



Standing tall: Nia Hearn in training for her debut alongside professional dancers

Behind the scenes at the ballet

Over the past few months, East Finchley student **Nia Hearn** was lucky to be a part of the cast for English Youth Ballet's production of 'Cinderella in Hollywood'. Here she reports on her experience.

The whole journey started when a few friends and I auditioned and we were lucky enough to be invited to be a part of the English Youth Ballet cast. I remember being very nervous but it was all worth it because I ended up loving it so much.

After the audition we moved on to the casting, which was a great chance to meet the professional principal dancers and show them what I was capable of. Not long after that, the intensive rehearsals began. These rehearsals were really engaging and I learnt so much from being taught by amazing dancers who I looked up to.

Before I knew it, the rehears-

als were finished and the shows were about to begin at the New Wimbledon Theatre. Despite the show days being long and busy, they were probably my favourite parts.

I woke up buzzing, got ready and did my hair and makeup. Once we got to the theatre it was time to warm up and then straight into the shows. I loved being on stage and I felt so proud as we took our final bows of how much I had accomplished in a few months. I am so grateful to the English Youth Ballet for making this experience possible and I can't wait for it to come around again next year.

Coming soon

In the meantime, I am now busy getting ready to perform in *The Tales of Beatrix Potter* with my dance school, Little London Ballet, which we will be performing at the Artsdepot North Finchley on 25 and 26 January. Tickets are on sale at www.artsdepot.co.uk

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Selected shaving for men's causes

Ten teachers at the Archer Academy in East Finchley joined forces last term by cultivating moustaches to raise funds for Movember, a cause that focuses on men's mental health, suicide prevention and cancer research.

Team Archer was proud to raise £3,800 through a range of initiatives including bake sales, staff vs student football matches, quizzes, and the generosity of friends, family and the wider school community.



Face furniture: Teachers from the Archer Academy show off their Movember moustaches

Nursery celebrates Ofsted rating

East Finchley nursery The Learning Experience has been rated Good in all areas following an inspection by Ofsted in October. Staff at the nursery on East End Road were praised for creating "a bright and happy environment where every child is greeted by their name and a big smile."

Additionally, inspectors found the nursery team were dedicated to building strong partnerships with parents. The report stated parents at the



Good stuff: Staff and children at The Learning Experience celebrate their Ofsted rating

nursery "value the positive contribution the staff make to their children's lives and the progress their children have made in their development."

Elaine Dann, Centre Director of TLE East Finchley, said she was incredibly proud of the centre's Good rating. She said: "This outcome fully reflects all

the hard work and dedication of the team to ensure children are nurtured in a fun and happy atmosphere."

The Learning Experience runs more than 400 early education centres for children aged six weeks to six years in the US. It began its expansion into the UK in 2020, where three nurseries now operate.

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