

# A BIGLITTLE hello

This has been a year of change with many new faces joining BIGLITTLE in 2008 so we thought we would take this opportunity to introduce new staff and say our thanks to people who have left.



Sarah Cooper

Footlight Youth Theatre Director

Sarah trained as a dancer and has worked in cabaret, choreographing a number of summer shows. Sarah has also appeared in local amateur theatre companies & was a founder member/performer with the original Big Little Theatre Company. Last year she directed Poole & Parkstone Production's Autumn Concert and will be directing their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert in 2009.



Kate Gibbs

Drama Teacher & Focus Youth Theatre Associate Director

Kate was a BIGLITTLE student for 8 years and became an assistant teacher from the age of 16. After leaving she completed a 3 year degree in Music and Vocal Teaching. Upon graduating Kate was offered a job with BIGLITTLE and now teaches acting classes, co-directs Focus youth theatre and directs Summer Schools.



Fiona Leitch

Company Stage Manager & Production Co-ordinator

Fiona has been involved with BIGLITTLE for 3 years but joined us as a full time member of staff in July. She previously gained a Diploma in Professional Production Skills at Guilford School of Acting and spent 2 years at the University of Winchester as a Theatre Technician.



Errin Skingsley

Administration & Marketing

Errin joined BIGLITTLE in September and currently works in the areas of Administration & Marketing. She graduated in 2007 with a degree in Arts & Event Management and has had many years experience working in various theatres and organisations including Theatre Royal Plymouth, Pure Funk and the BBC.



Caroline Stead

Dance Teacher & Assistant Choreographer

Caroline is another of our staff who used to be a student at BIGLITTLE before going on to train at Poole College & Tiffany Theatre College in Essex. She has also played the role of Alice at Adventure Wonderland and returns there this year to take part in their pantomime Aladdin. For BIGLITTLE, Caroline is part of the Skills Development team of teachers and Assistant Choreographer for Footlights.



Kristin Williams

Qualified I.S.T.D Dance Teacher & Senior Choreographer

Kristin was trained by Elizabeth Harrison for 16 years and also trained at Performers College & Broadway dance centre in New York. She has performed & choreographed many shows including variety performances at Sadlers Wells and the London Palladium. She currently teaches Monday Performance dance classes alongside teaching tap modern and youth theatre classes throughout the week.

*BIGLITTLE wishes to thank Marcus Marriott & John King for their valuable contribution to BIGLITTLE over the years. We wish them both every success in their new ventures and look forward to seeing them at BIGLITTLE events.*



## New Website!

At last! The new website is here and if you haven't already had a look, visit [www.biglittle.biz](http://www.biglittle.biz) and see what you think.

Along with up to date information on classes and events, there is also an online shop which will allow you to purchase merchandise and uniform at the click of a button!

There is also a section where you will be able to watch videos and listen to music from past shows. Its well worth a look!

# BIGLITTLE theatre school

# News

Issue 6 - Spring 2009



Vision in action at the Regent Centre

## What a Vision!

BIGLITTLE's ensemble performance group 'Vision' have had a busy time of late performing at various events in and around Bournemouth.

As a newcomer to BIGLITTLE I wanted to see them in action so I went along to the Regent Centre in November to watch their official launch.

And I was very impressed with what I saw. All performers looked and sounded like professional young stars and seemed to thoroughly enjoy what they were doing.

One very pleasant surprise was the fact they were only accompanied by one piano, played beautifully by our very talented Colin Billing. At first I thought that the lack of full accompaniment would leave something missing from the show but I couldn't have been more wrong! The performers were talented and powerful enough to engage your attention the whole way through and the piano accompaniment just set it off perfectly.

Another impressive performance came when they performed at St Aldhelm's annual 'Shining Branches Christmas Tree Festival' surrounded by 68 Decorated Christmas trees. It was a magical sight and if you haven't already seen Vision in concert make sure you come along to one of their gigs this year, I can assure you won't be disappointed!

ERRIN SKINGSLEY



## Happy New Year!

Thank you everyone for a great Autumn term. September to Christmas is always the longest term but one where we consolidate, get to know new students, families and team members and also the time when we underpin the busy year ahead and creatively plan the Festival and Spotlight events. We have welcomed new staff members who are now settled into their roles and have brought expertise and talent to the school. Our new website is now live and, this month, we celebrate the first anniversary of the School of Dance which is now fully established and progressing very well. Well done to all the dance students for their excellent progress under the direction of Kristin Williams and Jo Dilly.

We are now full steam ahead with preparation of our BIGLITTLE Festival event. Some delightful work is taking place in classes and we are very excited about showcasing this to everyone in March. We are sending home regular information letters so hopefully, unless your children are like mine, with letters crumpled and laced with yoghurt, you are all fully aware of what the Festival involves. Please do contact us if you have any queries at anytime. We enjoy getting to know you and the office is well manned so do call us or email and we promise to do all we can to assist.

We look forward to seeing you all at Festival. Thank you for your continued support.

Michelle Guy - Principal

MAJOR  
dates for  
2009

Festival  
09

7-8 March 2009 - St Peter's School

SPOTLIGHT

16-18 July 2009 - Pavilion Theatre

SUMMER MUSICAL

24-29 August 2009 - Watch this space!

