

Dance and Performing Arts – Update

Adam Chesnutt

Adam came into sixth form with a background in acting and performing. Throughout the Performing Arts course his focussed shifted towards technical and stage management. He also very successfully staged managed the 2011 school production of Fame. In 2012 he successfully interviewed for the prestigious conservatoire of Central School of Speech and Drama to study for his degree in Stage Management. He has spent much of his final year working professionally for Channel 4, Complicite (a physical theatre company in London) and at the Barbican in the West End. He graduates this year and we wish him all the best in his career. Adam came into school in April to talk to our current Year 12 Performing Arts students about his course, his work experiences and his life in London.

Katie Pearson

Katie was on the Senate in 2011/12, studied dance, drama and performing arts in Sixth Form and played 'Serena' in Fame in 2011. Katie has been training at the Arts Educational School since 2012 for a degree in Musical Theatre. The training that she has gained has allowed her to work with a range of current West End choreographers and directors. Her outstanding work ethic meant that even before she had graduated she had job offers coming in. Consequently she was released early from college to allow her to take a role as an original cast member of High Society currently playing at the Old Vic in the West End. She has also lined up the UK tour of Hairspray understudying the role of Amber. Katie frequently comes into school to lead workshops and speak to students about the arts. She will no doubt pay us a visit when she is performing at The Bradford Alhambra in November 2015 and The Leeds Grand in April 2016.

https://www.thestage.co.uk/reviews/2015/high-society/?utm_content=bufferd52ec&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Emily Harrington

Emily studied Performing Arts in the Sixth Form and started her professional training at SLP Leeds before moving on to Urdang Academy in London in 2011, where she completed her degree in Musical Theatre. She is currently working in Germany in Starlight Express. She has been in rehearsals since February as she and her fellow cast members had to not only learn the show, but learn how to skate. She opens in June and we wish her all the very best for her run as 'Ashley' and covering the lead female 'Pearl'. Good luck for your opening night. Emily recently led a workshop for our Year 10 GCSE Dance students on audition technique.

Christian Lunn

Christian played Cogsworth in Beauty and The Beast back in 2010. Christian graduated with a first in Musical Theatre from GSA in 2014. Since then he has been working on writing his own material. He has co-written and composed a new musical called Here's To Life which premiere's at the National Portrait Gallery on June 12th 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6m0TiE9-OH4>

Christian led a singing workshop for us last year when our current Year 10's were in London on the Performing Arts trip.

Best wishes to all our past students who are studying in Dance and Musical Theatre and good luck to those who leave this year to embark on professional training. Please come back to visit and pass on your knowledge and expertise to the next generations.