

Springs Dance Company

10 College Road, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4QX
SpringsDC@aol.com, www.springsdancecompany.org.uk
00 44 (0)1634 817 523 / 00 44 (0)7775 628 442

Summer 2007

Welcome to the Springs Dance Company summer newsletter!

We are all enjoying the early onset of summer and are currently touring *Without Words*, a production that has already been described as "the best show yet" by audiences in the South East. The Company is also proud to premier *Huh?* by Jamie Dryburgh (former dancer with CandoCo) and the hugely powerful *Refuge* by Springs' very own Maggie Kwan.

As we look forward to the rest of 2007, we are excited by our first ever tour of UK theatres with a double-bill of *The Wemmick Story*, based on "You are Special" by Max Lucado, and *Waterbugs and Dragonflies* based on the book by Doris Stickney. Come and support us at a theatre near you and bring the whole family! Keep an eye on our website for venues as they are confirmed and we look forward to seeing you there.

Ruth Hughes, Artistic Director



Journey of the Magi dances on...

Last December saw the 10th Anniversary tour of our popular classic, *Journey of the Magi*, and was our most successful tour of the show yet. Once more, audiences from around the UK were treated to a fun but poignant evening of dance as they prepared for the festive season.

Highlights of the tour included a special post-performance seminar for youth club members in Surbiton, in which dancer Gemma Bonner was grilled about faith, dance and Christmas; and a very exciting visit from David Bintley CBE to the performance in Birmingham! David Bintley is Director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet and an internationally renowned choreographer. He spoke with the dancers after the show and expressed his enjoyment of the performance. He also showed his enthusiasm and support for the Company by becoming a Patron.

The tour also led to the creation of a link with St Mildred's Church in Croydon, who are currently supporting the work of Springs in many invaluable ways.

We are planning to tour a new version of *Journey of the Magi* this year and would love to come to your church! We are currently taking bookings for December, so please contact the office on 01634 817523 or SpringsDC@aol.com for further details if you would like to book a performance for your church or school.

Back by popular demand!

Following the success of the **workshops** held in London earlier this year, *Springs* is pleased to continue its series of popular **open workshops**, with two more to be held this spring:

Workshop 3: **Ideas for Youth** Saturday 19th May 2007

Workshop 4: **Inspiring Improvisation** Saturday 9th June 2007

The workshops will be held at **Lee Green Community Church, Lampmead Road, London SE12 8QJ**, and will run from 10.30am – 4.30pm (coffee at 10am). **The cost of a day's workshop is £25, or £18 for concessions and Friends of SDC.**

Visit our website or contact the office for a booking form and further details



Europe's foremost professional Christian dance company

Workshops for Primary School children

During January and February, *Springs* had the pleasure of returning to St Peter & St Paul's Primary School in Pett's Wood, where we explored the story of 'You are Special' with children from Years 1-5. Through fun workshops that explored the story, children at the school had the chance to experience being Wemmicks, and learnt in a new way about their importance to God.

Workshop activities included a talent show for Wemmicks with 'gold stars'; feeling the difference between being given 'gold stars' and 'grey dots'; exploring Eli the carpenter's workshop; learning to move like a Wemmick; and even having a Wemmick disco! At the end of the project, children performed their well-practised dances, drawing an audience of over 250 on a day with heavy snow! The children brilliantly communicated the message 'You are Special', and showed everybody that truly 'God loves you, woo-pah wah-hey!'

We are looking forward to working with more schools on The Wemmick Story as we embark upon our theatres tour in June, and hope to see you at one of our performances!



Tour Dates

- 14 July:** West Wing, Slough
01753 823 710
- 22 Sept:** The Hawth Theatre,
Crawley
01293 553 636
- 22 Oct:** Epsom Playhouse
01372 742 555
- 31 Oct:** Corn Exchange,
Newbury
01635 582 666

More dates TBC - see our website for updates

So, are we doing the right thing?

Springs is now in its 28th year and the use of dance in western Christianity dates back centuries. There is also Biblical evidence that people have danced in praise to God for thousands of years. *Springs* believes that dance is an important expression of faith and that our ministry through dance is significant. In a recent interview for 'The Salvationist', dancer Gemma Bonner explained more...

First of all, God has given us all different gifts and talents. Musical worship is the norm in our Churches, but not everyone is comfortable with expressing worship that way. We are all individuals, and our response to God should stem from the uniqueness with which He has made us – if dance is what we can do, then dance we should!

Another compelling reason to use dance within Christianity, is its power to communicate. It can stimulate the imagination and

Become a Friend!

By becoming a Friend of *Springs*, you can help keep the Company alive and make our vision a reality. Friends give whatever they can afford each month. All we ask is that this contribution is regular to enable us to plan our work. For more details about how to become a Friend, please contact the office.

communicate in ways that words sometimes fail to. Dance can change a mood, create character or even evoke an emotion or reaction. Dance crosses all language, speech and auditory barriers to get a message through to people in a way that they can understand. What better way to try and communicate the indescribable truths of God?

Finally, dance is a potentially powerful tool for outreach. Today's culture is full of dance in many forms, particularly for young people. Dance is a language they understand - surely there is no better way to engage people with the Gospel than through something they already know and love?

Summer School 2007

23rd – 27th July



Springs Dance Company is delighted to present its ever popular summer school. Participants of all levels of dance experience are invited to apply for a creative, inspiring and refreshing week of dance and fellowship.

The Summer School will take place at a **brand new space** this year: St Mildred's Centre in East Croydon, and will run from 10:30am to 4:30pm Monday – Thursday and from 10.30am till late on the Friday, with a performance on the last night.

For more detailed information and a booking form, please contact the office or visit our website.

CREDO

Classical meets contemporary in this inspiring and powerful concert with choral and gospel singers performing alongside *Springs*, composed by John Featherstone.

Sat 30th June: Sevenoaks
01732 740 340

Wed 4th July: Guildford
01483 547 870

www.johnfeatherstone.com

elevate 2007

Our apprentices will also be touring this summer as *elevate dance company* from May - July.

To see this exciting young company in action check out our website for tour dates near you!