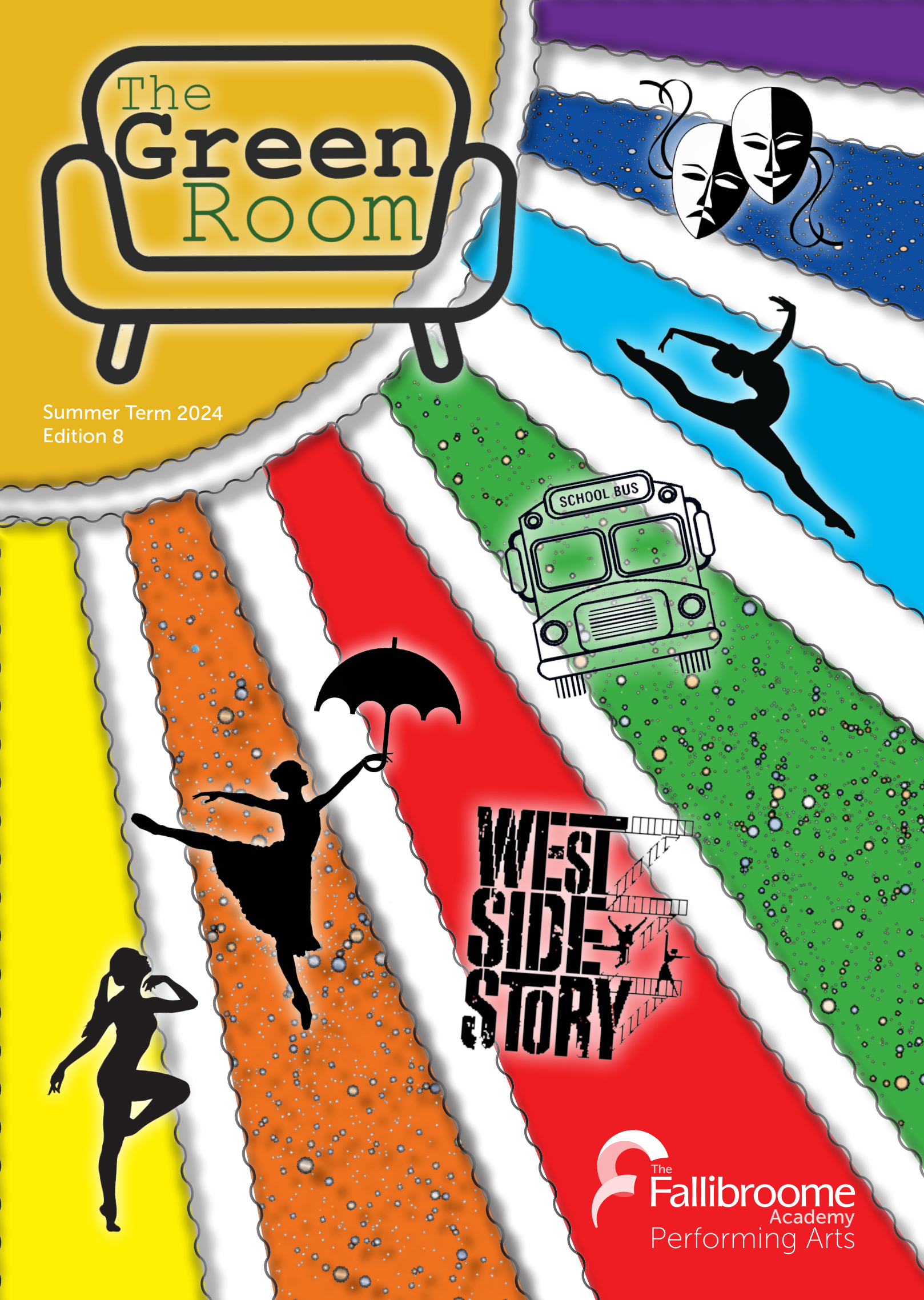
The Green Room

Summer Term 2024
Edition 8



The Fallibroome Academy Performing Arts

WEST SIDE STORY®
SCHOOL EDITION

Upper School Musical Auditions in 2024:

- Tuesday 10th of September
- 3:15pm - 6:00pm
- Years 10 - 13

























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Dear Reader,

Welcome to Edition 8 of 'The Green Room' magazine. Although the wait has been long, we hope you enjoy it! Our writers and art directors have worked tirelessly to make this edition engaging. We are so grateful to the teachers and students who agreed to be interviewed and have given us crucial insight into the events of this busy school year. We want to give a special thanks to Mrs. Oldham for providing us with a fascinating peek into her path to teaching.
We would also like to give a huge thanks to the Year 13s, Vecaiya Cassel and Amelia Wilshaw, who have now left, as they have been key to creating our editions time and time again. And good luck in the future! We hope you enjoy reading and have a wonderful summer. We're also looking for new designers, writers, and content creators, so don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Walters at wal@fallibroome.org.uk if you're interested, or come along at Monday lunch times in Studio 6.

The Green Room Team,
Senior Art Directors: Evie Picksley, Lauren Cunningham, Maddelana Cagol
Senior Writers: Maddalena Cagol, Emily Pearson-Jackson and Grecia Fletcher-Palomino
Junior Art Directors: Grace Groenewald and Arabella Cagol
Junior Writers: Zara Bradley

Acoustic sessions:

Pride And Power

As the theme for this superb concert was Pride and Power, each act's song was chosen wisely and carefully. Selectively chosen to make the concert the 'creme de la creme' that it was. The songs picked were ones that made us as a whole feel proud of ourselves and others; in addition, they were all written by LGBTQ+ artists or power ballads. This was in the hope of allowing the audience and performers to feel empowered!

But what is so great about music? It builds confidence. It's an incredible experience that allows you to prove yourself. But most importantly, "it makes for a truly shared experience, which ultimately creates positive relationships, feelings of respect, and satisfaction." Music is the art that will never die!

It is no lie that with a concert on the horizon, there are difficulties in planning and creating the whole showcase, but the music department at Fallibroome handled it as excellently as always! Mrs. Mortimer even stated that the coming together of staff and students in the organisation of a concert is a "wonderful thing.".

But how is a concert really arranged? It certainly doesn't happen overnight, and it's not like you can throw something together at the last minute. Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Gibb, Ben Beer, and Mrs. Mortimer arranged all the songs for the concert, which is a huge undertaking—not unlike a complex recipe—and not only is it intense to rehearse and perform the song within the time frame, but to arrange it involves so much planning and ultimately huge musicality in order to make a successful performance.

