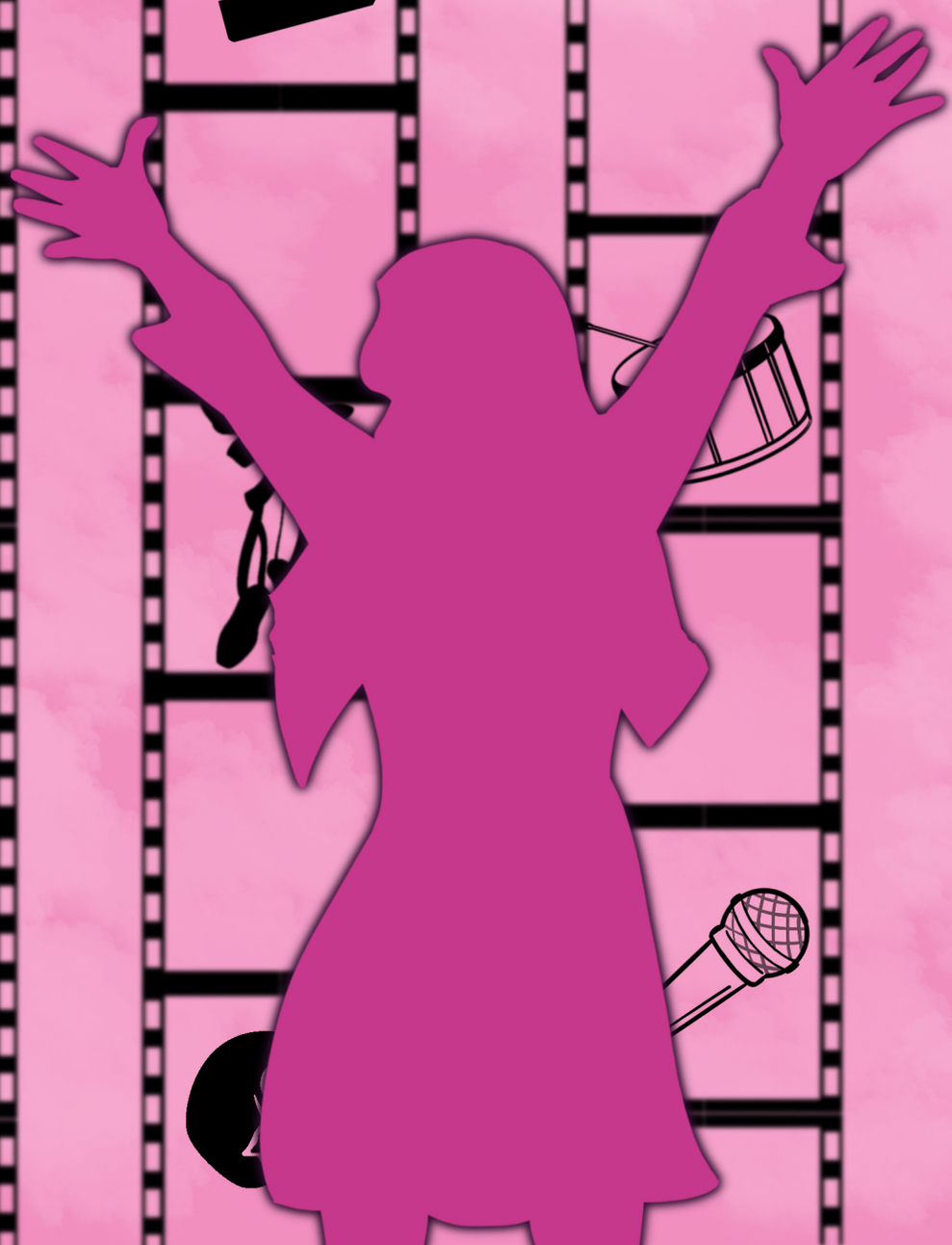
Winter Term 2022
Edition 5

The Fallibroome Academy Performing Arts

The Green Room



Front Cover by Benedetta Ekwuru and Eddie Parkin-Smith



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Dear Reader,

We are delighted to bring you Edition 5 of The Green Room magazine! As we head towards Christmas, sit back and relax with a yummy hot chocolate while enjoying this term's fabulous copy. We feel incredibly proud, as this edition has been captured by an entirely student led project for the very first time. Our super keen Year 12 and 13 journalists and creative team worked tirelessly to capture every performance of Fallibroome Academy's successful summer and autumn season of Dance, Music and Drama.

Kelly Wang has taken on the big responsibility of editing and sub-editing content, along with producing the creative design elements with her talented team of writers and designers. As the previous Year 13 moved onto university, a new set of Year 12 pupils have steadily learned the ropes of professional writing and designing content.

