

Performing Arts Highlights

September 2008-9



Productions

Back to the 80's

This year's Upper School Production took us back in time to the age of big hair, neon socks and legwarmers. This tale of high school hilarity featured 'Blatch 6' student Jude Obermuller as Musical Director, and a hugely talented cast and crew. New this year was a 'Sing-along Night' with the audience dressing up to really get into the spirit of the show.

Heartbreak Beautiful

This thought provoking and humorous play was directed by Mr Rutter with performances given at our Windmill Theatre and the Chichester Festival Theatre. This was a great opportunity to perform in a professional theatre.

Grease

There were some stunning performances in this year's Lower School Production. The well balanced band gave a polished performance and the singing was assured with excellent characterisation. Overall, a hugely entertaining and maturely delivered show.

Other Performances

The Dance Show

This featured over 200 hundred dancers from years 7 to 13. Performances ranged from ballet to hip hop and urban styles to the more contemporary work of the Blatch Dance Company and the GCSE and BTEC dancers. This slick and professional show was a real credit to all who took part.

Spring and Winter Concerts

The full diversity of the talents of Blatch musicians was on display in these events in the Windmill Theatre. Harry Francis Lang from year 12 was soloist in a performance of a movement from a Beethoven Piano Concerto, ably accompanied by the newly formed Chamber Orchestra (Leader; Alex Hill from year 10). The Gospel Choir, Musical Theatre Groups and Trumpet Groups and 7JA's whole class performance were notable highlights.

Musicology

Blatch bands took to the stage for a dynamic evening, with a thrilling lightshow. Much of the organisation for this event was done by BTEC Music Tec students.

Stars In Their Eyes

Another impressive evening - every year the standard seems to get higher and higher giving the judges an increasingly difficult job. This year KT Tunstall battled it out against Michael Jackson and Duffy!

Brighton Festival

The Year 13 Musical Theatre students gave their final performance on the course in the Dome as part of the Brighton Festival. An appreciative audience enjoyed a diverse repertoire of 'songs from the shows' and contemporary songs.

Trips and Tours and other Events

The Millstones in Warendorf

This fantastic tour culminated in a sell out concert in Warendorf's Theater am Wall with the audience up on their feet singing along. As a cultural and musical experience this tour is hard to beat. In July, the fantastic band from Warendorf visited us and performed in Jubilee Square and our Windmill Theatre. We'll be back in Warendorf in October 2010!

Working with the Hofesh Schechter Dance Company

Blatch dancers and rock musicians were able to work with cutting edge choreographer and musician Hofesh Schechter in a series of workshops joint funded by Brighton Dome. This culminated in an amazing evening of contemporary dance which had all the excitement of a rock gig. A wonderful experience for all involved.

Comedy Workshops

The first of many workshops enable drama students to work with comedy improve group 'The Noise Next Door'. This was followed by a short performance in the drama studio.

'Flower for a Friend'

Year 11 student Charlotte Soffe organised a variety performance in the Windmill Theatre. This sold out event raised a large sum of money for the Cancer Charity 'The Macmillan Trust' and featured a stirring finale of Leonard Cohen's 'Alleluia'.

Masterclass with Sir Ian McKellen

During his visit to Blatch, Sir Ian gave a Masterclass to the cast of Romeo and Juliet. He was truly inspirational, offering ideas on characterisation and stagecraft which proved invaluable. He then took part in a Question and Answer session with upper school drama students giving spontaneous quotations of Shakespeare and giving insights into the life of a professional actor.