Arranging a song means writing the parts for each of the instruments in a specific style and making decisions about the overall feel of the piece. Mr. Faulkner did a fabulous stripped-back arrangement of 'Ain't Nobody' with Eliza Seear-Nixon, and Mrs. Mortimer arranged James Taylor's 'Our Town' performed by Edith Munro, Lauren Bennett, and Rose Kettle as a trio in a country style.



Mrs. Mortimer herself was ecstatic with the results of the concert, as she claimed it to be a huge success. In addition to that, she wrote, "It was a crazy time of the year as there was so much going on in the school calendar, and with the concert being on January 30th, we only had 3 weeks to audition, arrange, rehearse, and perform the whole programme! Concerts such as these are heavily reliant on the whole performing arts team. We have amazing support from our technical team, Tim Jones and Sam Thompson. The lighting that Tim designed throughout the concert was amazing and really helped to create different moods and narrate the themes of each song. Sam ensured all our sound was balanced and mixed so the audience would enjoy the performance. Everything was miked up so all songs could be recorded. We are so lucky to have our fabulous front-of-house team. Lindsey Evans and Annabel Beattie welcome the audience to all our events; they organise the tickets, the seating, the programmes, set up the performance hall and the foyer, ensure the audience has drinks at the interval, and they make sure everything runs smoothly across the evening. Thank you to all the camera crew and any staff and students that supported the front of house and were part of the technical team."

This concert is a highlight for us every year because it showcases our best performers, challenges us to create stylistic arrangements, and gives an opportunity for amazingly talented students to perform on stage. What will the theme be next year? This is still to be decided, but if you have any suggestions, pop along to the music department and share them with us!





Creativity Week 2024
REFLECTIONS

The theme for Fallibroome's 2024 Creativity Week was Reflections which allowed students to reflect on their strengths and qualities through Performing Arts related activities. Across The Fallibroome Trust, the Performing Arts Department has worked tirelessly to put on a multitude of activities to allow students to unleash their creativity and express their ideas.

These events included: primary school dance workshops run by Verity Partington, an original production of Reflections directed by Andy Jones, lower school dance activities run by Mrs Faulkner and Mrs Murray and a presentation evening for parents to attend.



"The best part of the week was seeing the final product of each session and that it was very fulfilling to see the students dance as a unit while also having fun outside of their normal day"



Verity Partington

Verity Partington is an alumni student who graduated from Liverpool Institute Of Performing Arts in 2023 and is now a freelance dance teacher working in the local area. During creativity week Verity visited six of The Fallibroome Trust's primary schools and set up workshops which focused on reflections. She initially brainstormed ideas and came up with ideas of water and mirrors which are both physical objects that reflect. She developed these ideas further creating partner sessions which focused on fluid movements and symbolised water ripples. To greater the students' experience in the workshops, Verity coached the children to focus on their self-reflection with a circle time activity at the end of each session. Reviewing the week, Verity told me "The best part of the week was seeing the final product of each session and that it was very fulfilling to see the students dance as a unit while also having fun outside of their normal day".

The Dance Department

During creativity week, the dance department organised a special lesson in Year 7 and 8 pupils timetabled dance lessons to focus on reflections. Every pupil who had this lesson, was able to fully participate in these engaging activities. Mrs Murray and Mrs Faulkner focused on exploring the choreographic device of "mirroring" to create their duets. This allowed students to unleash their creativity and focus on their technical skill, which allowed students to find confidence and fun in these activities.



Reflections Production

As a part of this week, eighteen Year 8 students, from 'Fallibroomes Young Actors Company', were given the opportunity to participate in a devised production of reflections. Every Friday after school they were coached by the guest director Andy Jones, who guided them to reach their full potential.



The students spent time thinking about the different contexts reflections could show, for example: the juxtaposition of happy childhood memories with imagined memories of children in awful war zones such as Gaza. These helped develop pupils skills and allowed them to think about the emotions they were portraying. They also spent time individually working on dramatic Haikus, which are the simplest form of traditional Japanese poetry, which gradually turned into a paired piece. After weeks of rehearsals, Andy helped the students create a structure of their pieces to create a performance. They continued polishing their pieces until they had a final montage style performance ready for an audience! Reflecting on the week, Andy said he "really enjoyed seeing the very talented students create their own work and perform using their own words and ideas".

Presentation Evening

To end this spectacular week a sold-out presentation evening was hosted in the Fallibroome Performance Hall for parents. This evening consisted of an exhibition in the foyer and performances from talented pupils on stage. The exhibition showcased primary school pupils' artwork such as: portrait drawings, creative displays of natural materials and special edition comic books made for the week. As part of the display, Fallibroome older students' self-taken photos were displayed, in the style of the BeReal app, reflecting and showing the highlights of their week. This was presented in the foyer as a colourful display to match the photos presented. The performance consisted of primary school pupils performing dance and dramatic pieces they had prepared with the aid of their teachers, to their proud parents.



Overall, this week was extremely successful for all pupils as they enjoyed every minute of it. As well as allowing the students to engage in Performing Arts activities, they were also encouraged to reflect mindfully on their own strengths. The staff worked tirelessly to lead activities and engage every pupil and overall they made the week thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Free Your Mind

This year, Katie Roebuck has taken on the challenging role of organising her own concert which she chose to fundraise for the charity 'Mind'. Katie wanted to take on a challenge and she chose " to organise this concert to provide an opportunity for a different style of event than we normally do at school. I wanted to focus on it being meaningful and emotive rather than big and flashy and I hope the performers will enjoy the change in pace".



This concert has taken a different turn to other concerts because Katie has made sure that - 'All the performers, including myself, in this concert have been asked to choose a song that is meaningful to them, with the aim that the evening should be a beautiful reflection of our minds and how we should celebrate our individuality.' Gorgeous! This subtle touch adds a whole other layer to this concert.



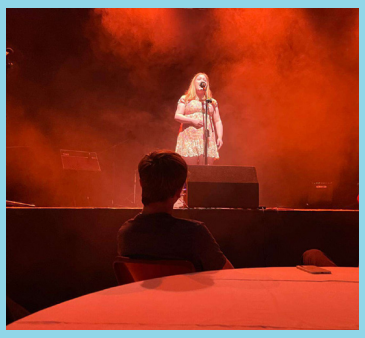


When asked why she chose this charity, Katie's answer was meaningful and showed the true impact that charities like Mind have on young people today. - "I chose the charity 'Mind' for a reason, I like many other people have struggled with my mental health over the years, and I'm a point now where I want to use my voice to raise awareness about why these charities are so important and such a good cause and using this concert as a way to raise as much money as possible, seemed like a great starting point."



Katie said "I've found organising this event pretty challenging but I have enjoyed it. The help and advice from staff (Mr Hogden) and previous arts award students has most definitely helped me navigate all of this!"