Highlights of this edition include Shakespeare's Hamlet, which was performed at the Contact Theatre in Manchester, Between Thorns, the sassy musical Legally Blonde and the traditional family favourite, Matilda, which was performed by our Lowerschool in almost forty-degree heat at the height of the summer! In addition, we have been busy drawing the spotlight on our new Music Teacher, Miss Hantonne, which is a fascinating read of how she found her love for the flute.

We hope you enjoy Edition 5; we welcome your comments and feedback. Also, we continue to recruit avid members to The Green Room team, particularly Copywriters. For more information either contact us via our socials or pop in to one of our meetings during a Wednesday lunch time.

The Green Room Team

The Green Room Team



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SPOTLIGHT ON...

Miss Hantonne

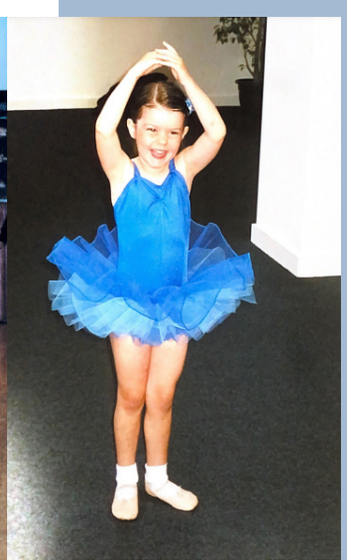
In this edition we welcome the newest member of the Performing Arts staff: shining the spotlight on new music teacher, Miss Hantonne. As a newly qualified teacher, Miss Hantonne is fresh out of university and has brought new energy to the department- and a new instrumental section as a flautist!

Although Miss Hantonne didn't begin as a flautist, she was introduced to music at a young age, starting on piano at aged 4, though not without facing challenges! These came from teachers who called her 'talentless' and told her to quit - as people did in the early 2000s; so she followed their advice and did. She then tried out a range of instruments and performing arts hobbies - mainly dance and musical theatre, alongside sport.

In school, everything she started, Miss Hantonne ended up quitting, but not the flute; the flute was different. She advanced so quickly that it stuck, with no one telling her to give it up this time, so she carried on and continued to improve. Although not an original dream and passion (it came second to dreams of the West End), music was what Miss Hantonne was best at and so it overtook her other passions of sport and dance when it came to choosing GCSEs - and stuck firmly as her main passion.

As for A levels, music took precedence: choosing music, psychology and English. When she was questioned about the two latter choices by her head of sixth form, her justifications were: "I think brains are really interesting and I like reading books." This combination of subjects turned out to complement each other very well; each helping to develop essay writing. Miss Hantonne originally wanted to go to a Conservatoire but, being from Guernsey, she would have had extra fees so, instead, she chose the University of Manchester because it was a number one university course at the time and therefore more on the academic side - suiting Miss Hantonne's strengths. In the end, she found this better than just playing the flute for three years,





with its excellent facilities and lack of a dissertation, favouring performance. One of her favourite areas of the course was ethnomusicology and klezmer performance within this, one of the many opportunities not available at conservatoire.

Then COVID hit in her second year, and, moving back home during the pandemic, Miss Hantonne decided to apply for a PGCE course - "I thought, I've always wanted to be a teacher, so I'll just apply for that next year. It wasn't a random decision". This involved placements in schools teaching woodwind, requiring her to learn the oboe. "Never again! Awful! I was teaching oboe to [students] from year three, and my oldest oboe student was in year nine and I was just there like, 'you're doing great, I'm not' - really difficult!" This gave her a mixture of experiences in a classroom, individual, group and ensemble teaching (of which classroom teaching was her favourite).

" Just be proud that you have a talent and use it as much as you can "



"I think, even though it's not, you think that my favourite part about music is performing; so you think that I'd prefer to just teach instruments but there's so much more variety in a classroom that I really enjoy."

What if she wasn't a teacher, what would be her ideal job then? Miss Hantonne said, in that case, she would probably be playing in orchestras for films or TV sessions and concerts. She'd love to just always be playing the flute, but not solo because she sees this as being quite lonely, much preferring the social aspect of playing in a larger group. Contrastingly, a non music related job would be dog walking - "I feel like that would be really nice and wholesome and I really like dogs." Whichever way, she doesn't want to ever work in an office as she much prefers an active, dynamic job.

Flute teachers both at and before university have been Miss Hantonne's biggest role models and motivators, who never shut her down, but showed her how good she was at music, unlike her first teachers did "back in the day".

"I think when you have one to one sessions with someone who kind of takes you from, you know, good level to be like the best you've ever played. It's like, you don't know how they do it. But you appreciate it so much."

