

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2008



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"Hunting The Stag" by Nadine McKenzie



"Silkies" by Jonathan Burnett

The Forth Valley Dance Distillery Week Celebrating Scottish Traditional Dance Saturday 8th March—Friday 14th March 2008

STDT celebrated Scottish dance during the above week. This was the 5th Annual Dance Festival

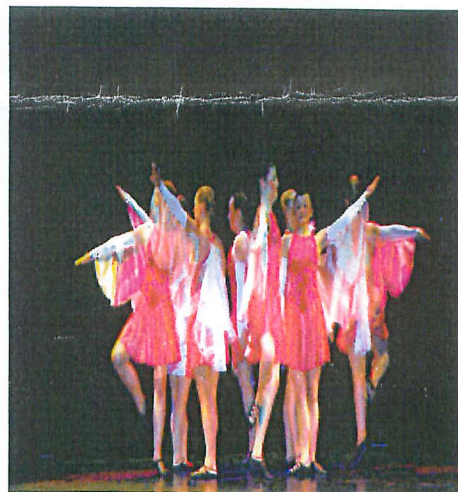
The Choreography competitions on the Saturday saw 100 dancers performing during the Freestyle and the SOBHD Highland Team competitions. A very appreciative audience, in the Albert Halls Stirling, watched the dancers.

The following day we gave a dance display entitled "Toe Tappin in Tilly" in the café area of Sterling Furniture Store in Tillicoultry. The groups performing were Edinburgh Early Dancers, Inverkeithing Step Dancers, RSCDS Display Team, Stirling Highland Dancers and Celtic Storm Highland Dancers and the day closed with Lornshill Fusion Dancers.

Billy Forsyth was the MC for the day and everyone agreed it was a fantastic afternoon, enjoyed by lots of people.

We also hosted classes all week in different styles in Falkirk, Stirling and

Clackmannanshire. The week ended with a Ceilidh Dance in Tillicoultry. In retrospect we don't feel that March is the best time of the year for this type of event and are looking at moving it to June in 2009



"Rose In The Glen" by Aileen Robertson

Scottish Arts Council Funding Refusal From 2009



STDT along with 4 other Scottish Traditional Arts Organisations have had their applications for funding refused by the Scottish Arts Council.

The SAC appear to have made a monumental decision in its flexible funding round by stating that they are interested in funding "innovation and artistic leadership" The SAC have also said that "while the dance department had stipulated support for traditional dance as a department priority, there was no "ring-fencing" of funding for traditional arts within the

Flexible Funding process" The organisations that have been axed are making a united appeal against the decisions taken by the SAC. STDT have emailed all MSP's to inform them of the situation and the group has had the funding of the traditions subject raised in Scottish Parliament.

Whilst these appeals are ongoing we would ask for your support by raising these questions with your local MSP's. We would hope that we might find some way of resolving the situation and as a result, help to protect our national traditions and culture.

Resident Dance Tutor

South Lanarkshire Dance Project

I have just completed this nine month collaborative project involving South Lanarkshire Council, STDT and Spinal Chord Projects. This project consisted of two 6 week blocks of Scottish Fusion dance in various primary and secondary schools across the county, each resulting in a final performance. Pupils were given taster sessions in Traditional Scottish dance fused with various contemporary styles, including, Hip-Hop, Bollywood, African and Salsa. They then worked on a performance piece, concentrating on their favourite type of Fusion dance.



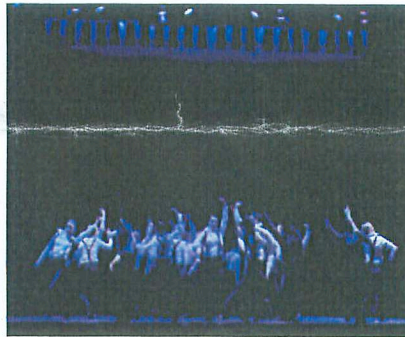
South Lanarkshire Dance Project

I also delivered 3 continued Professional Development sessions for teaching staff and a 6 week Peer Leadership course in two of the secondary schools, both of which aimed to offer dance teaching tips, ideas for choreography and boost confidence.

