

CREATIVE ARTS MAGAZINE

Issue 1. March 2020



DANCE ACADEMY

Students are continuing their creative studies before and after school with the newly established Dance Academy

WORDS: KATE MOONEY

This year Tavistock College has seen the formation of a Dance Academy, where selected Year 12 students are able to study A-Level Dance as a Twilight session. Only students who have already studied dance and have a good level of technical ability and creativity are invited to join the Dance Academy.

Sessions take place at 8am on a Friday morning and after school on a Monday. Friday sessions have been centred around dance technique where students have been able to take part in Graham Technique classes, Cunningham technique classes, Classical Ballet Technique classes and also Mattox based Jazz technique. Students have found these lessons challenging and inspiring and have enjoyed embodying new forms of dance and technique.

After school sessions have centred themselves on creativity where students have been learning the fundamentals of choreography and how to develop and create movement material that is original and exciting. Students are now creating their own solo's for their first practical exam in March. Students are also studying dance performance and will be working on duets based on professional performance work that will also be performed as part of their practical examination. Theory is tough on A level Dance. Students have to study two different eras of dance and two different set works. So far, students have started learning about the history of Rambert Dance Company, selected practitioners / choreographers
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VOX/CADENCE
By Heidi Turnock - Page 3

SCULPTURE WORKSHOP
By Roz Barker - Page 4

ALADDIN REVIEW
By Alfie Darby/Riley Bond - Page 7



THIS TERM...

WORDS: EVA PEARSON

Welcome to the very first edition of the Creative Arts Magazine!

The Faculty of Creative Arts joins the artistic areas of Art, Creative Media, Drama, Dance, Music, Textiles and Photography together. We aim to offer students a broad and varied curriculum teaching not only artistic skills but giving students means and methods to explore their creative ideas. At the heart of what we strive to do is a clear philosophy of the importance of arts education – not only for emerging artists but as a training ground for creativity.

In a world increasingly captivated by technology the Creative Arts are one of the most vital subject areas on any school's curriculum. Their language is truly universal. Every culture explores its passions and fears through drama, dance, music and art. Regardless of gender, ability and belief, students respond intuitively to these modes of expression, and through them explore and communicate issues of morality and identity in a unique way, which enriches and personalizes their education. The social skills acquired during creative group work decision making, adaptability, negotiation, listening to options and the justification of your own ideas are imperative to personal development, arguably all other subject areas and the rapidly changing environment of the workplace.

It is a testament to the hard work, talent and skills of the students of the college both in and out of lessons, that we are able to put together a real reflection of what is happening in the faculty - from working with primary school students, introducing a new A Level, winning artistic competitions and working with professional artists to putting on shows, going on trips, launching our celebratory Facebook page and hosting workshops; its been quite a busy start to the year!


Just as we go to print, 90 students have been cast in the whole school musical *Our House* (which will be shown at college in December 2020), KS5 Music Students are rehearsing for their Spring and Charity Concerts, a booking has been made for a National tour of *DNA* by Dennis Kelly to visit Tavistock College, - next issue promises to be just as jam packed with students creative and artistic endeavours.

Thank you for all your hard work - both staff and students - and for your support of the Creative Arts.

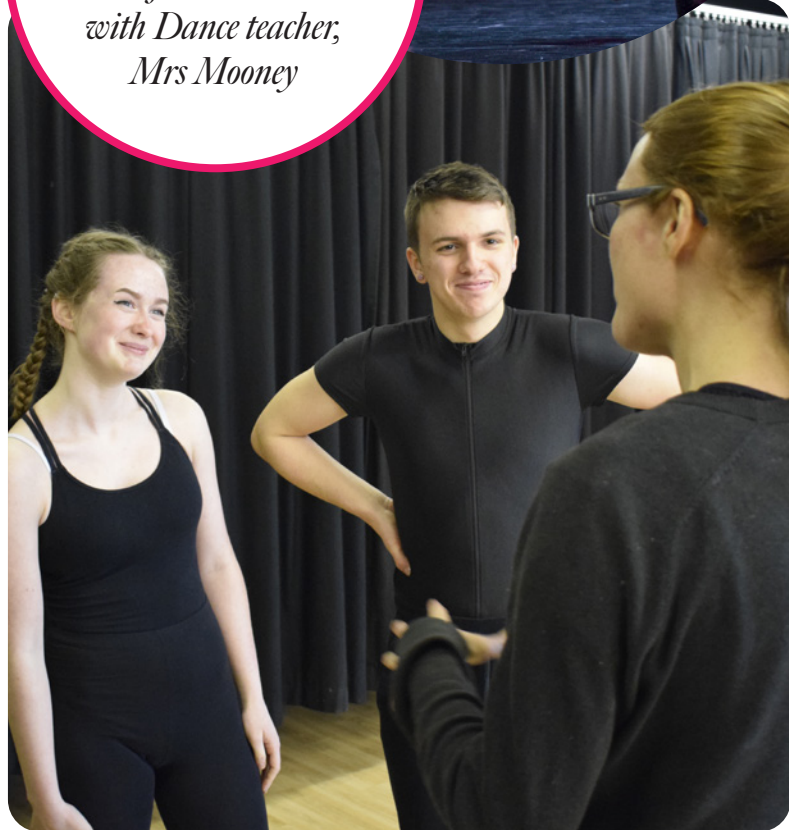
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