Miss Hantonne's biggest advice for musicians and anyone who wants to start music is not to give up no matter what: "If a teacher ever tells you that you have no musical talent, prove them wrong by doing a music degree. Because I had a lovely moment when my mum met this piano teacher, just in the street like 'Oh, do you remember my daughter? You told her she had no talent?' She was like, 'Oh, yeah, a bit harsh, right?' 'Yeah, she's just done a music degree.'" She strongly believes that "you should be proud that you have a talent and use it as much as you can." This positivity is evident in her journey as she has overcome a great number of obstacles to become a beacon of encouragement and reassurance to her students.





Ash Girl

The stunning performance of Ash girl was not to be missed! This dark adaptation of Cinderella was put on to contribute towards Katie Bean and Julia Whitworth's performing arts award, as their leadership project, and we must admire what a fabulous job they did.

The story is about a young girl who lives in wretched conditions with her abusive stepsisters and stepmother while in search for her missing father. Along the way, she must battle the physical challenges alongside fighting her own inner demons. It is a moving story about hope, even in the very darkest of times.

Directors, Katie and Julia, had previously done a performance of Ash Girl outside of school in Year 9 and so were already familiar with this twisted storyline. The idea came to them in September and by December they were holding auditions, picking on the talents of Fallibroome's Year 9s and 10s.

Year 12 Student Directors :





However, the process was not as straightforward as they had first anticipated - they faced many problems along the way, such as people dropping out and having to find suitable casting replacements, changing roles etc. You wouldn't be able to tell any of this in the final production though; the cast flows smoothly together and everything appears almost effortless.

Reminiscing over her experience, Julia said that her 'favourite part of the process was watching the tech rehearsal and seeing all the hard work come together so well,' (a feeling many of you in performing arts roles will relate to dearly). There is nothing like finally realising that all the hours were worth it as your play sets into shape!

If there is one thing we know for sure, Ash girl is certainly a magical experience to watch and we must give credit where it's due - I think we can all agree that there is a great amount of admiration and praise owed where these talented people are concerned.



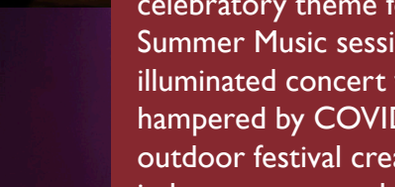
Music

Summer Sessions

Summer shirts, shorts, sunglasses and saxophones set the upbeat celebratory theme for Fallibroome's Summer Music session this July. This illuminated concert was originally hampered by COVID, but the outdoor festival creatively came indoors to a stage laid with grass and sunshine vibes. With Mr Gibb on guitar and Mr Faulkner on the unique cajon Afro-Peruvian drum, our talented KS3, KS4 and KS5 pupils performed a range of music genres in duets and small groups. Amongst our talented pupils, Ben Bailey performed solo, 'Something in the water' with his acoustic guitar. The Soul Band also performed a fantastic rendition of 'Sledgehammer', which truly showed the amazing breadth of musical skill our wonderful pupils have. It's safe to say our Michael Flynn's neon pink cocktail sunglasses were a big hit with the audience. One outstanding performance was from Year 8 student Moses Musonda, with a jaw dropping rap titled Moments. Watch out for this "kid aged 13!"

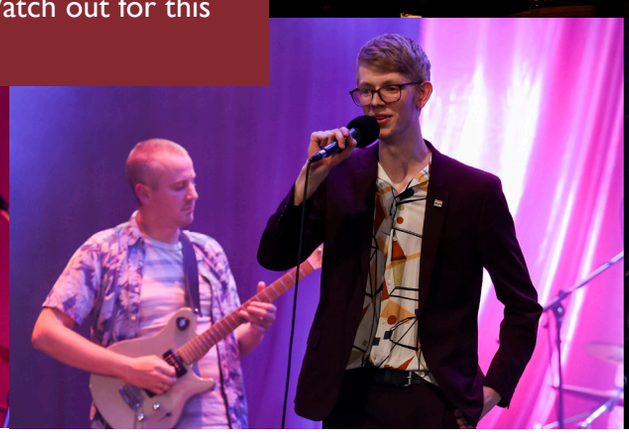









Performing Arts

Cast List

Rose Kettle 8S	Matilda
Iris Wakefield 9C	Miss Honey
George Edwards 8O	Trunchbull
Wilfred Ince 9E	Mr Wormwood
Poppy Pickup 8O	Mrs Wormwood
Noah Pittham 7F	Michael Wormwood
Ivy De Jager 9F	Mrs Phelps
Eden Christensen 8O	Sergei
Bea Isherwood 7P	Erica
Isla Gibb 7I	Hortensia
Isla Utteridge 7C	Nigella
Jessica Russell 7F	Amanda
Lolly Pettigrew 8R	Alice
Oliver Pickup 8P	Bruce
Olivia Peake 8O	Thomasina
Sophie Robson 8P	Lavender
Micah Riley 8P	Escapologist
Rosie Ackerley 8F	Acrobat
Milly Adkins 8S	Cook
Verity Walthall 7E	Cook

