expressive and creative while developing self confidence and a love of dance. Many also attend Papillon classes during the week.

We encourage dancers to take part in youth performances and associate schemes as they provide an excellent supplement to technique classes here at Papillon. Congratulations to Robyn who joined the Royal Ballet's Mid-Associate scheme and to Ruby and Eva who joined Aimee, Katie and Lotti at Chantry ballet and contemporary ballet associates.

In June, Lotti performed with Chantry Origins Youth Company at their inaugural showcase. This included "The Imprisoned Moon" and "Nuvole Bianche", a solo she had choreographed herself. Congratulations to Aimee and Eva who have successfully auditioned and gained a place to join Lotti in the company this year.

Dancing didn't stop during holidays, with dancers taking part in Chantry and REC summer schools and Midlands Theatre Ballet Christmas intensive. Papillon offered its own summer school where students studied movement, contemporary and a piece by choreographer Ohad Naharin.



Our performance group had multiple opportunities to entertain local audiences. Back in March, they performed for the WI alongside Adult Tap. They rounded off the summer term with a showcase of work from dancers from Grade 3+ at Barchfield Farm. This outdoor event included students' own choreography, syllabus work, repertoire from Coppelia and a creative drama piece based on West Side Story which Sally developed. A fantastic evening to demonstrate how hard they've worked this term to family and friends. A huge thank you to Sally for hosting. To end the year, they visited several care homes in the area, with Christmas themed dances including The Nutcracker, Carol of the Bells and Walking in the Air.

The teachers have also been busy this year. In May, Zoe and Gemma travelled to Spain for a week-long ballet retreat with former Royal ballerina Francesca Filpi, returning very inspired to pass on all they learnt. They also attended the opening of the RAD's global headquarters in London, taking part in turning and character workshops, watched a Solo Seal rehearsal and enjoyed exploring the new library with endless reference books and old syllabi and notation to read.



Speaking of notation, sadly Zoe attended the funeral of friend and former colleague Ann Hutchinson Guest who passed away in May aged 103. They worked together at the Language of Dance Centre where Ann was the world expert on Labanotation. Gemma participated in a Benesh Notation course for teachers and is now able to read the notation in syllabus books.

Zoe spent the summer enrolled on a pair of new courses; flexibility from Lisa Howell and the ISTD contemporary syllabus, classes for which started in September.

Gemma successfully completed the second module in her RAD teacher training course but unfortunately has had to postpone further study until next year due to injury.

Looking forward into 2023, we will hold 2 exam sessions, in the spring and autumn terms. Our main event will be our full length summer show, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Good luck to all our year 11 students applying for full time training, BTEC and A-Level dance.