This event has shown great determination from Katie who is definately a role model for other students wishing to complete their arts awards or even run an event for charity. Aspire!



Dance Double Bill

In February The Dance Department produced a night of storytelling through Dance in this exciting Double Bill show. This performance included students from Year 7-13, in a spectacular interconnecting show. The first performance was “Found” a lower school production directed by Mrs Faulkner and the second performance was ”Hometown Glory” an upper school show directed by Mrs Murray.



Pete’s Dragon:
For the first part of the performance, students from Years 7 to 10 presented a creative adaptation of ‘Pete’s Dragon’, the 2016 film. The story follows Natalie who found a girl living alone in the forest with Elliot, who is a friendly dragon. ‘Found’ shares the importance of family and those who love us, which promotes loyalty and trust, not blood as the things that hold us together. This allowed students to create an emotive interpretation of this theme and develop their own attitudes and opinions about this.



Elizabeth Harris played Grace in “Found”, the lower school show. Elizabeth enjoyed watching the show come together over the months of rehearsals, and she also loved dancing with her friends. She expressed the meaning of the show through as much expression as possible. Accompanied with help from Mrs Faulkner, shadow work was used to help the dragon become lifelike.



Another student who performed in the lower school show was Jessica Russell who played Ellie. Throughout the show Jessica enjoyed using shadows and dance to create mystery, as well as dancing alongside her friends. She also portrayed the show’s meaning through facial expression and a blend of sharp and soft movement. The meaning was also portrayed using props behind the gauze to create the moving elements in the forest as well as the dragon.



Hometown Glory:
The second element of this show was performed by students in Years 10 to 13 who presented a creative performance of Hometown Glory. This was inspired by Lonely Town Lonely Street, and it was originally created for Rambert Dance Company by Robert North in 1981. This performance showed the students’ interpretation of bringing to life the different lives and circumstances of people living in a city ‘where two worlds collide’.



Evie Hogden was part of the Evolve Dance Company and performed in the Hometown Glory show. Evie loved being inspired by Shay Latukolan the choreographer of ‘Back on 74’ which created such an interesting dance. She had a great time choreographing and performing the quartet “Get Lucky”. Evie thoroughly enjoyed both dances as they were different but brilliant in unique ways, and she loved the show as a whole as it was such a brilliant experience.

Let's Get Technical

Maddalena Cagol



Watching the end result of a show can be amazing BUT there are many roles behind the scene that help make a production the masterpiece it ends up as. Who are some of the faces behind the final result and success of a production? Introducing members of the Backstage crew of Fallibroome's Mary Poppins production! Let's find out about their roles and the part they play to help make Mary Poppins the show it is.

I got the chance to help Maddalena Cagol, a member of the camera crew, set up the cameras for the Mary Poppins show. She has been taking the leading role of the camera crew and maintaining work to standard. This first hand experience has shown me the practical nature of this role and how delicate this job is as the the cameras are delicate and expensive equipment that has to be put together carefully with all the wires and components put into the right places which at points may be tedious and forgettable.

First, we set up the stands and secured the cameras, making sure that they were safe and angled correctly in place. Then, we put together all the different wires, boxes and other components. After we had to carefully carry the camera set up making sure the equipment is safely brought up to the correct area to plug the cameras up to the system. Lastly, we checked the cameras were working while being set up into the system and once that was done they were good to go for later that evening. I feel that it would be very easy to forget a crucial task or where some wires plug into as there are so many I feel it could become easily complicated. Due to this I find it impressive how organised and structured Maddalena was when teaching me how to put together all the components and set them up into the system.

To help get more insight I have asked a few more questions to Maddalena to allow her to give her own input and thoughts on the matter.

What skills must your role have as the leader of the camera crew?
I would say that a key skill is communication; when in the office during shows it's crucial to be clear with what you want the operators to focus on as well as leaving enough creativity for them to film what they would like to. However, I would say one of the most important is a keen eye for detail as when vision mixing it's important to try your best to cut on beat of the music or performance to make it more visually appealing before Tim re-edits and defines it.

What do you like about camera crew?
I love that the whole crew is such a good group of people, we are all friends and after spending so much time together on shows we know how to have a good laugh and banter with one another.

What other tasks does your role have?
When a show is coming up I have to carefully select a crew and plan when I will rig the cameras. Rigging the camera consists of wiring and setting up the equipment such as tally lights, and comms for the camera so that everything goes smoothly for show night.

Our Day Out



Our Day Out was a fantastic and unique performance that was definitely intriguing to watch! The cast welcomed the difficulty of performing in the round and navigated the windy turns of this perfectly to make it a one-of-a-kind show.

This fun play follows the story of a group of deprived school children from the heart of the UK's Liverpool as they head out on their first big school trip and of course things don't go to plan. They never do! But, spoiler alert, it finished with a tone of unity and fulfilment of the teachers as well as children who experience a good, fun day out - something most of them aren't used to. But, enough of that, it's time to celebrate the successful cast who brought all of this to life!

Emily Sparks-Welch performed as the role of the driver. Let's see what she had to say of this show - "It was a really fun show to be a part of for many reasons. The script by Willy Russell is joyful and hilarious and it was really fun bringing it to life. We had a great cast who all got to know each other through the play and we made quite an energetic group when all together! I never did any of this myself, but one of my favourite things was seeing how some of the others got to interact and poke fun at the audience with a lot of hilarious improvised lines. Our production of Our Day Out was done in the round which took some time to adapt to as it's important to make sure none of the audience is cut off from the action. However, it was enjoyable experimenting with different ways to tackle this problem and one of the solutions to this was to use a revolve. Working with one was a new and exciting experience and it was especially fun for me as I got to feel like I was actually driving a moving bus. It was very much a novelty when the revolve first arrived and everyone just wanted to sit on it as it spun us around. Overall I really enjoyed being a part of Our Day Out and it was a unique and fun experience."



Joanna Tookey was equally positive about her experience on the production - "This show really was really unique to others we've done at Fallibroome." She also pointed out and clearly described the exciting challenge of performing in the round. "As the first ever show in the round and the first one using a revolve, our acting style had to be very different, and we spent a lot of time making sure all 4 audience sections could see and hear. Also, we used very minimal set, as we couldn't have anything that would obstruct the view of the audience from all sides, so we figured out how to move a set of benches around so they could represent lots of different things, from a school bus or a park bench to a zoo enclosure or a shop counter. I loved how creative we could be with this play, it was a brilliant experience."