Big Kid Ensemble

Alice Tench 7P	Harriet Kingdom 9P
Alisha Lomas 8O	Isobel Ashberry 8R
Amelia Karlsson-Smyth 7C	Lily-Jean Wright 9O
Anna Winstanley 8O	Lucia Wigley 8F
Caitlin Wood 9P	Lucy Pond 9C
Celeste Cook 8O	Maria Cojocariu 8S
Charlotte Langley 9E	Mia Bennett 9E
Charlotte Nobbs 9C	Milly Adkins 8S
Eden Masheder 8F	Olivia Kent 8F
Eleanor Mason 8S	Rosie Ackerley 8F
Grace Donelon 8O	Tanvi Kutty 7I

Lead Big Kids

Edith Munro 9P
Elizabeth Anderson 9P
Gigi Filan 8C
Heidi France 8I
Millie Scott 8C
Nancy Luke 8C
Nieve Murray 9P
Nyree Pester 8E
Ruby Fisher 9E

Little Kid Ensemble

Amelia Carolan 7E
Annabel Ross 7C
Aurelia Mai 7E
Ava Ludlaim 7C
Ben Wilshaw 8O
Emilia Bell 7R
Henry West 7F
Jack Tromans 8R
Lara Woods 7I
Lucy Cornford 7E
Layla Germaney 8I
Marni Fox 7P
Mia Hartley 7I
Milly Tang 8I
Mimi Webb 7I
Miya Ward 7P
Poppy Dronsfield 7E
Tilly Comyn 7E
Verity Walthall 7E
Wiktoria Janowska 7F
William Harding 7E

ROALD DAHL'S Matilda THE MUSICAL

The recent summer performance of Matilda was something we couldn't resist talking about, and what a performance it was! The lowerschool production was studded with an incredible cast, all ranging from Years 7 to 9. The lead role of Matilda, brought to life by Rose Kettle, was described as an 'exceptional job' and Rose gushed about her time in the role, saying "It was an amazing experience for me, exciting and slightly nerve wracking everyone in the cast performed brilliantly in the final shows; we should all be immensely proud of ourselves". The 'Sheer comedy' that was George Edwards as Trunchball is not to be ignored, and he described his experience being 'really fun' and saying that it "helped push myself more in acting to explore other characters as well as giving me a great opportunity to perform". We are certain to see these talent-filled teenagers appear again in future productions and have no doubt that they will continue to make us proud. In total there were 65 cast members, and let's not neglect the further 40 supporting students who worked tirelessly backstage roles such as makeup, costumes, prop making and much more. Admiration is heavily due as the one hour abridged version of the musical showeek happened in the middle of the heat wave. The hall was, in Mrs Fay's words, 'Sweating' and the programmes were sold out (we have a sneaking suspicion they were repurposed as fans for the audience). Students did exceptionally well, dressed in full uniform and performing dance numbers in 39° heat. We are incredibly lucky that the show went ahead but, with a thoroughly ventilated space and a wildly supportive audience, all the hard work paid off.





Dar

Style, commitment and lots of hard work best describes the spectacular Fallibroome Summer Dance Platform this year. Years 7 – 12 designed atmospheric, individual, vibrant and complex performances, which wowed the audience. Pupils leapt into action with a variety of upbeat dance styles, including emotive contemporary pieces and funky break dancing. Supported by our highly talented lighting and sound department, pupils raised the roof with their dramatic, bespoke and meaningful interpretations of each narrative.



nce







Between Thorns

'Between Thorns' are a band made up of young people from Macclesfield, joined by their love of rock and alternative music. They are popular amongst our students, and considered the rising talent of Cheshire. Most band members were introduced to each other through friends and family, or were friends from school (All Hallows) who decided to create a band for a bit of fun- never expecting it to take off as much as it did.



The name for the band was originally suggested by Josh's mum who mentioned an idea of Lily being a rose (the only girl) between thorns (the boys of the group), however this name was too long so the band agreed to shorten it to 'Between Thorns' as they are known today.

The band combines "rock music with melodic female vocals," which, together with their range of influences, has created their unique sound. Within the band there are a wide range of influences- seen in the distinctive style throughout their two EPs- with the mix of Dodie as Lily's lyrical inspiration and clear rock and punk influences especially in bass and rhythm guitar. Even Rauiri's inspiration from Arctic Monkeys is evident in the drum parts, especially in the album 'Left Behind'. There are a wide variety of styles across the 2 albums, comprising of around 5 genres, though the general style as explained by the band states that: although often called an 'indie punk band', they don't think that's a very accurate description. "We've got everything really: from heavier stuff to stuff about being gay and anxious, more alternative style music, heavy rock, alt rock maybe, if you were trying to generalise it."- Lily.



