

ARTICLE

ISSUE NUMBER 2 - MAY 2004

M.K Arts Education Forum
Enriching Arts Education in Milton Keynes



TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN

Is it possible to travel back in time? Pupils from 10 schools across Milton Keynes explored the concept of time through practical drama sessions with the Birmingham Stage Company, following a trip to see Tom's Midnight Garden at Milton Keynes Theatre. Thanks to the Community Foundation's Amway Themed Fund we were able to provide subsidised tickets for approximately 300 young people to take part in this project just before Easter.

"Many thanks for the opportunity for all of our Year 4 children to see Tom's Midnight Garden and the workshops was excellent."

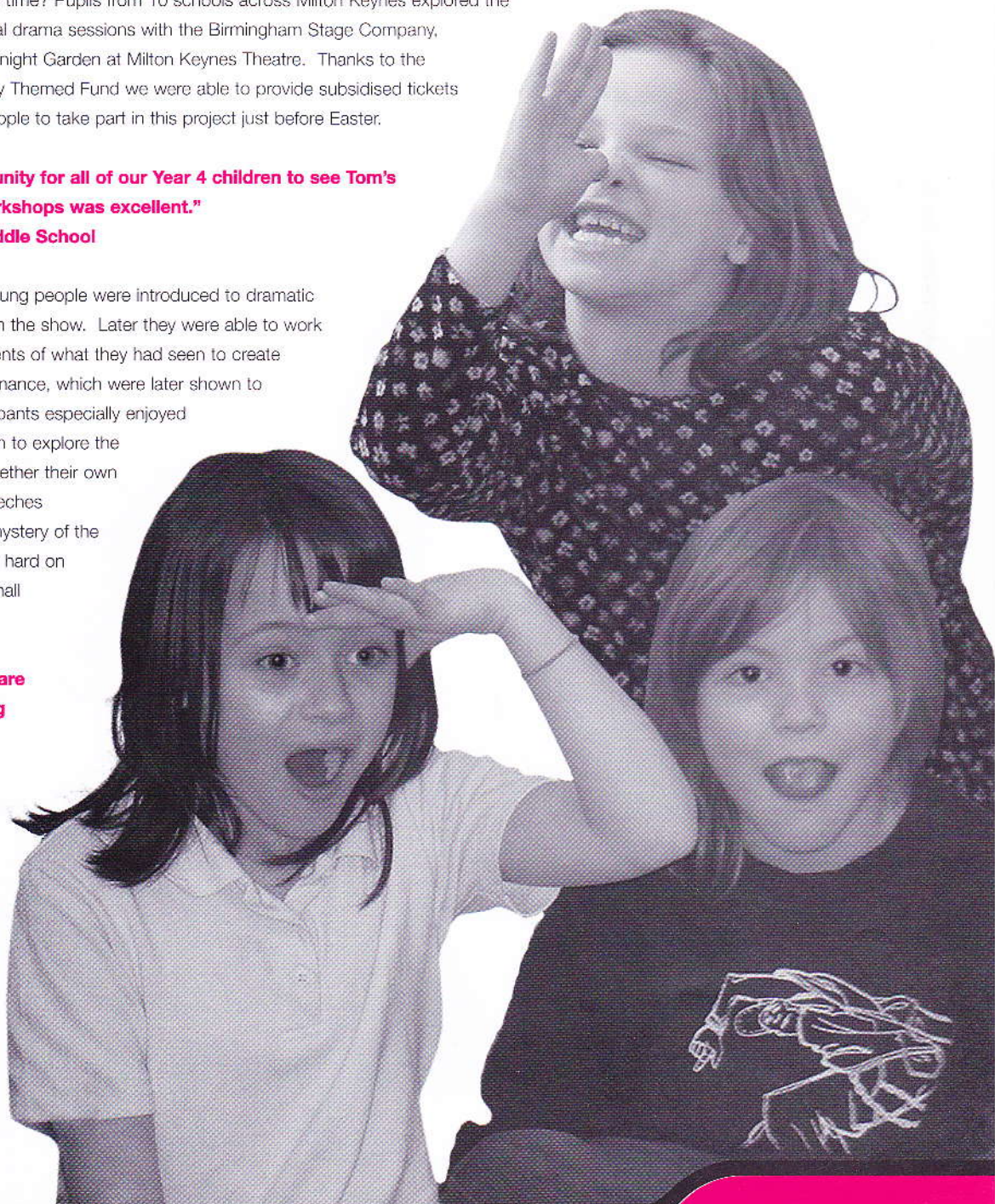
Head teacher, Springfield Middle School

During the workshops the young people were introduced to dramatic techniques that were used within the show. Later they were able to work in smaller groups and use elements of what they had seen to create their own short pieces of performance, which were later shown to each other. The younger participants especially enjoyed the sections which enabled them to explore the clockwork figures. They put together their own movements to enhance the speeches surrounding the clock and the mystery of the garden. They worked extremely hard on developing their own ideas in small groups.

