

# Newsletter Spring Term 2013

Welcome back to everyone. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable break. So many things to update you all with, it's hard to know where to start!

## **Term dates**

### Spring Term 2013

Friday January 4<sup>th</sup> – Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> - Please note that we will be ending this term on a Thursday not Saturday as we usually do. This is because Good Friday is on March 29<sup>th</sup> so we are closed on that day.

*Half term is Monday February 18<sup>th</sup> – Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> inclusive.*

### Summer Term 2013

Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July

*Half term is Monday May 27<sup>th</sup> - Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> inclusive.*

Please note there will be no classes on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May as it is a Bank Holiday. Students with classes on a Monday will be invoiced accordingly.

## **HER MAJESTY'S – STARS IN THEIR EYES**

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> December TAPA Performance Troupe appeared at Her Majesty's Theatre (home of Phantom of the Opera) in front of a packed house. They performed 2 pieces created especially for the production. 'Christmas is Here' was a traditional Musical Theatre number featuring vocals from 5 TAPA students. They handled it very professionally and the feedback was phenomenal. Special thanks to my Mum who worked tirelessly on Props and created 36 beautifully wrapped presents complete with lights. It looked so stunning it drew an 'oooo' from the audience that could be heard backstage.



'Christmas Is Here'



'Do your thing'

The second piece was a very up to date commercial number to the opening soundtrack of Happy Feet 2. A real challenge for the younger cast members but every single one of them nailed it and did TAPA proud. A BIG thanks to Karen Littlewood for creating such a fabulous piece. Also I need to thank some very helpful parents who dived in at various moments to stick on sequins, create hair accessories, rescue pom poms and just in general be amazing. Thank you so much for all your help to get the show on the road. It was definitely worth it!!

## **WEST END SUCCESS FOR FORMER TAPA STUDENT**

Congratulations to past TAPA student Alice Murray. Alice was a student at TAPA from the age of three and a half and left to study at Urdang Academy aged 16. During her third year there she was allowed to attend the open auditions for the new production of A Chorus Line (quite a rare occurrence) and was one of only two selected from the open audition. Alice always displayed determination and commitment while she was here and I'm so glad to see that has paid off. Alice will be performing at The London Palladium from February 5<sup>th</sup> as Lois - Not bad for your first job!!!! Well done Alice - you have made us all immensely proud.

### **PANTO – WHAT THE DICKENS?!**

The TAPA Theatre Company put on yet another fantastic Pantomime at Hayes Village Hall on December 15<sup>th</sup>. With an original script from the Artistic Director Mark Oxtoby and choreography by Karen Littlewood the 29 strong cast delivered a professional performance that would not look out of place in any West End theatre. The highlight of the show (for most) was the cleverly written and superbly sung ‘Poo Song’ which once heard can NEVER be forgotten – trust me!!! If you missed it then you missed out....



### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Another fabulous Christmas Party was held at Keston Village Hall on December 10<sup>th</sup> for all the Primary School age children who attend TAPA (and a couple of little brothers and sisters!!) organised by our dedicated and enthusiastic PA plus some lovely helpers. The children were entertained by ‘Sammy the Disco Man’ who played all the newest songs and some classic tunes to keep the children dancing non stop except for the arrival of our special guest – Father Christmas. Each child received a hand-made gift sponsored by funds raised through PA organised events. We’ve booked next year already and we think Father Christmas should pop by again.....if we are all good!

### **TAPATHON**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, we took our tap shoes to The Centrale Shopping Centre in Croydon and along with hundreds of tappers across the country we performed the routine we had been learning for the event. We had such a great time and it was a lot of fun especially knowing that we had raised a lot of money for Children in Need. Even though we didn’t break the world record, we really enjoyed the experience – so well done everyone.



### **EXAM SUCCESS**

We had another very successful exam session in December with over 60 children taking exams in ballet, tap and modern. We are proud to continue our 100% pass rate so well done to both the teachers and students who worked so hard to maintain the very high standards we are so proud of.

## REVAMP



Big thanks to the PA for their input into the first stage of revamps. The girls changing room now looks fantastic. We have installed mirrors and a work surface so everyone can look neat and tidy for classes and studio shows. Special thanks to David Ede (project Leader) Sarah Fuller (painter extraordinaire!) and Rachel Piper (TAPA student) for giving up some of your Xmas holiday to make the transformation happen.

## IT'S A SHOW YEAR!!!

I am unsure of how time has passed so quickly but here we are with just half a term to go until we start with show ideas in classes. All the teachers and I are very excited about the show this year and really can't wait to get started. We will release more details as soon as we can about the structure and content but it will be a fabulous mixture of singing, drama, dance and a few surprises. We are planning on incorporating all the past successes into this Triple Act show. Our comprehensive guide to 'The Show' will be available in the next few weeks (still finalising details) and will have all the relevant dates and times that you need to put in your diary.