Cast List:

Carrie Copson as Mrs Kay
Mirko Benes as Mr Briggs
Evie Hogden as Susan
Wilfred Ince as Colin
Harry Banks as Les/Animal Keeper
Emily Sparks-Welch as The Driver
Ava Walsh as Karen
Ben Wilshaw as Andrews
Alisha Lomas as Ronson
Nieve Murray as Kevin
Jack Tromans as Digga
Hattie Jones as Linda
Micah Riley as Headmaster/Mac/Waiter
Jo Tookey as Mrs Roberts/John/Animal Keeper
Eden Christensen as Carol
George Edwards as Reilly
Oliver Pickup as Jimmy
Edward West as Maurice
Oscar Williamson as Little Kid
Izzy Barton as School Kid

LET'S TALK UNIVERSITY!

Moving on to your next steps can be pretty challenging at times, especially when leaving home for the first time. However, the anticipation is brilliant and worthwhile! Fallibroome is lucky to have such talented individuals who take their next steps into the performing arts sector at University, whether that is on-stage or off.

Emma Cox

In September, Emma hopes to continue her dream of acting and wishes to study acting for film at MetFilm in Leeds. She has been lucky enough to have several 'very nerve-wracking interviews' in which at MetFilm she had to read a blind script! Yet through her nerves, Emma managed to succeed as she secured an offer. Amazing! When asking her what she hopes to achieve with her degree, I was warmed by her words: 'My main goal for my future, honestly, is just to spread as much creativity as possible, especially since we're in an era where the arts aren't particularly encouraged.' This is the pure passion and dedication that Fallibroome has been lucky to have seen and worked with in the arts department.

'Trust your gut' - Emma Cox.



Luke Walthall

Hoping that he isn't being too 'ambitious', Luke wishes that once in the industry he can be a director and writer, . In September, Luke plans on studying Film Production, in which his favourite universities for this are York and Salford. Not only does university life appeal to Luke, but he wasn't sure he wanted to leave education yet, wanting to expand his learning for Film Production. What dedication!

'Try and involve yourself with film as much as you can.' - Luke Walthall.

Molly Edwards

Molly, plans on studying musical theatre, hopes that university will help develop her skills and push her boundaries to becoming a successful actress. She's been lucky to attend in-person auditions at The Hammond, The Arden, the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, and the Leeds Conservatoire. Most consisted of dramatic monologues, singing sessions, and dance (varying from ballet to jazz). The magnificent Molly hopes that post-uni she can take part in musical and film productions. Good luck, Molly!

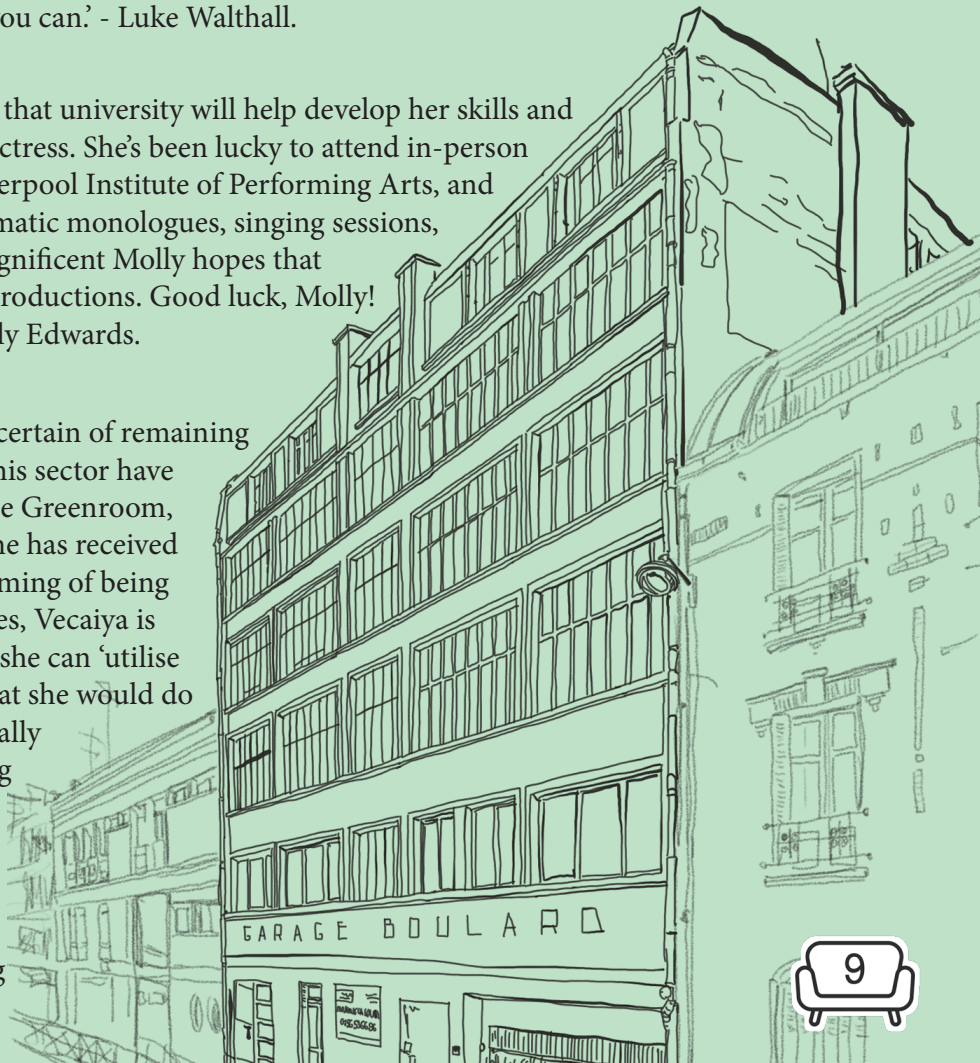
'Go into the audition with an open mind.' - Molly Edwards.

Vecaiya Cassel

Unsure of what exact course to take, Vecaiya is certain of remaining in the industry. Her creativity and passion for this sector have brought her a long way at Fallibroome and at the Greenroom, we're certain she will succeed! Outstandingly, she has received an offer in Design for Theatre and Screen. Dreaming of being able to develop a script for her to show audiences, Vecaiya is happy whatever route she goes down as long as she can 'utilise her creativity in some manner'. When asked what she would do if this wasn't the road she took, she enthusiastically answered, "I'd still definitely be doing something else creative!" We love this passion.

"Secure trust in yourself" - Vecaiya Cassel.

And to end, don't give up! Taking the next big step can be daunting and intimidating, but take it from these guys—nothing can beat the feeling of being accepted into your dream university!



SPRING CONCERT

"The Spring Concert was a huge success, celebrating a wealth of talent across the school. The Music department worked hard to present a polished and entertaining evening of music which was enjoyed by all. We are so lucky to work with a fantastic team of peripatetic staff, and really value the support from Ben Beer, Becky Finlow, Louise Renshaw and Carol Frost, who lead and direct the ensembles alongside the music staff. The pupils put in hours of hard work and dedication and the final performance was a true representative of the high standard of talent we have in the Music department.