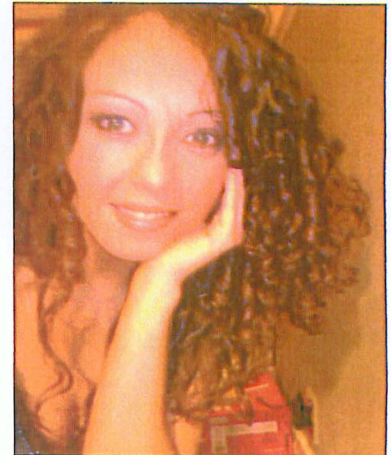
Go Dance 08

My Fusion dance group in Clackmannanshire, The Lornshill Fusion Dancers, appeared at *Go Dance 08* at the Theatre Royal in January. This week long community dance festival, showcasing the talent of over 100 dancers from across Scotland, offered a different programme of dance each night and was a wonderful opportunity, not only for the group but for me to show my Fusion choreography to a wider audience on such a prestigious stage.

My piece entitled "Collieshangie", blended traditional Scottish dance with contemporary choreography, inspired by Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal" scene in the film Moonwalker, was received well on the night and most importantly, the dancers thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience. The dancers were delighted to get the chance to perform the piece for a second time at STDT's Dance Distillery event "Toe Tappin' in Tilly" at Sterling Mills and were supported by a crowd which included family and friends on the day.



Lornshill Fusion Dancers "Go Dance 08"



Multi-cultural Minis

In January we were asked by South Lanarkshire Council to deliver a 6week block of Fusion dance to children at Westburn Nursery, Cambuslang. The tots learned simple ceilidh dances fused with different dance styles from around the world, including, Flamenco and Indian dance, with nursery staff and parents joining in each week. At the end of the block, the children performed their routines for their peers and nursery staff and were presented with a certificate and medal from S.T.D.T. The project was an overwhelming success and the children really enjoyed the different styles of music and dances from around the globe.



Clackmannanshire

My weekly classes at both The Whins and A.L.L.O.A Centre have continued to run successfully into 2008 and the Lornshill Fusion Dancers are currently working on a new Bollywood-inspired Fusion piece. Our weekly Simple Scottish Dancing for Tots class in the Speirs Centre has been a hit from day one, with many teeny tots bringing along Mums, Dads and friends every Friday for a bit of simple Ceilidh dancing.

I am also delivering a 10week block of Fusion dance at a community group in Sauchie on Wednesday evenings. The class is open to anyone who attends the group and has so far been a success, with 25 children taking part each week.

I am very excited about our current venture FUSE Dance Group, which takes place weekly in Alva Parklands as of Tuesday 6th May. This new exciting opportunity for aspiring dancers gives young people, between the ages of 12-18, the chance to work on Scottish Fusion choreography with myself, with the hope of sharing similar success of the Lornshill Fusion Dancers.



The Whins Centre, Alloa



"Simple Scottish Dancing for Tots"

Castle Campbell Creative Celebration



STDT in collaboration with Historic Scotland will be holding their annual day of fun events at Castle Campbell in Dollar on Saturday 19th July, 11-4pm.

Castle Campbell is an imposing building dramatically situated above Dollar Glen. The castle was the lowland stronghold of the senior branch of the powerful Campbell Clan who were seldom far from the major political and religious events of 15th, 16th & 17th century Scotland.

This event is aimed at community groups and will be completely free of charge when booked in advance, otherwise the castles admission charges will apply.

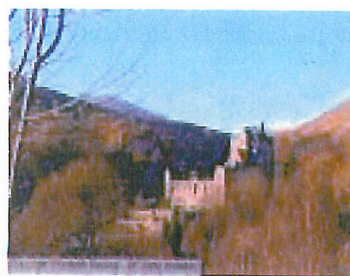
The theme of the event will be 1563, the marriage of the 5th Earl of Argyll's sister to James Stewart, cousin of Mary Queen of Scots, at which celebration the Queen stayed overnight as a guest at the Castle.

The days events will include participation in photography, object handling, sketching, storytelling, music and dancing. There will also be a costume rack and Mary Queen of Scots herself will be socialising amongst the guests.

The Historic dance sessions will be lead by Robert Lambie, Early dance tutor and member of Edinburgh Early Dancers. The Ceilidh dance by STDT's Resident Dance Tutor, Lisa Kennedy. The Storytelling and Music by Gregor Wood. Visual Arts by Kirsten Wood of Historic Scotland and Kathleen O'Neill of Clackmannanshire Council.

Visitors to the castle can enjoy some lunch at the café which will be open all day or alternatively they can bring along their own picnic and make the most of the stunning castle grounds.

We would hope that the event will share the same success as previous years and that many people will have a fun and informative visit. Come along and visit the enchanting Castle Campbell and join us in our celebrations. To book your FREE tickets call STDT on 01259 218444.