The main thing is that you keep the following dates free:

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July** Show Week at The Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks

All Sundays in July will have rehearsals but not everyone will be required for all, so please bear that in mind. TAPA students who are involved in numerous disciplines will have more rehearsals than others.

## NEW CLASSES

We are not starting any new classes before September as we have the show. There are a few classes with spaces in them if you wish to join before Easter.

*Monday – 4.15pm Babies Ballet (3/4yrs), 4.15pm Primary Modern (4/5yrs), 4.45pm Pri Primary Ballet (4/5yrs), 4.45pm Babies Tap and Modern (3/4yrs), 5.15pm Junior Jazz (7-9yrs), 6pm Junior Plus Jazz (10-11yrs)*

*Wednesday 4.45pm Junior Jazz*

## GOODBYES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

We wave a fond farewell to Mark Oxtoby and Karen Littlewood (TTC) as they leave to start a new project together. Mark came to TAPA in 2010 and got the Theatre Company off the ground and Karen joined him soon after to make a great team. They have produced over 5 separate productions all of unquestionable quality and we wish them every success as they work their magic elsewhere. Their final show with TTC will be performed on the evening of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – further details to follow shortly for what is sure to be another fantastic production.

We are very excited to announce the new Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer of TAPA Theatre Company as Jonathan Stewart (Shrek the Musical, Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat) and Holly Hughes (Carousel and West Side Story). They will form the Creative team that will be responsible for TTC.

With a wealth of teaching, directing and performance experience between them, Jonathan and Holly are very excited about taking on such a pioneering project. They are keen to carry on in a similar vein but with their own twist on it and some brand new ideas.

They are going to make a fantastic team and I am really looking forward to working with them to produce the two pieces which TTC will perform in the upcoming Summer Show.

Jonathan and Holly are very keen to meet the company and any potential company members and will be running a workshop during half term on **Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

As before, places will be limited to 25, as will the company from now on and any vacant place will be filled by audition only. This of course does not apply to workshops. If we have more than 25 applying for the half term workshop, we will make every effort to run a second one during the same week.

This will not only give you the chance to meet the new team but it will allow Holly and Jonathan an opportunity to assess the company and plan for the upcoming term.

Further to that I would like to arrange a special trip to see Shrek just before the workshop on Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>. We can see Jonathan at work and hopefully have a sneaky peek behind the scenes!!

If you are interested in going to see the show (it will be a group booking rate) please ask at reception for a letter or email me directly on [nicki@templeacademy.co.uk](mailto:nicki@templeacademy.co.uk)

If you wish to apply for a place on the workshop please email [info@templeacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@templeacademy.co.uk) or leave your name on the list at reception.

### **SHOW US HOW CLEVER YOU ARE!!!**

The PA will be arranging another Quiz Night for **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. These are always so much fun with light banter and fierce rivalry (usually over who has the best array of snacks!). Hosted by the inimitable Simon Narracott (treasurer of TAPA PA) with scoring and marking assistance from Cath Narracott, it's guaranteed to get your noodle working and blow out the cobwebs!! It usually descends into a rowdy sing song instead of the intricately planned 'Intro' round at the end but it's always a very good laugh. You can either buy a single ticket at £5 each or a table (up to 10 people) for £40 and all proceeds go to TAPA PA. Tickets will be available from reception next week – please look out for posters.

### **WEBSITE/FACEBOOK**

Most of the new information and details for upcoming events will be posted on the Facebook page as it is the most immediate form of spreading the news. We are currently working on getting the website in constant use as it has been tricky due to updates that have caused issues. As I manage it all myself, time also plays a factor in how much I can get done but I'm hoping this term will see a change in the way it is run so we can bring more information to you quicker and let you know about what is happening straight away.

### **FINALLY...**

These next two terms are always quite challenging for everyone who is involved with the show. It takes commitment and sacrifice to put on a production of the standard we are capable of and as with anything worth doing, a lot of hard work and practice. If you haven't been part of a TAPA show before then it can seem quite overwhelming with the travelling commitment, rehearsals, costumes and chaperoning etc.. BUT I promise you it will be an experience worth persevering through all of these things for.

This will be our 9<sup>th</sup> big show (with too many smaller ones to count in between) and with every show we put on, we are determined and driven to make it better than the last.

Due to having a young family and therefore being a Mum as well as a Principal, I don't always get to see or speak to everyone so if you have any questions regarding the show or any other matters I would love to hear from you. Please email me directly on [nicki@templeacademy.co.uk](mailto:nicki@templeacademy.co.uk)

Here's to the continued success here at TAPA - I'm so very proud of what we have here and that you are all part of it. Best wishes for 2013 to you and your family

Nicki Temple

Principal

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