The concert opened with Senior Windband performing 'Livin' on a Prayer'. Other highlights included the Songbirds performing 'Love Story' by Taylor Swift. This featured soloists from over 10 lower school students and they sounded amazing. Our fantastic Y12 A level Music student Ceri Jones performed a solo piece 'The Holy Well' by Peter Graham. It was also an opportunity to say a fond farewell to our Y13 leavers students. They performed solos as part of Senior Choir's performance of 'Our last Summer' by Abba. Fallibroome Brass Band brought some theatre to their performance as the whole band put their sunglasses on before they performed Mission Impossible!

The main event of the Spring Concert was a performance of Zadok the Priest. This prolific piece is part of the Classical music canon and a piece which was first composed in 1727 by Handel for King George II's Coronation, but has since been used in numerous other events, films and tv programmes due to its popularity. To undertake such a piece required a lot of work from our students. We also had a record number of staff come and sing with the choir to perform in this prestigious piece. It was a combined choir incorporating students from across the school singing in four part harmony. The accompanying orchestra was predominantly made up of our string players, plus a handful of brass players. We were also fortunate to have our friends from the RePlay String Orchestra join us. It was a huge triumph and a performance to be remembered! Huge congratulations to all involved!"

Mrs Mortimer



International Day of Dance

This year, the Fallibroome Dance Department invited Emergence Dance Company (a postgraduate dance company from Salford University) into school for the day.

The morning began with an energetic and robust workshop with our creative Year 10 GCSE students. They danced most magnificently. In the afternoon, the performance hall was filled with over a staggering 100 students from Marple Hall School, Winsford Academy and Eaton Bank Academy along with students from Fallibroome that take part in extracurricular dance companies. Each school shared a performance, followed by a performance of a piece called 'Surge' by Emergence Dance Company and a Q&A session with the choreographer Joss Arnott and the dancers.

Each of the students that took part in this day had a brilliant time like there was no tomorrow!

When asking Mrs Murray what she enjoyed the most about this special day, she excitingly responded, "We don't need much of an excuse to celebrate our art form in the dance department - we love dance , in all it's different forms and are proud to have a day to celebrate more formally with the Fallibroome community and other schools."

In addition, Mrs Murray exclaimed that "Dance for me is about self expression, about being in the moment . When you're dancing you are focused on movement, control of the body and expressing an emotion, feeling , theme or idea. It takes you out of your head and into your body. An opportunity to switch off from the constant 'to do' list that might be going on in your brain. I also love the creative act of choreography - it's something you never get bored of. "



But why is dance so important for young people? Why is it so essential that we celebrate it?

-> Physical exercise - dance is a brilliant way of developing strength, stamina, control and flexibility. It releases endorphins - famously the 'feel good' therapy. In fact, globally, around 45% of people who aren't professional dancers love to dance whether they are good at it or not - just imagine the joy they get after dancing in their kitchen once home from the most stressful day at work! It is an instant boost of happiness!

-> Dance develops our capacity to be resilient - it takes an awful lot of practice to master any dance style.

-> Creating choreography builds our capacity to be creative - this includes problem solving, making connections, thinking differently. And this is factually proven! Studies have shown that dance really improves our cognitive flexibility and ability to multi-task. Isn't this just breathtakingly phenomenal?

-> Working with others forces us to be collaborative, sensitive - building our ability to communicate and listen to each other.

-> Dance is important as another outlet for students to be expressive. Sometimes we can't always articulate how we feel.



As profesional dancer, Martha Graham famously said,

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul”

Alumni

Spotlight On: Dulcie Whadcock

Beginning her familiar Fallibroome adventure in 2011, Dulcie proudly left in 2018 after finishing her A-levels in English Literature, Theatre and French. She then went on to study French and Spanish at Cambridge University - so what does this have to do with performing arts as this is what this magazine is dedicated to!?

Well, life can take some unexpected turns and you may find yourself in places that you didn't expect…

Incredibly, Dulcie is now the Assistant Producer at BBC Radio 4 and Sony Music Entertainment. She has produced shows such as; *'The Kitchen Cabinet'* with Jay Rayner, *'Out To Lunch'* with Ade Edmondson, *'Chanel Connects'*, and *'Gardeners' Question Time'*.

Although she always knew she wanted to do something creative she never even considered radio when she was younger.

For many of us performing arts geeks, we'll all find it relatable that we hate doing work we don't enjoy, especially if that is what we have to end up doing for a living. In fact, we all have one thing in common and that is our passion and love for this sector of work!

For Dulcie, I mentioned before that she had never considered work in radio, but this was one of those unexpected yet amazing curveballs that led her to incredible experiences and opportunities. On her show 'The Kitchen Cabinet' she gets to travel around the UK trying and testing new foods - this fits as perfectly as a glove! Who doesn't love creativity, travel and food! Those who are looking to get into a similar industry should look at Dulcie's advice - learn firsthand from a professional!

"Start as early as you can, either volunteering at community radio stations or just teaching yourself to edit. You also shouldn't be afraid of getting into it. I did absolutely no radio whilst at school or uni but ended up working on Radio 4, so anything is possible."



I asked Dulcie where she would like to be in the next 10 years, outlining her next level of success before moving onto the one after that and so forth. Here is what she claimed -

"Ooooo, I reckon a BBC Radio host would be a dream job. I'd also love to host a podcast or be an actor - I probably have too many interests to know!"

And this is perfectly okay! We are young and have plenty of life ahead of us so let's make the most of it, and take on the amazing adventures life has to offer because we don't know the next curveball it will throw at us.

Who knows? Dulcie could become the next big star like Julia Roberts or you, yes you! You could become the next.. well, that is up to you to decide! Let life take you on its wonderful road like it did with Dulcie and you could find yourself following in her footsteps!

So Long...Farewell!