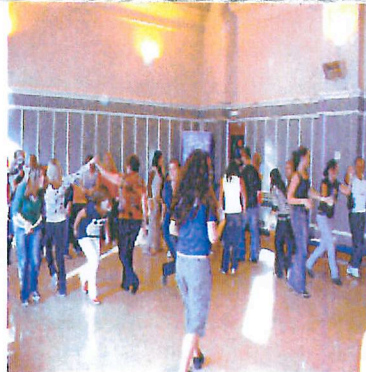


Speirs Centre Success



Since locating to our new premises in the Speirs Centre, the building has played host to many successful classes.

In October 2007 we held a one off taster session for a group of 47 students from Toulouse, France. The students were part of an exchange programme with Lornshill Academy, Alloa and whilst visiting Scotland they booked a taster session to sample the Scottish culture.



French Taster Session

Claire McDougall was the tutor for our "Learn The Sword Dance In 6 Weeks" which was open to anyone over the age of 6 years and was free of charge. The class saw consistent numbers of children and parents alike and was a great fun class to be part of.

"Give It A Birl" is a new and exciting adult class which introduces participants to Social Dance through a variety of styles and is lead by Anita Mackenzie and Alan Macpherson.

The "Simple Scottish Dancing For Tots" class, headed by our Resident Dance Tutor, Lisa Kennedy has by far been the most successful class, with high numbers of participants and new faces attending each week. This free weekly class continues to be an enormous success which receives nothing but positive praise from the participating adults and tots, and has far exceeded all of our expectations with, on average 19 tots and 17 adults attending.

Following the success of the past classes, we introduced "Learn The Highland Fling In 6 Weeks" This class has seen the return of many of the original Sword Dance participants along with some new faces and is once again proving to be a success.



"Learn The Highland Fling In 6 Weeks"

Dance Artist *Joyce Anderson*

During the past 3 months I have been kept busy with Dance workshops, Social Ceilidh events and demonstrations have been held in many venues from the East to the West of Fife.

Over 2000 participants have enjoyed being involved in various dance styles, from Scottish to dances from around the world during Health & Fitness days, After School Clubs, Nurseries, Social Scottish Day Celebrations, In-service training and multicultural events.



Further to dance workshops in Primary Schools, Cluster Groups culminating social dance events were held in Secondary Schools with attendance of staff and senior pupils also participating.

37 children aged 6-14 years enjoyed attending an Easter Dance Workshop Day including Highland, Scottish/Celtic along with Contemporary dance styles which followed with some children enrolling with local dance schools.

There are over 40 workshops arranged this term with Nurseries, Schools, After School Clubs and Youth Groups with Primary 7 pupils from 10 schools participating in Transition to Secondary School events.

In-service training is being delivered to Primary teaching staff in various styles of Scottish dance along with a taster

session of dance styles from Around the World to compliment project work in schools.

Demonstrations and Scottish social dance instruction is arranged to promote attendance of European students at Elmwood College, Cupar

Summer dance workshops are being held in Glenrothes, Dunfermline and during Kennoway Community school summer activities.

There are many regular successful social dances which have been held throughout Fife for many years and I am planning to develop those further by organising dances to be held in new venues in Glenrothes and Dunfermline.

Thank you for your continued Support



STDT at the National Museum

Our performances in Hawthornden Court at the National Museum in Edinburgh are going very well. STDT are there with a group of dancers on the first Sunday of every month of the year.

Over the past few months audiences have enjoyed: Keltika Dancers, Queen Victoria Display Team, Edinburgh Early Dancers, R.S.D.D.S Edinburgh Display Team, Celtic Storm and Edinburgh Tattoo Highland Dancers. Every audience also gets a chance to "Have a Go" themselves at the end of each performance, which is always very popular. It is wonderful to see all age groups getting up together and having fun dancing as part of their visit to the Museum.

There is building work within the Museum in 2008 but fortunately the performance will still be happening as usual. Performances take place at 1.45pm and 2.45pm and last for 30 minutes each.

STDT is making a big contribution to the Museums Fringe programme for 2008. Come along to this FREE event and see us as part of your Edinburgh Fringe experience on the following dates:

Wednesday 13th August, Commonwealth Dancers, 12.45pm

Saturdays 9th, 16th & 23rd August, groups TBC

Sundays 3rd, Inverkeithing Step Dancers, 10th, Stirling Highland Dancers & 17th August, Celtic Storm Dancers, 12.45 & 13.45pm



Speirs Centre
Primrose St
ALLOA
FK10 1JJ

Phone: 01259 218444
www.stdt.org
Fax: 01259 218456