"The children enjoyed it and are still talking about it or playing with the ideas."

**Head teacher,
Haverham First School.**

Representatives from the Community Foundation who came to see the workshop taking place at The Willow First school thoroughly enjoyed the morning and stated that it was 'really happy and inspiring!'



FROM THE CHAIR

We have continued to deliver further high quality experiences in the arts for children in Milton Keynes Schools. DanceXchange in January was another great success due to the hard work of the organising committee. With support from the Community Fund another 10 schools worked with the Birmingham Stage Company on a project using the performance of Tom's Midnight Garden.

We are also involved in the Milton Keynes Community Project "A Sense of Place" – phase 1 of this huge project involves one school working in collaboration with the David Glass Ensemble and other community groups to share in a performance at the theatre on July 11th. Hear more about this in the next issue.

The Forum will be holding its first Annual General Meeting under the new constitution on Monday 5th July at Milton Keynes Theatre. I do hope that you will be encouraged to attend and to be ready to share your views on our progress. Although I shall be standing down as Chair, having been in post now for seven years, I believe that the Forum has become well established and is ready to move on. I trust that this will continue to be with your support.

Best wishes

Russell Fancourt (Chair MKAEF)

DANCEXCHANGE 2004 – A DANCER'S ACCOUNT

When our choreographer Wendy first came to Willen she told us about DanceXchange. She taught us a dance to go with Liberty X 'Jumpin'. Wendy came to show and help us practice the dance two days before Christmas and two days in January, we also practised as much as possible in between.

On Wednesday 21st January everyone went to Milton Keynes Theatre to rehearse for that evening. We had our own dressing room in which we waited for our runner to call us to go and watch the first half and to rehearse for our dance plus a safety talk.