“Francis has always been the biggest advocate for the Performing Arts. His unwavering support has allowed us to do what we do and keep being creative each year. It has been a pleasure to work under such a supportive leader.” - Mrs Oldham

“Mr Power's support of the Performing Arts has been incredibly important ,particularly from a Dance perspective. Over the past 10 years or so, many schools have cut GCSE and A Level Dance from the curriculum due to the introduction of the EBACC (English Baccalaureate). Mr Power has publicly and regularly reinforced the importance of the Arts in the curriculum - their capacity to develop a wide range of transferable skills like problem solving, communication and team work to provide a different dimension to the curriculum. He has attended and championed all of our Performing Arts and Dance productions and shared his belief in the arts, stating publicly at the end of one of our Dance productions that 'Dance is here to stay' at Fallibroome. This is incredibly re-affirming and has meant that Dance at Fallibroome has been able to grow and develop over the years, with Fallibroome students performing at national events like the recent 'Making Moves' project with Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. We are really grateful for Mr Power’s continued support - it has been so appreciated. We are looking forward to continuing to grow and develop Dance at Fallibroome under the leadership of Mr Martland next academic year.” - Mrs Murray



“I would like to say a huge personal thank you to Mr Power for his unwavering support for the Performing Arts department at Fallibroome. He has always publicly declared that the arts are highly valued at our school and are therefore a key feature of our curriculum provision, despite national school budget cuts and educational reforms. Elsewhere this has meant that practical subjects like ours have been scaled down or lost completely, so our students should realise just how lucky they are to attend Fallibroome and have access to such a vibrant Performing Arts department. This has also been hugely reassuring and creatively liberating to me as a drama teacher, knowing that my job was safe and that I was part of a team who were actively supported and encouraged to create exciting curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for our students. Mr Power has also led by example, participating over the years in our acoustic concerts, and more recently as part of the String Group. It was a privilege to be able to perform alongside him in the massed choir / orchestra singing Zadok the Priest at his final Spring Concert. Mr Power you will be greatly missed, but I wish you a long and happy retirement, and hope to see you at many of our events in the future as a guest of honour!” - Mrs Munro











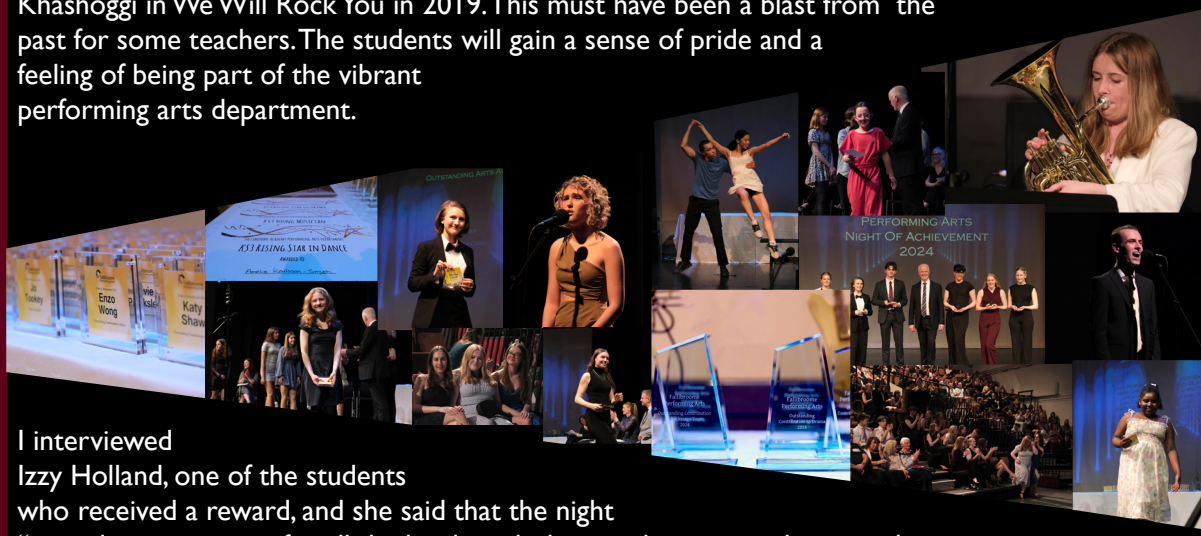


Performing Arts
Night of Achievement

So what is the Performing Arts Night of Achievement? This night rewards students, from Year 7 to Year 13, who have shown excellence or commitment, particularly those who have excelled and committed to multiple extracurricular clubs in performing arts in the last year. Awards included the Fergus Moran Award for Aspiring Rock Musician, Outstanding Contribution to Drama, etc. Mr. Power, who hands out the rewards, also received one himself: Outstanding Advocate for Performing Arts which rewarded his support for the department over the years.

Just under 200 students were awarded, and some of these students picked up multiple awards across multiple subjects!

There were also some astounding performances, like Ava Walsh who sang 'Pulled' from 'The Addams Family' and Ceri Jones who played 'The Holy Well from On Alderley Edge' from the Spring Concert. Another performance of 'For Forever' from Dear Evan Hansen was done by an alumni, ex-student Sam Jones, who played Seymour in The Little Shop of Horrors in 2018 and Khashoggi in We Will Rock You in 2019. This must have been a blast from the past for some teachers. The students will gain a sense of pride and a feeling of being part of the vibrant performing arts department.



I interviewed Izzy Holland, one of the students who received a reward, and she said that the night "provides recognition for all the hard work that pupils put into classes and extracurricular shows and performances. I've always found that the nights of achievement are fun and lighthearted but also play a pivotal role in making students feel valued, as they are being recognised for their talents in something other than academic work."

But this event isn't just for the students; teachers enjoy it too! It is an opportunity for both the staff and students to celebrate all of the fantastic productions, concerts, projects, and shows. When I asked Mrs. Fay, who leads the logistics of the event, whether she and other teachers enjoy these nights, she told me that "choosing performances for the evening and reviving numbers from shows and concerts is really exciting, and it is always great to make contact with Falli alumni students and invite them to come back, share what they are doing now, and watch them perform as part of the evening." Other teachers also enjoy it due to the department being constantly busy with shows and events that it's extremely rare they get to take a moment and reflect on some of the amazing work created with the students. "The Performing Arts Night of Achievement gives us the opportunity to reflect and celebrate all that we have achieved over the past year."

*If you wish to know who won awards, check out the list 'big winner',



SPOTLIGHT ON MRS. OLDHAM





Mrs. Oldham has been a teacher of drama and psychology for 14 years and has built up an array of experience and interesting stories to tell. She is also an alumni of the Fallibroome Academy.

Seemingly, drama has always been a huge part of her life; dance lessons from the age of 3 and she has been in a countless number of shows over the years. There's no wonder why this aspect has become so intrinsically fundamental to her career today.

Here's her journey to becoming a fantastic teacher:

She studied drama at GCSE and A-level, as well as psychology and English language, and "loved every minute." She completely surrounded herself with this passion, bringing props or ideas in as she thought of nothing else. She said about her drama lessons that "It's open and friendly, and I found that I was good at it." She was lucky to have a drama teacher and form tutor who really encouraged that—the exuberant Miss Wrigley. "A block drama studio was my home for a while, and it feels quite poetic that I've come full circle.".

From there, she went on to gain a joint honours in drama and education, and she was able to further her knowledge of psychology through the educational side. During her studies, she was given the interesting opportunity to join a unit on TV and film!