"It was really nice to see how after lockdown we'd got better as a band, it was very obvious the change from the last gig before lockdown to that one"



Between Thorns take every opportunity possible to perform and do gigs across the local area, frequenting the Nag's Head and The Swan with Two Necks in Macclesfield as local band hotspots. The band tend to get offered approximately two gigs a month though this varies, especially over the last couple of years with covid, though gigs were more frequent after the first lockdown. Staple gigs were at the Spinning Top in Stockport as a supporting band on the 25th of March, followed by a gig at the Hive in Rotherham the next day. On the 6th of May, the band released their newest song 'Nuisance' at a gig at the Swan with Two Necks, a favourite performing space for them with many memories- including their favourite gig so far; the first gig on their own, not just as a supporting act on the 14th of November 2021. Between Thorns' biggest and best gig was their most recent: supporting The Virgin Marys (another Macclesfield-based band) at Gorilla in Manchester on the 15th of October 2022.

This range of gigs have allowed the band to grow as musicians, expand their fanbase, and gain experience of performing in a range of venues. The band have created a name for themselves in the local area thanks to these performance opportunities and are starting to expand with the gigs that they are offered becoming bigger and ranging outside of Cheshire.

The band don't have a particular method when it comes to writing music or compiling their EPs, but tend to start with a guitar riff and simply build on this and experiment to see what it becomes through building the parts on top of this. The final touches are the vocals, which the rest of the band leave to Lily a couple of weeks after they come up with the initial parts. Often ideas are created simply by messing around before realising there's something in them. The timescale for creating whole songs varies with the complexity of the song and the intensity of rehearsals and practise. To actually release a song onto a platform can take much longer than just the writing stage as it has to be recorded and mastered- but luckily for the band, their rehearsal space is a recording studio so they are able to record anything they wish then and there.

Our alumni Rosie Bristow joined the band later on as they expanded and improved and refined their writing style- requiring a rhythm guitar on top of their existing four-piece format to perform these new songs as they gained experience as writers and performers. Rosie now provides input to the band from Leeds Conservatoire, and travels back for each gig. The band are not letting this distance between the younger and older members get in the way of their writing or performing- continuing to work together across regions to continue making brilliant music.

Band Members

Lily Hill: vocals

Josh Connor: lead guitar

Rosie Bristow: rhythm guitar

Jack Heeds: bass

Ruairi McLean: drums

EPs :

hivemind
trains OF THOUGHT
Zombie
341
Misery
Left Behind
Brainwashed
Incognito
Bitter

To check out more of their music, get to know the band and find information about their gigs, check out their socials:

Website betweenthorns.co.uk
Instagram @betweenthorns
Facebook Between Thorns
YouTube Between Thorns
Spotify: Between ThornsUltore terehen


CONTACT
ROBIN HOOD

Hamlet

This is an annual event and includes thousands of young people from all across the country who gather to perform abridged Shakespeare plays on professional theatre stages. Over the course of around eight months, participants prepare their productions alongside support from workshops led by professional actors and directors.

What is Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation? Well, it is a cultural education charity that exists with the purpose of instilling curiosity and empathy, aspiration and self-esteem, literacy and teamwork - giving young people the confidence to see that all the world is their stage.

With gothic theming, red and black costumes, and lots of ghostly makeup, Fallibroome students performed one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, Hamlet, on Wednesday 2nd November 2022 as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was a tragedy that had elements of comedy and a lot of personality, all working together to create a very memorable performance. Each character had a distinct personality which created drama, tension and life through interesting character dynamics that contrasted each other perfectly without any overpowering the others (eccentric and pompous Polonius, hard-headed and powerful Claudius, sweet and kind Ophelia, and determined and revengeful Hamlet).

This performance had an incredibly tight turn around period - there was only about one half-term of rehearsals; it was rigorous and tiring for everyone involved yet there was mutual feeling of being absolutely worth it in the end. All of the actors' efforts and perseverance most definitely paid off as it resulted in an amazing adaptation of the classic tragedy that was equally heart-breaking and heart-warming.

The lighting and sound in the final performance deserve a special mention as they really elevated the piece and helped it to further emphasise all the elements of comedy, drama and ultimate tragedy.

Don't worry if you're sitting reading this and thinking, 'Wow, I'm gutted I missed that performance - it sounds fantastic…' because you still have a chance to watch it - it is scheduled to be performed again during Creativity Week in late February!

Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation presented the world's largest youth drama festival on 31st October - 3rd November this year!