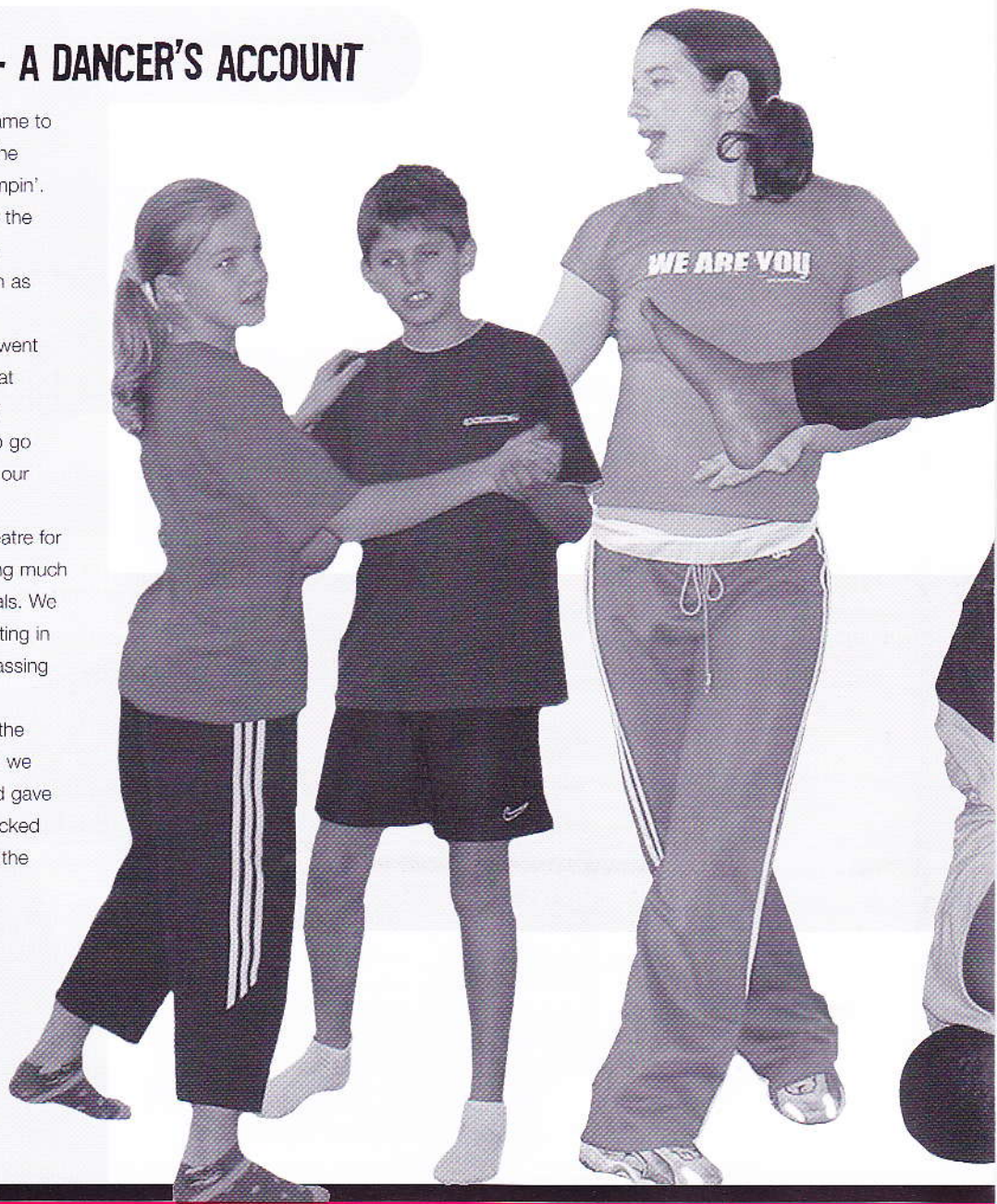
At 6.15 p.m. everyone arrived at the theatre for the second time that day. We were all feeling much more nervous than we were at the rehearsals. We had a nerve-racking but enjoyable time waiting in the dressing room hearing other schools passing by. Then it was our turn.

First Sherington School did their half of the dance whilst we waited in the wings. When we heard the crash in the music we ran on and gave it all we could. Seeing so many people shocked us all but we still tried our hardest and had the time of our lives.

John Allan, Becky Pitt, Charlotte

Kirkpatrick, Tejal Dave

Willen Combined School





LOOK HEAR!

Did that catch your attention?!

Are there connections between colour, texture, structure and mood in music and visual art? If so, what are they and how can you combine the two different art forms?

These are questions that children from Longmeadow School will be exploring with local music animateur Tim Palmer and visual artist Victoria Mayes from Milton Keynes Gallery over the course of a day in May.

Although we are still planning the format of the day and giving Tim and Victoria time to decide how they are going to tie in with the chosen theme of 'Industrialisation', it looks like it's going to be a very exciting event. This is the first cross-arts project that we have run and we hope that we will be able to develop ways of working with more than one art form to do something bigger and better in the future, including more young people across Milton Keynes. Tim and Victoria will be working with two separate groups. The work created during the day will be combined and culminate in a short performance at the end of the day to the rest of the school.

More details to follow in the next issue.

This project has been funded by MK Arts Association.