From there, Mrs. Oldham, being an alumni, found her way back to Fallibroome for an interview after being on maternity leave with her eldest son and (unsurprisingly) got the job! She said it was "very lovely to be back" and that there were "lots of familiar faces, some teachers were still here, and some others from my year group were working," which I'd imagine added to that "come full circle" feeling.

I asked Mrs. Oldham this question: 'What do you think is the best part of your subject for the students, and what lessons does it teach?' To which she gave me a response that summarised the unique and important ability that drama holds in teaching children in an exciting way, enabling us to grow and evolve: "What's unique to drama (and the arts) is the method of teaching. The expressive and investigative nature of the lessons allows students to explore. It gives you the freedom to think, create, and produce. In every single lesson, a student must communicate and negotiate with other people. This can be challenging sometimes, but it is a very important life skill and one they will use in all walks of life."

Teaching is a demanding profession, especially for positions in the creative arts, where teachers are always expected to produce new and engaging tasks for the students. Because of this, I asked, 'Has teaching ever been challenging for you?' To which Mrs. Oldham replied, "I have been teaching for 14 years, and it's always challenging! You spend a lot of time working with the students to help them choose the right plays, the right plots, and the right way to articulate their ideas. Things are always changing and evolving, and each year there's a brand new set of students in front of you, and you have to start all over again. The most challenging years were the COVID years. Thinking of practical things for students at home started to get really difficult. A couple of positives that came out of that time were the amount of focus on design, which I think some students really enjoyed, and also some wonderful monologue work from students who would never have performed in class the same way.".

The memories that are built up throughout the years of teaching an array of students and making close friendships are something that most people would struggle to forget. Mrs. Oldham's favourite moments of her career so far sound like something out of a heartwarming movie: "I think it's the Peter Pan moment that's my proudest. I loved driving the car on stage in We Will Rock You. Mostly backstage antics. I've been under platforms with 50 odd dancing kids over my head, changing wigs at the speed of light and costumes. The Addams Family was an incredible show, and we had a right laugh backstage, and I'll never forget being 7 months pregnant backstage of Matilda with a fan and spraying water on poor George Edwards, who was togged up in layers of tweed during a heatwave!"



I think it's safe to say Mrs. Oldham is a teacher loved and appreciated by her students, although this is hardly a surprise considering the way she has a profound appreciation for what she does, making each lesson she teaches a pleasure to be in.

Summer Dance Platform

This year's summer dance show was magical! All of the students performed beautifully and really showcased their skills. Each performance told its own unique story which really added depth to the show. It was an energetic evening and it was lovely to see the other students supporting one another from the audience; this is what a school family looks like!

Evie Hogden - *"I thoroughly enjoyed the dance show! The quartet was so much fun and put together in just four days and my duet in just two hours! I loved watching all the other dances and seeing how people had created such brilliant movements."*

Jessica Russell - *"For the summer dance platform, I performed a duet with Sophie Robson in year 10. I found a song that I really liked and then we thought of a storyline that related to the lyrics of the song. Our dance was about a girl who sadly lost her mum and the mum tried to lift her daughter up and make her feel better. Being in the summer dance platforms at Fallibroome is such an incredible opportunity as you get to have a good time with your friends while doing something that you love. It also helps you to get inspiration from the other dancers who are performing."*

Yuan-Yi Ho - *"Our dance was so fun to perform and we had a lot of laughs making and rehearsing the dance. Also we loved the beat of the song which helped us choose to do a commercial style dance. We only had 4 days to choreograph and learn the dance so it was quite challenging. However we managed to do it and just enjoyed dancing together on show night!"*









MARY POPPINS

Cast









Mary Poppins	*Amelia Carolan*
Jane Banks	*Imogen West*
Michael Banks	*Ted Rourke*
Burt	*William Langley*
George Banks	*William Harding*
Winifred Banks	*Jess Russell*
Mrs Brill	*Josie Munro*
Robertson Ay	*Millie McCall*
Miss Andrew	*Verity Walthall*
Katie Nana	*Bella Lee*
Neleus	*Isla Gibb*
Bird Woman	*Tanvi Kutty*
Miss Smythe	*Aurelia Mai*
Chairman	*Hugo Johnston*
Vonhustler	*Leo De Jager*
John Northbrook	*Isaac Rooza*
Miss Corry	*Laicie Bateman*
Policeman	*Henry West*
Messenger	*Rachel Pointon*









Exclusive Cast Interview

Grab your umbrellas! Mary Poppins has flown her way onto the stage and the cast of the new production are excited to show you what they have in store! Amelia Carolan, who plays Mary Poppins and her co-star, Jess Russell, who plays Winifred Banks, agreed to an exclusive interview to talk about the show, their roles and their experiences.

What are your roles and what's it like playing the characters?

Amelia: *""I'm Mary Poppins and it's quite a big role, so it's been an interesting experience. I haven't really done any big roles like this before. I have to learn a lot of lines and I have to boss this lot around!"*

Jess: *"I'm the mum. It's quite fun. I get to do the taking care of the kids and I also have so much time to hang out with the other actors. It's a good role because I have stuff to say and I haven't done a proper main acting role. I have done other acting roles but normally not as big as this one. So it's quite a big step up!"*

What other acting roles have you done previously?

Amelia - *"I haven't really done many acting roles before but I was in the ensemble for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."*

Jess - *"I've had multiple roles in other productions before such as: Amanda in Matilda, I was Kate in Legally Blonde, and I was Violet in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"*

How have the rehearsals been?

Jess - *"There have been a lot, recently. They've been quite busy, but they're actually really fun!"*

In what way has the show helped with forming relationships with other cast members?

Amelia - *"You get to talk to a lot of people that you wouldn't really get to usually. For example half of the actors are year 8s who I wouldn't really know due to being in a different year group, but because of the show you kind of get to interact and properly know who they are."*



How do you learn your lines?

Jess - *"What I do the second I get my script, is I go through it and I highlight all my lines. And that just helps me so I can find them easier. Then once I have read through them a few times I'll get my mum to test me.*

Amelia - *"Similar to Jess, I highlight pretty much everything that's mine in there. I think **Will** and **Ted** have done something similar, too. They've highlighted each other's scripts as their characters have a lot of lines with each other as they have a lot of interactions. When one of them speaks, the other one does."*

Scene It All



Wednesday

This Netflix series starring Jenna Ortega is based on the comics and film The Addams Family. As is probably guessable by the title, Wednesday focuses on Wednesday Addams, the daughter of Morticia and Gomez Addams. Wednesday possesses psychic powers and is sent to Nevermore Academy due to the chaos she causes at a number of other schools. Due to her cold and distant personality, she struggles to make friends except the ones who force themselves in, like Enid Sinclair, her roommate. Although she wasn't open to the idea of joining another school, she ends up making friends, gets engrossed in solving a local murder mystery, which leads to danger and many unfolding secrets, and even ends up getting caught up in a complicated love triangle.