phers that have worked within the company and Rambert's eclectic performance style. Students have focussed on the life and work of Marie Rambert and considered and analysed the development of Rambert Dance Company throughout its existence up until present day. Students start studying the set work in March, which is the famous 'Rooster' by Christopher Bruce, set to music by the Rolling Stones.

Students are working hard to produce work of an excellent standard and are thinking creatively to produce original and intriguing performance work to answer questions set by the exam board. A Level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. The content of the course reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it more relevant, and inspires a life-long passion and appreciation for dance.



Below:
Ashton Jones and Arwen West rehearse at an after school session with Dance teacher, Mrs Mooney



VOX & CADENCE

Tavistock College's choirs are building a strong reputation in the community for their fantastic performances - here's an inside look at what they're all about

WORDS: HEIDI TURNOCK

VOX is the Tavistock College Choir which is accessible to all year groups within the school. Sessions take place on Monday and Wednesday from 8.30am till 9.00am, which are run by Tracy Harding. A variety of genres are sung by VOX, depending on what the students are passionate about singing at that time. We have been part of VOX since Year 7, for nearly 6 years and we have noticed the sense of community founded by a common interest in singing which VOX offers. We currently have 70 members and we perform at events both in the college, and in the community, such as school concerts, Church services and community events in the Tavistock area. Some events are: The Merry Mistle Santasticmas Show, Christmas Carol Service, Butcher Park Hill for the opening of the new homes. As part of the Dartmoor MAT schools, we sang with many schools in the MAT, hosted by Okampton, in preparation for a 'MAT' performance. This was a great opportunity to sing with other schools and share our common passion and interest in singing, whilst also getting the opportunity to meet other pupils.

Some songs we are 'known' for are: 'One Day More', 'You Raise Me Up', 'O Holy Night', 'White Cliffs Of Dover'. We have performed these songs at multiple different events such as the church services, music concerts and at the awards evenings.

The Faculty also offers a group called Cadence, for 6th Formers who wish to sing in a smaller group. This is also managed by Tracy and takes place on Monday break-time and lunch-time. Cadence's genre is more traditional than VOX, and often includes complex harmony work. Cadence performs in similar events to VOX. Any 6th Formers can join Cadence, no matter what your confidence level is. In Cadence we have performed: 'Abide with Me', 'Carol of the Bells', 'Last Christmas', 'Michael Bublé Mash Up' and we are working on 'Skyfall', 'Freedom 90', 'We Are the Champions', 'Adiemus'.

It has been scientifically proven that singing improves your mood and gives off the same feel-good brain chemicals as chocolate does; singing also releases pain-relieving endorphins, helping you to forget the painful knee/ankle etc. We know that VOX and Cadence members really enjoy partaking because they all work really hard to make the performances the best that they can be.

We are always looking to expand our talented group of singers (both young and old!), so if you are interested in joining VOX or Cadence, then you can speak to any member of the Creative Arts Team for more information, or come along to a session to see what we do!