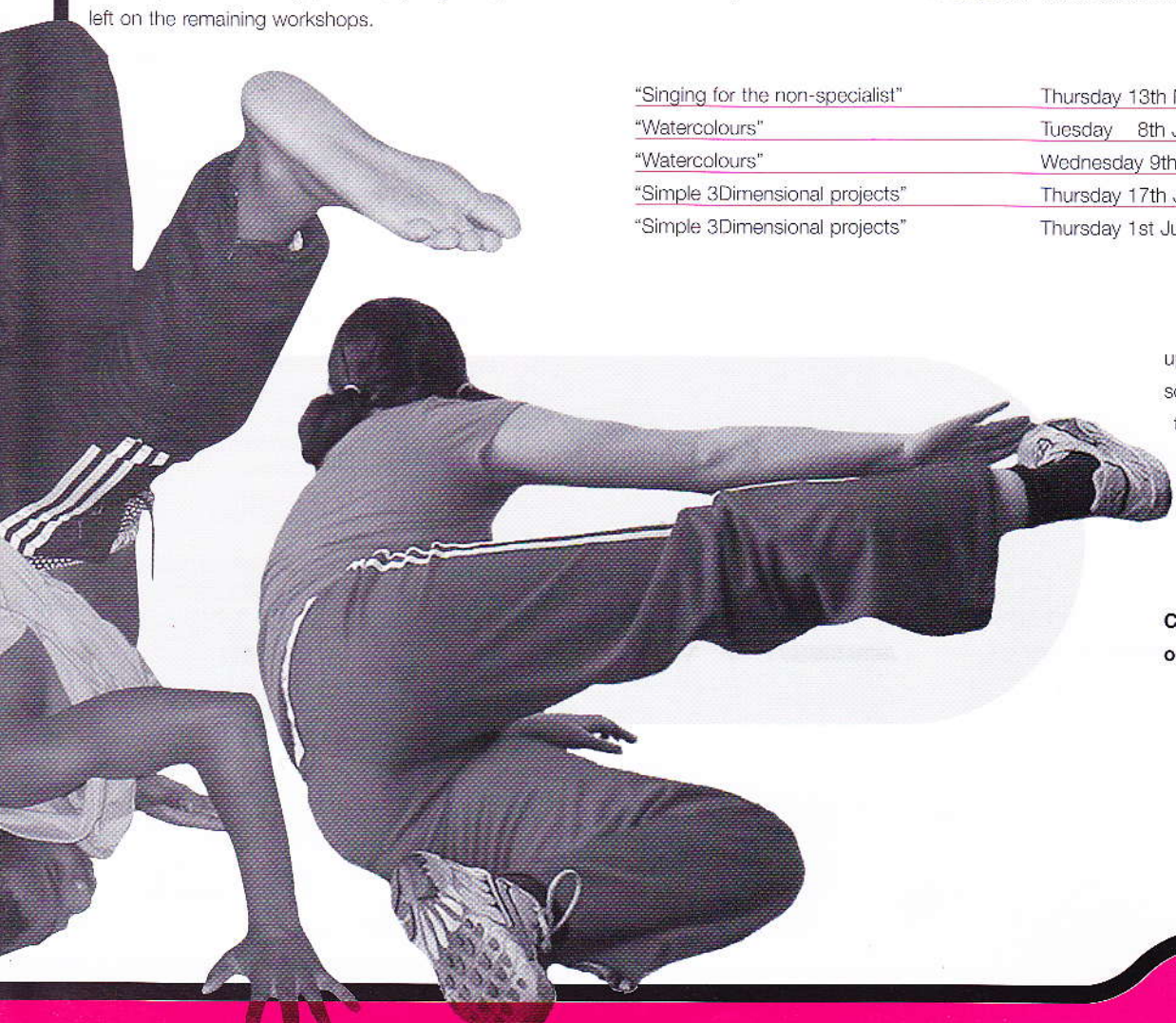
STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The Staff Development Workshops continue to be well attended and the comments received through the evaluation process confirm that the workshops are extremely practical, giving many ideas that can immediately be taken back to the classroom. There are a limited number of places left on the remaining workshops.

"Singing for the non-specialist"	Thursday 13th May	4.00 - 5.30
"Watercolours"	Tuesday 8th June	4.00 - 5.30
"Watercolours"	Wednesday 9th June	4.00 - 5.30
"Simple 3Dimensional projects"	Thursday 17th June	4.00 - 5.30
"Simple 3Dimensional projects"	Thursday 1st July	4.00 - 5.30

We are currently drawing up next year's programme so if you have any ideas as to what you would like to see in this - this is a programme designed to meet your needs, let us know what they are!

Contact Sue Watts
on 01908 324421



ARTS DIARY FOR MILTON KEYNES AND BEYOND

Activities from now until September.

OUR AIMS:

- To advocate and promote the importance of the arts in the lives and learning of young people.
- Provide access to high quality arts experiences for young people of school age in Milton Keynes.
- Ensure widest possible access across all the different cultural and socio-economic groups.
- Foster sustainable links with arts organisations and practitioners
- Work in partnership with Schools, the Local Education Authority, and the formal education sector, and engage with regional and national arts agencies.
- Provide a supportive infrastructure to enable schools to initiate their own arts activities.