Wednesday is described on Wikipedia as a 'coming-of-age, supernatural comedy horror' and I would wholeheartedly agree with this. The 'boarding school for unusual children' setting, which consists of different species of outsiders: furs (werewolves), moving hands ('thing'), scales (sirens), fangs (vampires), and stoners (gorgons), combine to create a laugh-out-loud, family-friendly, fun, and bingeable watch.

I was incredibly impressed with Jenna Ortega's ability to become Wednesday and make her a loveable character who we root for until the end. I loved the costume designs and props, which added an aesthetic value, making the show worth watching simply because of its unique style. Uncovering the Easter eggs throughout is also exciting.

Another season is coming!



Heroes & Humans of Football

Each episode of this podcast hosted by Simon Kuper and Mehreen Khan, explores the history of a different footballer and the path to their current success. Kuper and Khan's extensive knowledge of football creates a factual and well-presented podcast that is well researched and structured.

It aims to humanise footballers in the spotlight, which allows us, as supporters, to understand our favourites and connect with them on a deeper level. Even if you have no interest in football, the culture and lives of the footballers discussed branch into a wider history and general culture, which all will find interesting. For example, in one of their recent episodes, 'Mo Salah: Egyptian King', briefly touches on Muslim and Egyptian history.

Argylle



The 2024 release of Argylle, directed by Matthew Vaughn, is a spy action comedy film about an introverted writer, Elly Conway, who is about to write her fifth Argylle book but struggles with writer's block and so finds herself on a train to get advice from her mother, Ruth. But things start to turn dangerous, and Elly realises her books are much more than just books.

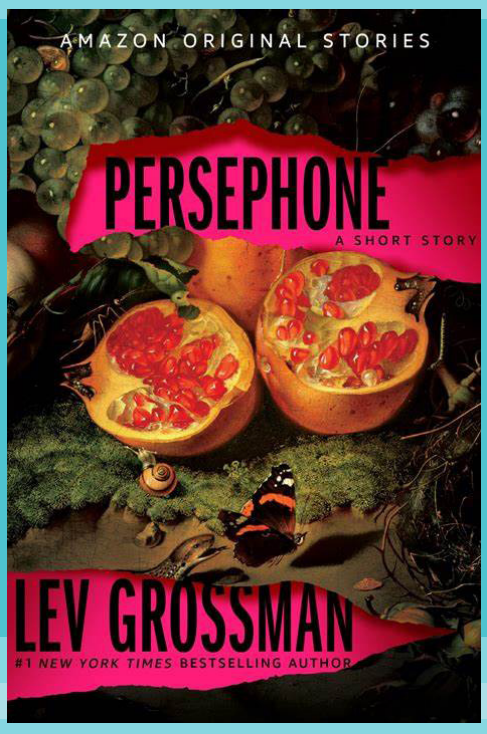
Argylle was very unusual, both stylistically and cinematographically. It is reminiscent of comic books, and there were pointers to classic spy films. Vaughn took some inspiration from Japanese culture (hence the Scottish fold cat, Alfie, who spends half the film in a cat backpack with a window), which added to its uniqueness. To me, it seemed to play out almost like I was reading a book.

What I liked most about this film was that its aim was to make people happy and bring a bit of joy to the seemingly melancholic vibe of most films in the film industry at the moment. It shows that good triumphs over evil, and so we should only distribute goodness into the world.

Save this film for a rainy day and enjoy the chaotic journey that the film will no doubt take you on.

It is allegedly the first in an Argylle trilogy, according to Deadline, so keep your eyes open for the next release.

Persephone by Lev Grossman



A teenage wallflower loses herself and walls off her feelings after her dad mysteriously disappears. She is simply focusing on surviving high school, when all of a sudden those emotions of anger, betrayal, and hurt break free and release a power she never knew was there.

Persephone is a short story, about 32 pages long, and a very easy read. It tells the tale of teenage angst and aims to identify with teens that are wanting to understand who they are. Bear in mind that this book is the second in a series of seven called Into Shadow, but these can be read as standalones.

It left me wanting to know more and was very reminiscent of early sci-fi and dystopian novels. Being reminiscent of Marvel films, Percy Jackson, and the Maze Runner film, the series allows us to be absorbed in a genre we love and experience those same feelings of tension and excitement for what secrets will be uncovered next.

DRAMA MENAI









"Drama Menai is an exciting and highly creative weekend residential aimed at Year 10 Drama students. During Friday evening, the students became immersed in the atmospheric space of the Chapel, exploring many aspects of performance, before embarking on two more intensive days of carefully planned workshops, designed to stretch and challenge their skills." - Mr Hogden

This great weekend typically consists of several workshops run by industry experts - the perfect experience for Year 10 drama students. This year, " they were guided through an array of experiences designed to unpack stimulus material, develop structure and improvisation techniques, and refine material through (for example) immersive set design, creating dialogue, narrative-led movement and physical theatre."

Daniel Cambridge ran the residential weekend. He has worked with many theatre companies and educational establishments, and alongside carefully selected theatre and teacher practitioners. Additionally, this year included Lindsey Brocklebank, Dan Meigh and Chris Tomlinson to help run several other workshops.

Usually, students take part in a series of activities that centre around a main theme. They will incorporate dance, acting and maybe even singing into the weekend - a theatre student's dream!

Not only did the Fallibroome pupils set an amazing example towards the workshop leaders but also the other school - "Our students were able to step outside of their comfort zone and attempt new things with the help of professional artists, who they felt privileged to work with. As a result of the weekend, Lindsey Brocklebank has visited Fallibroome to continue working with our Yr10 Drama students to support with their devised performance pieces."

New friendships were even made! Fallibroome, " we were joined by students from Sandbach and Sale High. It was great to see Fallibroome students performing alongside fellow Drama students from other schools. This helped them to broaden their performance skills and also expanded their friendships and ability to share new ideas."

But what really is so beneficial about this trip? It gives students the amazing opportunity to meet and work with like minded people.
Mr Hogden found that "The weekend has proved to be an invaluable experience for all those who attend. This is an excellent opportunity for students to experiment and express themselves in a highly creative forum alongside students from other schools. And that the weekend consisted of intensive workshops, culminating in shared performance work which enabled students to develop key skills and techniques to prepare them for their forthcoming GCSE modules."



As always, we can't wait for next year's trip and to see the experiences that those students make then!



Fallibroome Performing Arts Department



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