

Dance Competition

2006



The audience's reaction and the smiles on the dancers' faces after the grand finale was inspirational. Watching a dance I had choreographed actually being performed to such a responsive audience was remarkable, knowing that this was achieved through teamwork, leadership and dedication. This was an amazing end to such an entertaining night.

It all started in one of our weekly meetings for our small company Vermilion set up within the school



as part of the Young Enterprise scheme. Ben Butler and I sat and discussed new ideas often getting really excited and then finding millions of problems! Although the idea of a dance competition did not seem an easy alternative, it was a challenge that I looked forward to organising. I sometimes wonder why I let myself get carried away in such ventures, but I was really eager to lead such a project.

Auditions started in January and were very encouraging. I was anxious to see the standard of dance; I was wary that this was the first dance competition in the EIC and was worried that it would not gain a great response. I was proved wrong and from the reaction of secondary students I had a gut feeling the night was going to be great.

I would have loved to say that the auditions were the start of the preparations but it had all begun a long time before and continued until the day of the event. Preparations started straight away after the decision was made to carry out the competition; this was when the true shock came. It was a great learning experience for us and at times I had to go through disappointing moments but did learn how things were done. I found directing the show just as exciting as the logistics behind it. The team and I designed posters,

advertised the event, sold the tickets and allocated appropriate finance in the hope of a good return and of course produced and directed the show itself. Every issue had to be examined: the catering, the seating, and promotion, even remembering to collect the keys for after school rehearsals.

This whole process was very satisfying and the respect I got from



all the dancers was magnificent. I had never directed before but knew what I wanted from the final show, the problem was getting where I wanted to be in the time the team and the dancers had available. However it seemed to come together well, that's not to say that there weren't various unexpected problems throughout; even the night before I was checking, double checking and checking again that everything was done.

The anticipation from the team the dancers and I, on the day, was nerve racking. The performance was due to start at 8.30, it did run over slightly but it did not seem to matter and the audience was in high spirits as the performance began. The night started with a sharp introductory dance from Sixth Formers, Anisa and Emma. This was followed by the first competition act Imogen, Olivia, Alicia and Georgia dancing a lively hip hop. Koen and Sirage, the only boys on the night, performed an impressive dance to Carwash. To finish the first half lone closed with a stunning 'Can't Fight the Moonlight,'



accompanied by the backing dancers.

Opening the second half Ginny blew the audience away with a creative dance to Beyonce. Yasmin and Alex L mixed styles, creating an energized dance, while Leanne and Georgina performed a tight, sexy dance to finish the competition acts. The grand finale was then performed to complete the night of dances, with a sense of enjoyment and rhythmic interpretation.

We were very privileged to have Miss Fitzsimmons, Miss Hughes and Mrs Stevenson as our judges for the night. They commented on the dancers after every performance. The audience waited anxiously for their final decision... Alex L and Yasmin were our proud winners and were presented with a trophy to congratulate them on their unique act, which had stunned the audience.

From my personal view I loved everything about the show, It was a fantastic business experience and I gained lots of useful insight and knowledge into running an event, as well as the large revenue for the company shareholders. I have to thank Ben for his help, Mr. Watts and all teachers that supported and encouraged us and of course, not forgetting the technical crew and Alex Ward for helping the night run as smoothly as it did. The great response from the audience during the night made the team and I feel thrilled and I hope that the performers enjoyed it as much as I



did. I have already been asked about a dance competition next year and hope for an even greater response. So everyone, start working on those moves!

Lauren Revell