Right:
Vox performing hits from the classic musical, Les Miserables at Tavistock College's annual Celebration Evening



GCSE SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

GCSE Art students get the opportunity to work with an internationally acclaimed sculptor

WORDS: ROZ BARKER

We recently had visiting artist James Lake in to work with our Year 11 Art GCSE students. This is the fifth year James has worked with us and we have built up a good working relationship over that time. James, based in Exeter, is a renowned sculptor, who is known for his exceptional work using recycled cardboard. A recent creation of his, a self-portrait commissioned for the Biennale Cartasia Event in Italy, stands some 3 metres tall. His work is both intricate and sophisticated despite its meagre beginnings.

'When I first started making sculpture I decided to use cardboard as my medium of choice. I wanted a medium that could be used to sculpt beyond traditional materials and without the need of an arts studio. The end result was the fine crafting of an inexpensive, common place and recyclable material. I manipulate cardboard into taking a form which is vastly beyond its original function as a container to transport food and commercial goods.'

- James Lake

Using recycled materials and object the students have gathered themselves James has inspired our students each year through the diverse range of responses to his workshop. Students created their own 3D self-portrait working towards a final piece for their 'Identity' unit of coursework. It is an invaluable experience working with a practising artist and getting insight into what it is like working in the visual arts.

Some of our students worked very spontaneously whilst others incorporated elements from their sketchbook and other work from the identity unit into their design. A lovely characteristic of James' work is to create compartments in his portraits which act like rooms in the mind/head which he fills with items that represent the subject. Students love this aspect and creatively come up with ways to personalise their self-portraits to reflect who they are, some using objects, others artwork. The variety and diversity of the student's response and outcomes was very exciting. Another successful workshop!



PHOTOGRAPHY

2020 COMPETITION

Tavistock College Photography students continue to impress in the annual Rotary Competitions. Here double-winner, Ellie Roper explains the process

WORDS: ELLIE ROPER

In January I entered the Rotary Photography Competition with the theme 'through my eyes'. You had to enter 3 photographs with that theme. I was entered into the senior age group which I was lucky enough to place 1st and 2nd in. The photo I won with was of my sister's face and I had changed her eyes to a cat's eyes. To be honest, it wasn't my favourite photo I've ever taken and edited, but finding out that I had won with it allowed me to begin to like it. The photo that I placed second with was another of my sister but looking at herself in the mirror to try and show how she sees herself 'through her eyes', I had edited it so the background was black and white. My favourite photo which was of my sister's eye, put into black and white, with her actual eye in green because that's her eye colour. I didn't place anywhere with this photo and it put me down a bit because although it was simple it was my favourite of the 3, but it helped me to understand and grasp the fact that not everyone likes the same things that you do. I was invited to an awards evening in February, when I got there all the other entries were displayed on big boards and

placed within the correct age category. I enjoyed looking at all the other work that people had entered and all their different perceptions of the theme, it was inspiring. Everyone was presented with a certificate of participation and the winners were awarded a prize. The youngest age entered was 7 and some of the younger people's work was really good. I really enjoyed entering this competition because it allowed me to share my work with others and gain inspiration from others.



DAY OF DANCE

Students from local primary schools were welcomed to Tavistock College recently to take part in a series of dance workshops

WORDS: JESS MADELEY

In February, Tavistock College were delighted to host their first 'Primary Day of Dance' - similar days have run for the last few years in the area but it was the first time of bringing feeder primary schools together at Tavistock College. The day consisted of over 240 Primary School students, mainly from Year 4, from our catchment area experiencing a variety of dance styles such as Breakdance, Jazz, Charleston and Country Dancing through workshops taught by professionals as well as sixth form students from the college's Creative Arts Faculty. As well as gaining knowledge of these dance styles, the young students also got to see a variety of Arts and Sports facilities at the college. All the students seemed to have fun, as well as the primary school teachers and volunteers who joined in. Many thanks to Mhari Mcall from OCRA who liaised with the primary schools, Jess Squires and Open Space our dance professionals and our Year 12 Performing Arts Sixth Form students who planned and delivered two of the workshops. They really enjoyed it and have gained relevant teaching skills in order to progress with their Level 3 Performing Arts course.



OTTER SPOTTING

Tavistock College Art teacher, Kate Wyatt decorates charity Otter

WORDS: KATE WYATT

Tavistock College is making a splash this year with its own entry to the Dartmoor National Park's Moor Otters competition. Art teacher Kate Wyatt has been selected to decorate an otter and its cub as part of the countywide exhibition.