Let's Get Technical

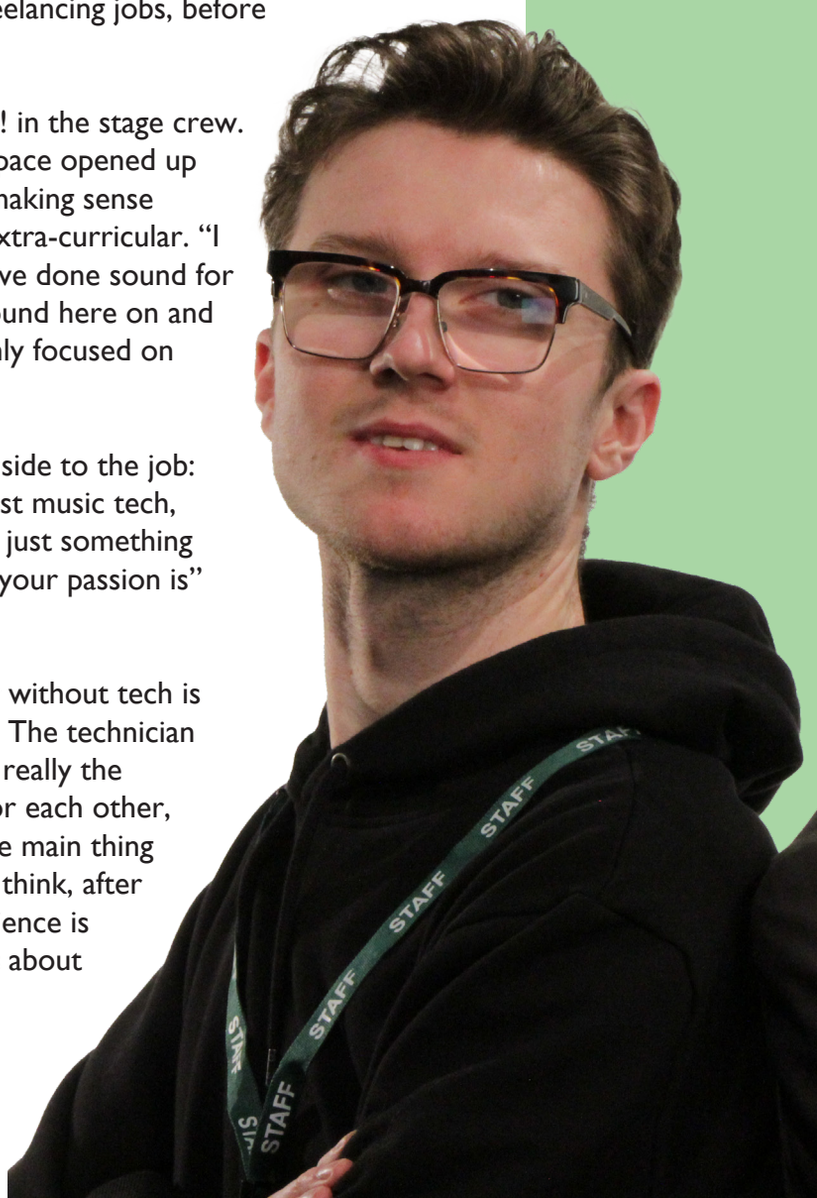
Another big change to the department is the new sound team, with Sam Thompson as the new sound technician and Will Fletcher-Wells as the student head of sound. They are both incredibly passionate about sound and music technology and are an undeniable asset to the department. They have had the challenge of assembling an entirely new tech team this year and have trained them up with ease.

Sam's background surrounds a study of performance at college, going on to Salford University to study Creative Music Technology. After graduating he worked with musicians using the contacts he'd built up over the years at university: freelance composing and mixing, and live sound mixing in pubs, as well as releasing his own music. He worked as a postman for some time between freelancing jobs, before landing the job at Fallibroome.

Will got into tech four years ago, working on Oliver! in the stage crew. He naturally moved into sound this year when the space opened up being something he'd always been eager to try and making sense alongside music technology A-level as an excellent extra-curricular. "I hadn't done much sound in theatre before this but I've done sound for concerts and different events and I'm moving into sound here on and on a primarily more of a recording side" having mainly focused on lighting technology before this year.

Will and Sam both agree that there's only one downside to the job: "late hours!", though "knowing that every day, it's just music tech, and knowing that what you're doing in your job isn't just something completely unrelated to what you studied and what your passion is" makes it worthwhile.

"It always just makes me think of the saying an actor without tech is performing naked on stage with no sound and lights. The technician without an actor is unemployed. So I think it's just a really the relationship between the actors building the show for each other, but also for the audience to see, you know, that's the main thing here. It's the audience's enjoyment. And, especially I think, after the shows at Falli, seeing the response from the audience is just incredible. Some nights it's one of the best parts about doing it."



