

# PRESS RELEASE



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DATE OF ISSUE: WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2008

## STUDENT DANCE WOWS THE CROWDS

Nearly 40 students from Yeovil College and Sturminster Newton High School wowed the audience with their dance during a sell-out performance of 'Arrival', the first in this year's season of Performing Arts events to take place at the College.

The students performed three pieces at the start of the show following workshops led by members of Influx Dance Company, the group which has both choreographed and toured internationally with 'Arrival'.

The Sturminster Newton High School pupils began the show, which is based on the theme of 'journeys'. Following their dance, the pupils were joined by AS Dance students from Yeovil College to perform a transition piece. Finally, a group of second year Yeovil College BNA Dance students performed a work inspired by Africa.

The second part of 'Arrival' included three performances by professional dancers from the Influx Dance Group. These works, called 'Collapsing in Four', 'Jambori' and 'Ebb', drew from the cultural identities and culture of the performers, Yael Flexer (Israeli), Bawren Tavaziva (Zimbabwean) and Influx co-founder Joanne Willmott (from Somerset with Indian heritage).



First year students practise their moves.



(l-r back row) Vanessa Bealing, Liz Pryor, Mike Potton, Sean Seal, Kelly-Marie Gribbin, Fiona Wasiewicz, Emma McConnell, Kim Parker, (l-r front row) Katrina Bide, Emma-Jane Martin, Danielle Dyer, Hazel Dodge and Rosie Parry.

The evening was compared by Chris Fogg of Take Art, which supported the event.

Emma Westerman, Head of Dance at Yeovil College said "*It was brilliant to start this year's performing arts events with such an excellent performance. The students really enjoyed working with Influx on this show and Jo Willmott was a star, putting in extra time to ensure that the students got the most out of this opportunity. It's important for us not to be insular and to find the right balance between study and connecting with the community and outside world. Having professionals such as Influx visit the College ensures that the students don't lose touch with that reality.*"

Joanne Willmott, Co-Founder of the Influx Dance Company was full of praise for the students she worked with. Joanne said "*We really enjoyed having the opportunity to work with such enthusiastic and thoughtful students. They were hard working and had been really well prepared by their course. We were so impressed we created the curtain raiser especially for them and are really looking forward to working with Yeovil College students again in the future.*"

The Influx Dance Company are the first of a number of professional groups who will be working with students this academic year. Next month will see two further companies visit Yeovil College. The Rogue Theatre Company will be offering their interpretation of the story of Madame Butterfly, while the StopGAP Dance Company, an integrated group of dancers with and without disabilities, will present work on the theme of statues.

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### Notes to Editors

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**The Students who took in the performance were** Stella Bartle, Alex Dickinson, Sian Doble, Kayleigh Kaur, Harri Mansfield, Lauren Salmon, Callie Wroe, Sam Wroe, Gemma McQueen, Sarah-Louise Clark, Molly Gitsham and Maria Harvey (First Years). The Second Year students were Vanessa Bealing, Katrina Bide, Zoe Coleman, Hazel Dodge, Danielle Dyer, Keyy-Marie Gribbin, Sophie Knapman, Emma McConnell, Kim Parker, Rosie Parry, Michael Potton, Liz Pryor, Sean Seal, Katrina Wake, Fiona Wasiewicz, Emma-Jane Martin and Nathalie Merry.

**Influx Dance Company** has been committed to creating, performing and teaching a diverse and exciting range of contemporary dance in the south west region. Influx consists of graduates from the Laban Centre London (one of the leading contemporary dance schools in Europe) and was established by Joanne Willmott and Nicola Penfold who brought the company to the south west in 2001. All dancers are experienced performers, teachers and curators. <http://www.influxdance.co.uk>

**Take Art** is an Arts Development Agency, which serves the towns, villages and rural communities of Somerset. We are a regularly funded organisation for Somerset County Council, the five Somerset District Councils, and Arts Council South West. For more information, please visit <http://www.takeart.org/index.html>.