This summer eighty decorated Otter sculptures will be released onto Dartmoor to create four arts trails, standing tall on plinths waiting to be spotted.

At the end of the summer 'otter-spotters' as well as art collectors and individuals, will have the opportunity to give their favourite Otter a new home when they are auctioned to raise funds for Donate for Dartmoor, the sale of Kate Wyatt's otter will also raise money for the college's Creative Arts Faculty.

"The Oak and the Daffodil" otter will be hosted by Plymouth Bid as one of twelve selected as part of the city's celebrations this summer.



ALADDIN REVIEW

Following an after school screening, Year 7 students offer their opinion on Disney's latest live-action remake.

WORDS: ALFIE DARBY/RILEY BOND

This movie was brilliant and the atmosphere was amazing. People were singing and having a great time. The movie itself was very good because the actors were brilliant at singing and choreography.

It was brilliant that we had the choice to go outside in the courtyard and talk or watch the movie inside. The drinks and sweets they sold were amazing and were reasonably priced. The lighting on and around the stage really made the atmosphere better. Even though I was a massive fan of the original cartoon version, I loved this one! We all loved how everybody was socializing with their friends while watching

the movie, we felt like this was a good way to get closer to your friends that you may not have seen for a while after leaving primary school for 6 weeks!

It was a nice romantic movie and the seats were comfortable, and there was lots of action

- Harriet Sutlow

The vibe was great and the sweets were tasty!

- Phoebe Venning

The movie was great, I loved it!

Alfie Darby

Personally, we thought that the original Aladdin was better than the new version as we liked how the first one was animated. Some people may think the new one was better. We all liked the new movie but not as much, would have preferred if there were different songs. On behalf of all the Year 7's that watched the movie, we would like to say a massive thank you to all the amazing helpers that contributed their evening to making this movie happen Especially to the 6th formers who volunteered to help!



PERFORMING ARTS INDUSTRY DAY

Year 12 Performing Arts students were treated to a bespoke industry workshop that covered all aspects of theatre production

WORDS: EVA PEARSON

Year 12 Performing Arts Students went on an Industry Day with the Theatre Royal Plymouth in March. The demanding CTECH course they are on has both traditional academic depth married with the need to understand the performing arts from a professional perspective.

The jam packed day started with a tour of the impressive Lyric Theatre (which could seat the entire college student body!). Currently, home to the infamous *An Inspector Calls*, the theatre's long history is intertwined with Plymouth's architectural and social changes over time. The Brutalist design has been somewhat softened in places but the theatre still boasts some of the best facilities in the country. Specifically, the magic number of at least at 1200 seat capacity (TRP can hold 1327), the ability to completely open at the back to get large sets on and the rabbit warren of dressing rooms, backstage areas, orchestra pit, wing space and expansive fly tower mean that large touring West End and International shows can visit.

The more intimate Drum Theatre showed a different side - seating a maximum of 300 but more usually 200 - the space can be configured into end on, thrust in the round staging spaces opening it up to new writing and experimental pieces often on tour. Students also had a chance to take part in a scriptwriting and devising workshop giving them warm up, creative and script generating exercises to use when next making theatre.

A quick dive across town was made for a tour of TR2, which houses all the Creative Learning and Theatrical Design. TR2 houses 3 rehearsal studios 2 of which echo the spaces in the main house and are capable of holding the equivalent sets. Even more impressively the Tardis-like building holds a huge costume design and making area, along with expansive costume store. This is coupled by a massive set and props making area. The Theatre Royal is both a producing and receiving house and as such makes all its own sets and costumes but is also commissioned to create them for other National and International work. Whilst we were there the backdrop for

the US and UK tour of *Phantom of the Opera* was being created, a few tweaks to the touring set of *Hairspray* were happening and some other exciting sets being produced that we were sworn to secrecy about!

The day was topped off by dinner and a show. 'Amsterdam' at the Drum was a piece of new writing. With just 4 verbally dextrous performers in the cast, after a long day was both thought provoking and inspiring. The piece was about the complexities of telling stories of the past, in this instance from the perspective of a contemporary Jewish woman living in Amsterdam, and highlighted how all our lives are inextricably interlinked.

All in all the day was a great hands on way of covering much course content!

Below:
The cohort of Year 12 Performing Arts students got to see areas of the theatre not usually open to the public