They both have ideas for shows they want to do in the future, Sam eager to do The School of Rock, and Will hoping to work on The Hunchback of Notre Dame. These shows bring very distinct styles to the floor and would bring a new style of musical to the department.

To recruit the new tech team, Will went directly to the music technology A level classes, knowing that there would be others like him who really wanted to get involved in applying their learning to live sound mixing. Another group was those interested in performing arts, but less eager to perform- favouring backstage roles. Sam believes that feeling a part of the team and having everyone involved is a crucial part of the job, and is vital to ensure everyone works well together and enjoys themself- as long as everyone is interested, they will make a good team.

Their favourite thing about Fallibroome's performing arts department is the learning experience with the equipment we have here, and the range of equipment that Sam didn't have access to at university. For Will this is incredibly valuable to give him experiences which enable him to continue his skills in preparation for university and his wider future. For both of them, this access to high-quality facilities means a lot of learning on the job and, to Sam, "what matters most is knowing that every day you come to this school is a new learning experience".

Their advice for anyone interested in starting tech is: "Just get involved! Yeah, do it. That's it. You can't really learn much from paper with this job. It's very much hands on learning. So if you're interested, do it."

"If you have that interest in the tech side, then I'd say go to shows, get involved with your school or college, what sort of opportunities they have to learn a lot of the tech. And there's a lot of stuff, like on YouTube, out there. I watch it, watch some videos on, you know, new equipment, and mixing boards and things like that; and how shows are run"



" Having an understanding of how the sound works, and the lighting, I think, gives you a clearer picture of the overall production "

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical™



Wow, wow, wow! The super sassy, all American comedy Legally Blonde came to Fallibroome Academy stage with a bend and snap! Audiences were in awe of Milli Nixon-Chatterton, who played Californian law student Elle Woods. What a magnificent singing voice Milli has. Fun, fabulous and feisty Elle Woods battled to keep her man, Warner, wonderfully played by Charlie Wallis, as he heads off to Harvard university, leaving her behind to study Fashion-Marketing with her lovable pet pooch and gall pals. Jess Pond, played Warner's new love, educated and refined Vivienne with just enough unkindness to Elle. We must not forget Elle Wood's trusty support Emmett, brilliantly performed by the highly talented Marco Dennis, and Professor Callahan, played by Ryley Johnson, who performed Blood in the water beautifully. This huge collaboration of Years 7-13 was Westend standard. Well done to the cast and crew, you smashed it!

COMPANY

Elle Woods
Milli Nixon-Chatterton
Emmett Forrest
Marco Dennis
Professor Callahan
Ryley Johnson
Paulette Buonufonte
Lexie Barwell
Warner Huntington III
Charlie Wallis
Brooke Wyndham / Greek Chorus
Hattie Jones
Vivienne Kensington
Jess Pond
Enid Hoops
Georgia Hodgkinson
Aaron
George Edwards
Shana Pantea
Ellie Luke
Whitney
Julia Whitworth

Greek Chorus

Serena
Alice Carpenter
Margot
Evie Hogden
Pilar
Sophie Foulkes
Kate
Jessica Russell
Gaelen
Rosiee Lamb
Becky
Sophie Robson
Leilani
Rose Kettle
Crystal
Molly Edwards

Elle's Dad / Carlos / Kyle
Jason Bailey
Elle's Mum / Dance Troupe
Daisy Tighe
Nico
Adam Leyland
Store Manager / Judge
Lauren Smith
Grandmaster Chad / Dance Troupe
Eliza Seear-Nixon
Chutney Wyndham
Milly Adkins
Winthrop
Katie Bean
Lowell
Matilda Beattie
Pforzheimer
Emma Cox
Dewey
Jack Tromans

Sales Girl / Perfume Girl
Iris Wakefield

Dance Troupe

Ashley Faricy
Daisy Tighe
Eliza Seear-Nixon
Ellie Kvedaras
Freya Murray
Izzy Barton
Katie Bradley
Millie Norval
Millie Scott
Mollie Bradbury
Olivia Wild
Sophie Williams
Tom Wright

Hair Affair Ensemble

Annabelle Rayer
Caitlin Wood
Elizabeth Anderson
Emily Foulkes
Heidi France
Ivy De Jager
Layla Germaney
Lolly Pettigrew
Lucy Pond
Maisie Priest
Nyree Pester
Olivia Peake
Ruby Fisher

Harvard Students

Abi Rowson
Arabella Cagol
Charlotte Langley
Chloe Vickers
Eden Christensen
Edie Ringham
Emily Sparks-Welch
Emma Kyd
Freya Griffiths
Grace Carrington
Jo Tookey
Katie Roebuck
Lily-Jean Wright
Micah Riley
Milly Tang
Nieve Murray
Oliver Pickup
Paige Bownass
Poppy Pickup
Ruby Gossage
Sophie Powell
Vecaiya Cassel
Willow Kidd

The Band

Mike Gibb Musical Director
Ben Beer Vocal Coach/Keys 1
Lois Hantonne Flute/Keys 2
Liam Belford Trombone 1
Edith Munro Trombone 2
Rory Macleod Trumpet 1
Charlie Wood Trumpet 2
Carol Frost Saxophone/ Clarinet
Luke Fairs Saxophone/ Clarinet/Flute
Alex Faulkner Guitar
Molly Jarratt Violin
Connor Munro Bass
Dom Ritchie Drum Kit

And a special thanks to...

