

Showcase 2008

Young stars at Newhampton Centre showcased their talents in an all singing, all dancing evening extravaganza.

Students studying the Performing Arts National Diploma tapped, tangoed, acted and sang their way through a lively night of entertainment.

Newcomers Rachel Andrew and Martyn Davies, from the first year, performed a breathtaking Tango with such passion, style, superb story telling and sheer professionalism that they stole the show.

There were other fine performances from the first years and the opening monologue – about what it is to be a performer by Claire Cummins set the tone for the quality of the rest of the night. Lisa Davies displayed a fine voice in her duet with Chantelle, and Jordan Roberts showed great promise in her vocal solo.

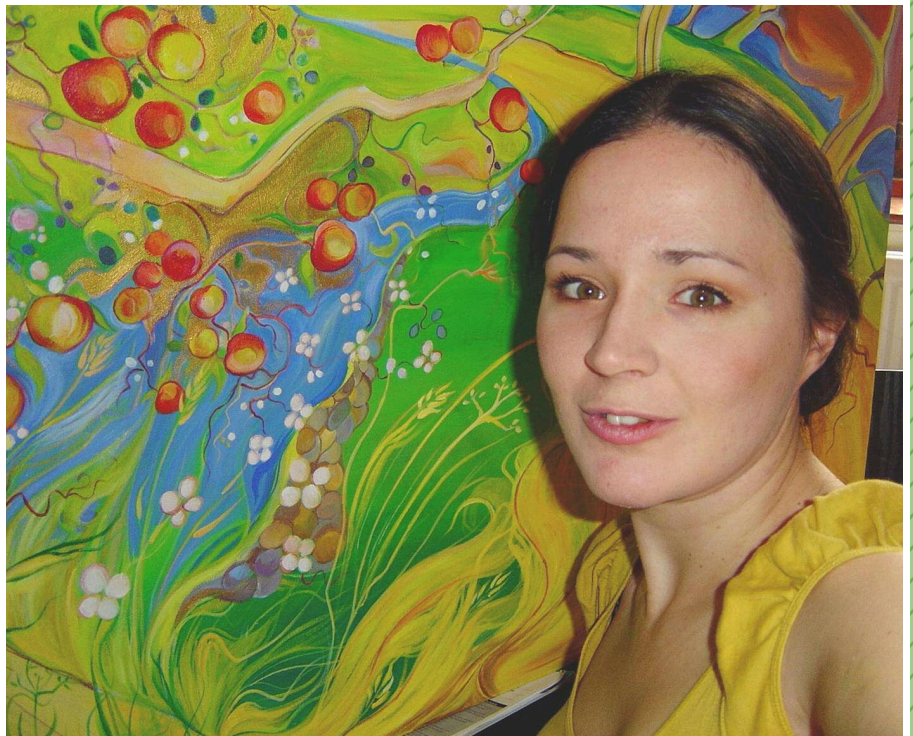
As usual there were many fine performances by the acknowledged talent of the second years. Jess and Jodie gave fine monologues and there was superb singing from Tom, Stephen and Ashley, together with another beautiful solo from Elise.

Tom, Jade and James took to the stage to give smooth dancing performances, while Collene provided an entertaining tap routine. There were also lively dance routines and a challenging physical theatre performance.

Courtney Robinson, from the first diploma, did exceptionally well to hold his own in this company with a nice performance of a song, written by himself, together with a dance ensemble.

And then there were the compères. Second years Gavin and James, reprising their role from last year, were joined by first years, Oliver and Martin.

Chris Harding



REBECCA CRESSWELL WITH ONE OF HER PIECES.

COLLEGE LEARNING ASSISTANT IS IN THE FRAME

A learning assistant from City of Wolverhampton College has her hands full with both books and brushes as she juggles her college career with her work as an artist.

Rebecca Cresswell spends part of the week in the Learning Resource Centre at the Wellington Road Campus, helping students with their studies.

But outside the college the 28-year-old is a professional artist, producing specialised work for hospitals, hospices and health units.

Her vibrant paintings are hung in buildings up and down the country, creating a calming and attractive environment for both patients and staff.

A recent project saw four large artworks installed at Compton Hospice, which had been awarded a government grant to improve the appearance of the

department. Rebecca held five arts activity workshops that allowed patients and staff to get involved in the designs, which proved such a hit she has been asked to deliver a further series.

Rebecca said: "I have always had an

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interest in art from a young child, and studied art both at school and through a degree in illustration.

"As part of my learning I read a lot of articles looking at how therapeutic art can be in clinical settings - evidence shows it's good to have

something nice to look at on the walls – while patients and staff really enjoy getting involved in the projects."

Rebecca has commissions in the pipeline for Bromsgrove Hospice, Hasting St Michael's Hospice, Sussex and Birmingham Children's Hospital, and is also hoping to work alongside New Cross Hospital in the future.