



YOUNG ARCHER



The cast of *Honk!* from the Create Theatre School for children. Photo by Jane Begamie.

A honking good show

Create Theatre School have scored a hit with their latest show *Honk!* at the Finchley Youth Theatre, raising £300 for The Bobath Centre.

Based on the story of The Ugly Duckling, the show's young cast impressed everyone with their professional performances.

YOUNG ARCHER sent Alice (11), Isobel (9) and Grace (7), to review the show on its opening night on 15 May.

Grace said: "I thought the Cat (Kiera Ellerker) was the best actor because she didn't forget any of her lines, and I really liked the Frog (Eden Cronin) because she made me laugh when she said things like "Who'd want to snog a frog!"

Isobel said: "I was inspired by Ida (Alice Rooney) and Drake (Helen Males) because they were like a real mum and dad."

Alice said: "I liked the Goose airline because it was very creative and I thought the costumes were imaginative. They used yellow caps for the baby ducks and a white suit for Ugly when he turned into a swan."

And backstage...

During the interval our reviewers interviewed Alice, Helen, Katherine Conlon (Ugly) and Caroline Dunne (Grace, the finest Duck on the lake):

Q: "Is it hard to remember all your lines?"

A: "You practise and you think you know them but it is hard when you are on stage on your own. If we get stuck we look at Kate (Kate Roscoe, Musical Director and prompt)".

Q: "Lots of what you have to say is very funny. How do you stop yourself laughing on stage?"

A: "You get to say your lines so many times that you get used to it."

Q to Ugly: "You play a sad character. What does it feel like to be the one left out on stage?"

A: "It is easy to relate the part to people in my class or things that happen at school".

Find out more about future productions at www.createtheatreschool.co.uk

Festival of Music, Drama and Dance

By Betti Blatman

The North London Festival was in full swing with a wide range of musical and dramatic talent of all ages from 17 April to 22 May at the United Reformed Church, Tetherdown, N10.

At the Instrumental/Strings Recital section on 5 May the Adjudicator, John Crawford, was so impressed with the competitors' outstanding performances that he selected three finalists: Balint Kiss (who flew over from Hungary to compete) on guitar, Makoto Nakata on violin and Indira Grier on cello, who was finally selected to win

the prize.

The Prizewinners' Concert on 21 May was a celebration of all that had gone on during the course of the Festival.

The President's Prize Competition on 22 May featured top musicians from the Festival who were invited to compete for a cup and cash prize donated by our President, the renowned conductor Sir Colin Davis CH CBE. For further information about the Festival visit www.northlondonfestival.org.uk or contact Rachel Douglas, Chair of Executive Committee on rachel.douglas@mac.com or 020 7485 1467.

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Father's Day

By Diana Cormack

Father's Day is on 21 June, which makes sense because it is a Sunday when, with luck, he won't be going to work. Mother's Day in this country is always on a Sunday. This is because it comes from a very old British tradition connected with the church and its correct name is Mothering Sunday. Father's Day also has a connection with the church, but it is not as old as Mothering Sunday and it did not start in this country.

Like many of our newer special days, it began in the United States of America. A woman called Sonora Louise Smart was the eldest of six children. When their mother died, their father took on the task of bringing them up. One Mother's Day (which they have in mid-May) Sonora was listening to a church sermon and decided that there should also be a day to honour fathers. After all, her father had been wonderful to his children. She began to talk to local people about it and, just one year later, her hometown of Spokane in the state of Washington celebrated the very first Father's Day.

That was in 1910 and Sonora chose 19 June because it was her father's birthday. In 1924 the US president, Calvin Coolidge, proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Over the years it grew more and more popular in the USA and became a permanent national day six years before Sonora died in 1978. By then this day devoted to good fathers had spread to many other countries, including Great Britain. Now, ninety-nine years since it began, it has become a tradition.

So, on June 21 this year, remember that we are able to celebrate this special day because one woman was so grateful for all that her father had done.

Triple triumph for Christ's College

Christ's College Finchley, the only Specialist Mathematics and Computing comprehensive boys' school located in Barnet, has won three awards for academic achievement in the last two months.

Two of the awards are from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) and the third is the secondary KS3 Geography Quality Mark Award Spring Award 2009.

The first SSAT award is for being one of the top 20 nationally highest performing Specialist Schools in the UK. The school was presented with a plaque to commemorate this award at a presentation dinner and ceremony at the Royal College of Physicians on 10 March.

The second SSAT award is for being the eighth most improved Specialist School in the UK with

very high levels of achievement in KS4, including English and Maths. This award was presented on 2 April, once again at the Royal College of Physicians.

The third award is the Secondary KS3 Geography Quality Mark Award Spring Award 2009, awarded in recognition of excellence in teaching and learning in geography. Head Teacher of Christ's College Finchley, Gary Tucker, commented: "These outcomes are testimony to the blend of hard work and commitment shown by students and staff as well as the effectiveness of our improvement strategies."



Rachel working at the tiny table. Photo by Diana Cormack

Welcome to the Teen Room

By Rachel Geral

The recent revamp of East Finchley Library has seen the installation of a teenage room kitted out for 12-18 year olds. Rachel Geral, of Strawberry Vale, gives her views on this new resource. Rachel, 17, a former pupil of Martin Primary School, is studying A level biology, psychology, PE and drama at Woodhouse College and hopes to become an occupational therapist.

East Finchley Library has just opened a study room dedicated to teenagers like myself, and I only have three words to say: "I LOVE IT!"

I used to have to travel all the way to Hendon Library in order to find a space that allowed me to relax, feel comfortable, and revise all at the same time.

Now that I have a library that does this for me locally, with easy access to revision guides and books related to my age range, it's so much more convenient. But it's for all of us teens to share, so why not come down and check it out?

You'll feel way more comfortable in the teen room, and not so worried about interrupting an older person; for once we'll be out of their way. And you can concentrate in a room isolated from children crying or playing noisily and from the constant tapping of computers, an offer hard to refuse.

As it's new there are still some improvements needed, for example longer or more tables. If we are going to be away from the world we may as well be evenly distributed. Also more revision

guides for A level students as we need more material. And a brighter colour-scheme because studies show that colour affects our learning.

Apart from that I know that East Finchley made a rewarding investment in us youngsters, by creating this teen room.

New name, same game

East Finchley's local tennis club has cut its ties with the Muswell Hill United Reform Church and is going it alone as Fortis Green Tennis Club.

With four shale courts in a tranquil garden setting, the club accommodates all levels of player, with a coach on hand to get the best out of returners and children, as well as the seriously competitive player.

The club is currently accepting new members. For more information, visit the website at FortisGreenTennis.co.uk or phone the membership secretary on 020 8883 7723.