



BMS Community Arts Department (BMSCA) **Highlights 2010-11**

Autumn Term 2010

In September, local primary schools were offered **free taster assemblies** and workshops in Brazilian Dance, Samba Drumming and Choral Singing, to promote the BMSCA after-school projects in Acting, Rock 'n' Pop music, Steel Pans and Singing.

The **Community Arts courses** which we offer have been very popular over the last year with weekly classes being held for Big Mouth Choir, Little Mouth Choir, Steel Pan Band, Samba Drumming, Saturday Rock Club and Saturday Acting Club, plus the Sizzling Summer School and Teenspirit Summer Sessions.

In October, a group of 32 Year 9s took part in a **Black History Month** project with drama facilitators from a Performing Arts Education Company called Bigfoot Theatre Company. The students created a 'play in a day' about the history of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, culminating in a performance assembly for other Year 9 pupils in the Windmill Theatre.

In November, 200 Year 6 children took part in a **VE Celebration Day** at Blatchington Mill School's Windmill Theatre which involved children from the following primary schools: Aldrington Primary School; Downs View Special School; St Andrew's Primary School; St Nicolas' Primary School; Somerhill Junior School and Westdene Primary School. The VE Celebration Day project is part of the calendar of activities organised by Blatchington Mill School's Community Arts department for local primary schools. For this project, we linked the primary History curriculum on WWII with dance and drama. We worked in partnership with the Brighton Museum Education Team whose educational outreach worker presented artefacts and photos from Brighton during World War 2, dressed as a Land Girl. A team of actors and dancers from Ragroof Theatre Company delivered the dance workshops in-character as people from the 1940s, conducting outreach workshops on-site in all of the school and at the event itself. They taught the children a number of war-era dances such as Jive, Cha-Cha-Cha and the Charleston. The Primary School teachers were given a teaching pack from Brighton Museum and a teaching pack and CD from Ragroof Theatre Company, and they and their students will in turn be delivering the workshop to other classes in their schools who are studying WWII.

The VE Celebration project also linked in with the **'Strictly Come Tea Dancing'** community dance event open to all members of the public, which ran once a month on a Sunday throughout Autumn and Spring. The events were very well-attended, with between 80 and 100 people of all ages taking part each time.

In December, 20 community and school choirs and soloists performed at a charity fundraising night **Sing for Shelter** at St Andrew's Church in Hove to raise money for the homeless charity 'Shelter'.

Winter Concert: performers from BMS adults' community choir Big Mouth, children's community choir Little Mouth, the children's Steel Pan Band and bands from the Saturday Rock Club all took part in the Winter Concert in the Windmill Theatre.

End of term performances for Saturday Acting Club and Saturday Rock Club for the friends and families of the performers were held in the Windmill Theatre, giving the young people the perfect opportunity to get an experience of performing in a professional venue.

Spring Term 2011

Teenspirit Auditions: a weekend of auditions was held in January at Blatchington Mill School's Windmill Theatre, in conjunction with Brighton & Hove Music, Arts & Study Support Service. This year's auditions saw 202 young musicians from all genres of music audition as bands and solo acts to a panel of professional musicians from the music industry for the opportunity to perform at the Brighton Dome complex or the Concorde2 venue. The bands were offered workshops in 'live performance skills', and 'recording' and a number of acts appeared live on local radio station Juice FM in the week leading up to the gig.

Aiming High - Thanks to £8000 of Aiming High funding, over the last year we have been able to fund transport, equipment and 1:1 support workers to enable young people with Disabilities/ Special Educational Needs to access our after-school performing arts programme. We also use this funding to set up Disability Awareness training sessions for our pool of freelance performing arts tutors and support workers, delivered by Extratime trainers.

'Our House' School Production - 344 primary school children and older people were offered complimentary tickets to a matinee production of the Madness musical 'Our House'. Cast members delivered workshops based on the play to 9 different schools: Downs View Special School; Downs View Link College; Goldstone Primary School; Hangleton Junior School; Middle Street School; St Andrew's Primary School; St Nicolas' Primary School; Somerhill Junior School and Westdene Primary School.

Contemporary Dance Masterclass - Dancer Robert Hylton delivered a one-day workshop for G&T students from BMS & Longhill High School Year 9.

Family Festival Artist residencies: Eight 12-week projects linking professional tutors from the Performing Arts sector with local schools began at: Aldrington Primary School; Blatchington Mill School; Downs View Special School; Middle Street School; St Andrew's Primary School; St Nicolas' Primary School; Somerhill Junior School and Westdene Primary School. The projects involved approximately 300 young people aged 9 – 14 years, funded by Blatchington Mill School's Performing Arts specialism.

Spring Concert – performers from BMS adults' community choir Big Mouth, children's community choir Little Mouth, the children's Steel Pan Band and bands from the Saturday Rock Club all took part in the Winter Concert in the Windmill Theatre.

WWF 'Earth Hour' event - Blatchington Mill School Community Arts department was invited by Brighton Council to front their 'Earth Hour' event in March. Musicians from the BMS samba band 'Bloco Blatch' led a parade along Brighton seafront, and Little Mouth Choir and Big Mouth Choir performed at the finale on The Bandstand on Brighton Seafront.

An **end of term performance** for Saturday Acting Club was held in the Windmill Theatre, giving the young people the perfect opportunity to get an experience of performing in a professional venue.

Recording opportunities were given to all of the young musicians participating in Saturday Rock Club, to create their own CD.

Teenspirit @ Concorde2 – Saturday 2nd April

This year's gig involved 18 bands/ acoustic acts from across the South-East performing to an all-ages audience of over 500 people, hosted by JuiceFM DJ Guy Lloyd. The Concorde2 offered one of the bands the opportunity to support a professional touring band at the Concorde2 at a later date.

Summer Term 2011

Brighton Festival – BMS Community Arts department was involved with the opening of the Brighton Festival via the Children's Parade on Saturday 1st May. In the lead up to this event we ran a series of 8 weekly Samba workshops in St Andrew's School as a transition project involving St Andrew's Year 6 pupils and the BMS Samba Band 'Bloco Blatch', which culminated in the parade and performance on Saturday 1st May: the group actually led the parade and had the honour of meeting the Mayor!

Family Festival @ Brighton Dome – Friday 8th July

This year's performing arts showcase involved over 500 performers from 18 schools and community groups from across Brighton & Hove, including many fantastic performances from the many artist residencies that BMS funds in local schools. The finale piece involved Jude Obermuller, an ex-BMS student now studying at the Guildhall School of Music, being commissioned by BMS to compose a piece which he taught to young orchestral musicians and six youth choirs. An audience of almost 1000 people enjoyed the show.

'World Arts Day' for Primary Schools @ BMS – A day of workshops in Appalachian Clog Dancing, Yodelling, STOMP body percussion, Steel Pans, Samba, Gospel Singing, Afro-Brazilian dance and Afro-Street Dance involved approximately 600 young people from local primary schools: Aldrington Primary School; Downs View Special School; Downs View Link College; Goldstone Primary School; Hangleton Junior School; Middle Street School; St Nicolas' Primary School; Somerhill Junior School West; Blatchington Junior School, West Hove Junior School and Westdene Primary School.

Once again, **end-of-term performances** for Saturday Acting Club and Saturday Rock Club were held in the Windmill Theatre.

'Sizzling Summer School' @ BMS – A fantastic week of performing arts activities for 8 – 13 year olds lead to a wonderful performance in the Windmill Theatre on the last day.

'Teenspirit Summer Sessions - A rocking week of music for 11 - 14 year olds involved over 50 young people this summer, leading to a gig in the Windmill Theatre on the last day.