



Papillon School of Dance

Newsletter 2023

It's been another busy year at Papillon. The highlight was undoubtedly our full length ballet, *Snow White and Red Riding Hood*. Students from pre-primary to Advanced 1 performed two shows on Saturday 8th July at Macready Theatre in Rugby and were joined by Ducklings Preschool children who appeared as the rats from the Pied Piper of Hamelin.



In April, Zoë and Gemma started teaching ballet at Syndicate Dance in Daventry. Syndicate is a competition school where dancers learn a wide variety of dance styles. Learning ballet has helped them to improve their classical technique and multiple students have now taken RAD ballet exams. Zoë taught at their summer school and choreographed a ballet solo for Karla, who placed 3rd in her category.



At our own summer school, students learnt repertoire from Cinderella, Beatrix Potter and The Flower Festival of Genzano. In addition, the children also tried out different dance styles: character, jazz, contemporary and commercial, and took drama classes with Sally.



There have been two exam sessions this year, with boys, girls, children and adults taking part. Two sets of pre-primaries took their very first ballet class award and at the other end of the scale, Ruby and Eva completed their grade 8. We are eagerly awaiting our most recent set of results.



Dancers have been busy outside of Papillon classes. As members of Chantry Origins Youth Company, Aimee, Eva and Lotti performed on the main stage at Move It and in a summer showcase with solos they had choreographed themselves. Lotti is now an associate at Jo de Sousa Dance Centre and Aimee is studying A-Level Dance at the RAD Headquarters. Robyn continues as a Mid-Associate at the Royal Ballet.

Not to be left out, Zoë and Gemma have had a busy year filled with CPD and ballet performances. They've taken courses on exams, Advanced 1 and NATD contemporary. For inspiration, they travelled to France and watched the Paris Opera Ballet dancing a Bejart triple bill. Closer to home, they've seen BRB2, Ballet Theatre UK, Kyiv City Ballet, Matthew Bourne and The Royal Ballet School. They both successfully auditioned for Birmingham Royal Ballet's Sleeping Beauty Dreams but were unable to accept the roles due to teaching commitments clashing with rehearsals. Gemma has successfully passed her first year of teacher training following a 10 day practical intensive at Yorkshire Dance over the summer. (postponed from last year due to injury).



We ended the year with our annual care home visits. This year our Performance Group went to Longlands and Southfields House. The residents loved the music and the dancing and they've already been invited back in the spring!



Merry Christmas everyone! Classes will resume on Tuesday 2nd January. Timetable TBC with the addition of NATD contemporary classes.

The next exam session is Tuesday 19th March for vocational and grade 5 students.

You can purchase Papillon branded clothing here -

<https://www.allboogie.co.uk/store/papillon-school-of-dance/>