The backstage team
The camera crew
The props designers
The choreographers
The creative directors

...who made this musical showcase possible.



















Scene It All



Film Review - '*Bullet Train*'
Theatrical Release - 3rd August 2022
Digital Release - 27th September 2022 on Amazon video



Arguably it's difficult to find a successfully witty action comedy, but what's even more surprisingly impressive about 'Bullet Train' is (like the title suggests) the film is entirely filmed from start-to-finish on a train packed-full of assassins!

Warning: this film is not for the faint of heart as the action sequences are tense, exhilarating and paired with impressive cinematography. Like any good mystery, the film relies on pieces of enigma and puzzles with every new individual who steps on (or doesn't make it off) the train; you're left speculating and theorising what their connections could be? The pacing of this film is captivating throughout and just as you think 'what more could happen?', you're thrown into a perfectly timed comedic twist. From the director of Dead-pool two; featuring a highly similar direction style, it's an easy entertaining watch I'd highly recommend with an engaging performance from many renowned stars.

By Sacha Hancock



Podcast Review - '*Ask the Naked Scientists*'

Why does time only move forwards? Do you know why you look different in photos than in the mirror? If these questions have sparked curiosity, then Ask The Naked Scientists is the podcast for you. Created and edited by Chris Smith, the team includes Adam Murphy, Ben McAllister, Chris Berrow, Harrison Lewis and Julia Ravey. They open the line for us ordinary people to find an answer to sometimes the weirdest questions , like what if identical twins marry identical twins and more complicated concepts including what's the size of the universe, answers that can't always be exhausted through a quick Google search. The Naked Scientists have a way of making their explanation accessible and varied so much that anyone can find something interesting to listen to. If you have 25-30 minutes to kill, I would recommend turning in to discover just a little more about the world around you.

By Benedetta Ekwuru

Book Review - '*Olive Kitteridge*'



Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout is a very uniquely written fictional novel about the impact one person can have on the lives of so many others without even realising it.

This novel takes the form of 13 short stories, each from the viewpoint of a different character and how their lives interlock with the same woman, Olive Kitteridge. Every story shows a different side to Olive as we experience her interactions with friends, family and neighbours, encountering the struggles of age, loneliness, grief and love along the way.

In a small town in Maine, Olive is a retired schoolteacher who has impacted the lives of so many people, most of whom she doesn't even see the significance she has had upon them. Through her interactions with various people, Olive seems to learn more about herself and discover things that could only be brought to light by other people.

The first story begins with Olive's husband, Henry. Here, readers gain an insight here into their trivial family life, almost as if we are a fly on the wall of their home - an aspect I personally really enjoy. However, she is introduced as a rather unlikeable character which is surprising considering she is the subject of an entire novel. Then, through Strout's use of insightful and deeply honest characters, the character of Olive grows richer and much more complex than I initially anticipated; she went from someone who angered me to someone who I gained so much respect for, admiring her quiet strength and profoundly positive impact on her world.

The best way I can summarise this book is it's like people-watching in book form. Go read it right now.

By Izzy Dykins



TV Series Review - '*Gilmore Girls*'

Gilmore girls was released in the early 2000s. Although it has been out for so long it is still just as enjoyable and fun now as it would have been back then. The series is set in a town called Stars hollow and follows a mother and daughter, Lorelai and Rory Gilmore, and shows how their life unfolds over the years. You are able to see Rory grow up and move from high school to college, and become invested in both of their lives. As well as this being a heartwarming show and something that is easy to put on, it still discusses some of the more challenging aspects of real life such as feeling lost and not knowing what will happen next in your life. The show feels very autumnal so I would definitely recommend watching it now. For me personally I found the first three seasons to be the best and it is some of the best television I have watched. The later seasons are still more than enjoyable to watch but for me I much preferred the earlier years of the show. It's such an easy watch as it is witty and it is easy to get invested in the characters. It is available to watch on Netflix, who have made a spin-off show called Gilmore girls: a year in the life which follows Lorelai and Rory nearly ten years after the last season aired.

By Sophie Watkins

Winter is not a season,
it's a celebration.

Anamika Mishra, Author



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