



Arts Awards and Leicestershire Arts Dance Activate

Bronze and Silver Arts Awards participants at Leicestershire Arts Dance Activate have been busy this year with some creative and valuable experiences that they have been able to use towards their portfolios.

Firstly, all of the young people participating were absolutely thrilled when the Access Fund gave them the chance to experience working with English National Ballet and meet dance act Flawless at the Royal Concert Theatre Nottingham in June. The experience was part of a trip to see the ballet company and the Britain's Got Talent's finalists perform in an innovative and exuberant new collaboration that featured street dance and ballet called 'Against Time'.

Arts Awards Advisors Jane Fletcher and Tracey Sandford organized the trip so that the young people were able to see first hand how a dance performance could be created by fusing the elegance of classical [ballet](#) choreography, with the [hip-hop](#) disco and jazz routines of street dance.

To start the day all participants took part in a special workshop hosted on stage by English National Ballet dance artists. Everyone then had exclusive access to watch the ballet company in rehearsals and meeting up with the Flawless crew, before watching what was a highly polished and exciting performance in the afternoon. The meeting with Flawless was actually a surprise following a plan hatched by one of the younger Bronze Awards participants, Sophie, who took it upon herself to contact Flawless manager to tell her that everyone was coming as part of their Arts Awards.

Later on in July Leicestershire Arts Dance Activate staged a production at Curve Theatre Leicester on Monday 9th July in a double celebration of their first full year anniversary and as part of Big Dance 2012 celebration week.

All Bronze and Silver Arts Awards participants took part and experienced performing a range of different dance numbers from Ravel's Bolero right through to classical ballet, jazz, contemporary and musical theatre. Joining all the young people on stage to play their part in this special event was Leicester-Shire music service's Youth Big Band, conducted by Patrick White and featuring young musicians aged from 15 to 18. The performance was particularly special in that six silver arts awards participants used the opportunity to work together on a special project to plan, research and create the content for Big Dance Activate 2012 celebratory programme.

Leicestershire Arts Dance Activate runs free Arts Awards sessions alongside normal weekly classes and workshops and regularly offers opportunities for all young people to experience something new.