ARTWORKS – MK

Half Term Events

Tue 1st June - **American Indian family workshop** £10 for 1 adult & 1 child

Thurs 3rd June - **Fun Clay Day**, 8+yrs. £14

Fri 4th June - **Crazy clocks 8+yrs.** £16 including clock mechanism

Wed 30th June - **Sharing event.** Celebrate artworks-mk's 30th birthday with demonstrations, workshops, pottery, painting and printmaking.

For more information contact Louise Izod on 01908 608108.

BUCKS DANCE

Working with The Northern Ballet Theatre Company at Stantonbury Campus.

Sat April 24th 10.00 - 1.30

Working on repertoire from A Midsummer's Night Dream with Dart Dance (group for able bodied and physically disabled adults).

Sunday April 25th 10.00 - 4.30. 11 - 16 yrs

Master class and repertoire work for regular dancers and teachers.

Full details from Bucks Dance 01296 395394 or

enquiries@bucksdance.co.uk

CORNELIUS AND JONES

"The best introduction to Shakespeare I've seen by a small scale company working in schools" ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Taking bookings for their new production of **The Snow Queen**, a new musical production with puppets and masks, which will tour from September.

(KS1 & 2)

Workshops for primary schools including puppet-making and play in a day workshops. Call 01908 612593 for a brochure or to book. www.corneliusjones.com

MILTON KEYNES GALLERY

Children's Art Day Thurs 1 July. 10.00 - 2.30 School yrs 3 - 7. Free Event.

Schools are invited to select three artistic pupils to work with practitioners in poetry, drama and music, one to work with each practitioner. Pupils must be accompanied by an adult. Open to all schools on a first-come, first-served basis.

Working with an Artist Seminar October 2004. 10.00 - 3.00. £110 (Lunch Included)

A discussion of the value of school/artist collaborations by artists, head teachers, school Art Co-ordinators, Education Co-ordinator, Milton Keynes Gallery - Victoria Mayes and Programme and Education Manager, artworks-mk - Louise Izod.

(Speakers may be subject to alterations)

Pre booking essential on 01908 558305.

MILTON KEYNES THEATRE

Stepping Out, Into the Wardrobe and **Lighting Design** sessions can be scheduled for your group, at the theatre or at your venue, subject to availability and a minimum fee.

A Day at the Fair Thu 3 Jun 10am - 4pm. Practical theatre making day. 7 - 11yrs. Bring lunch! £12 per person.

Artsworld Interactive Summer Schools

A collaboration between Milton Keynes Theatre and Catalyst Theatre Arts

Mon 19 - Fri 23 July **Create!** 10am- 4pm

Theatre making project, creating all aspects of a small scale performance: including drama, movement and art activities.

Concludes with showing in Garden Room. Suitable for 9 - 12yrs. 5 day series £95.

Mon 26 - Fri 30 July **Novel Act** 10.30am - 12.30 noon. Using

practical drama approaches in adapting text to script. Suitable for 12 - 14yrs.

Starting Out 2 -4.30pm Preparation for rehearsals - what you do with your script before you get to rehearsals. All 5 session (half day) series £50. Suitable for 16 - 18yrs.

Mon 2 - Fri 6 August **Ocean Adventure** 10.30am - 12.30pm

Practical drama activities exploring this adventure! Suitable for 7- 9yrs.

Devise! 2pm - 5pm Creative week, developing and devising improvisation skills. Suitable for 16 - 18yrs.

All 5 session (half day) series £50.

Artshare Mon 23 - Fri 27Aug. £50 per person for series. High-energy drama workshops: developing communication and presentation skills.

7- 11yrs 10.30am - 1pm 11 - 16yrs 2 - 5pm 16yrs+ 7.15 - 9.15pm

Book all events via the Box Office on 01908 606090.

THE SILBURY GROUP

Free Summer Workshops for Teachers Tuesday 10th August.

Visual artists from around the world will lead workshops in the grounds of Westbury Farm Studios, Milton Keynes. Places are available to teachers, lecturers and art students.

School/College Visits to Artists Studios 15th & 16th September 2004 For GCSE & A Level Art students

A chance for school groups to visit the Hidden Dimensions exhibition at Westbury Farm Studios showing work exploring crossovers between art and science, and to take part in workshops.

For more information contact Jessica or Helen at silburygroup@yahoo.com a.s.a.p.

Contact MKAEF:

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