*Big Little Theatre School is a non profit making organisation enabling personal excellence through performance and providing training and professional development in the performing arts to dedicated children and young people.*

[www.biglittle.biz](http://www.biglittle.biz)

# BIGLITTLE theatre school

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BIGLITTLE News is now edited and designed by Errin Skingsley. To contribute to any future newsletters please email Errin at [errin@bigliddle.biz](mailto:errin@bigliddle.biz)

## Spring Term Calendar

Saturday 10th January  
Spring Term Begins

Sunday 11th January  
Dance Workshop Day @ BSG

Saturday 17th January  
Vision @ Trinity Centre

Friday 30th January  
Quiz Night @ St Thomas Garnet

Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd February  
Half Term

Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th March  
Festival 2009

Sunday 22nd March  
Spotlight Auditions

Saturday 4th April  
Last Session of Term

Sunday 5th April  
Vision Concert



## BIGLITTLE SUPERHEROS

BIGLITTLE is indebted to the fantastic men who helped to move the infamous Spotlight stairs and other large items to our new storage area. This enormous feat, managed by Fiona, was carried out one very cold and wet Sunday in November. The super-hero team was made up of David Hopkins, Jason Warren, Mike Lankshear, Olly White & Nick Guy. The new storage area, at the airport, has been offered to us by the airport management and made safe & secure by Tim Handscomb, who has also carried out essential maintenance at the BLTS office. All of this has been given free of charge and we are so very grateful for their time and generosity.

## UNIFORM

As you will already know, here at BIGLITTLE we are now producing our uniform in house. If you haven't already got your new uniform and wish to do so please see Claudia to place your order in person. Alternatively please visit our website at [www.bigliddle.biz](http://www.bigliddle.biz) where you can download an order form or in the near future, even purchase it online.

We would also like to apologise to those of you whose orders were delayed last term. We had ongoing problems with our supplier which have now hopefully been rectified.

We look forward to seeing all students wearing BIGLITTLE uniform at all classes!



Sophia Handscomb and Dan Partridge modelling some new uniform

*Introducing the 2nd great...*

## Friends of BIGLITTLE Quiz Night

Friday 30th January 2009

7.30pm at St Thomas Garnet School, Bournemouth

£5 per head to include a ploughman's supper (Bar Available)

Tickets on sale now! Get yours from BSG on a Saturday or contact the Big Little Office on 01202 574422

Big Little Theatre School would like to acknowledge the support of our patrons -

Silver Patron

Peter & Colette O'Keefe

Corporate Patron

The Kiwi Hotel

Guardian Angel

Duncan Moss

# Festival 09

Festival 09 is fast approaching and looks set to be another fantastic weekend. For those of you who don't know, Festival is a two day extravaganza which involves all of BIGLITTLE's weekday classes and Youth Theatres. All students showcase material they have been preparing since September and can also perform in 'Platform' performances which give them the opportunity to present a solo or small group study. The event is a fantastic opportunity for all students to showcase their talents and for many it is their first experience of performing in an event of this type.

Festival is now in its third year and looks set to be bigger and better than before with over 300 students taking part.

This year it takes place on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March at St Peter's School, so make sure you keep these dates free. Tickets cost £8 per person and will be available to purchase at the beginning of February.



Big Little students perform in Festival 08

Below: Former Big Little student Lorna Bews in character as Sally from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.



The amount of joy that goes into Disneyland is amazing."

So if you fancy a nice treat next year, look out for future competitions and make sure you get selling tickets!

## Halloween Fun at Disneyland Paris

You may remember that leading up to Spotlight 8 we offered an incentive whereby for every ticket sold, the seller would get a raffle ticket to be placed in a draw for a trip to Disneyland Paris.

The lucky winner of this fantastic prize was Olivia Arnaudy who enjoyed the magical break with her family in October half term. Olivia enjoyed rides such as *'Space Mission 2'* and *'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom'* but she said "something even cooler than the rides was the atmosphere of Disney during Halloween". She added "I really enjoyed my trip and I would like to thank all those who made it possible".

Also enjoying Disneyland was Ella Perkins and her family. Ella says of her time there "Wow! What a trip! The whole place was a fairy tale.

## A FESTIVE SOIREE



BIGLITTLE have recently introduced regular 'Soirees' in which Youth Theatre students get the opportunity to put themselves forward and perform solos of their own choosing in front of friends and family.

The first of these soirees was a delightful evening held just before Christmas on the 20th December at Bournemouth School for Girls. Eleven students took part in total and also joined PDP to sing Christmas carols.

As well as the superb entertainment, mince pies and wine were enjoyed by all!

These soirees are something we will be repeating throughout the year so please keep an eye out for future performances either by checking our website [www.bigliddle.biz](http://www.bigliddle.biz) or contacting the office on 01202 574422.

## A BIGLITTLE thank you

BIGLITTLE organised a schools leaflet drop last term and we would like to thank all students who helped us deliver them. It was a huge help and we are very grateful to you for giving us your time and assistance.

## We've gone GREEN

You may have noticed some of your invoices have a poem or play on the back. This is all in the name of being environmentally friendly by recycling our paper. It also may give you something nice to read at the same time!

In the same vein, we have recently been trying to use email as our main method of communication to limit our paper usage. We would love you to use this method also, so if you haven't already given us your email address, please do so.

If anybody would prefer not to be contacted via email please let us know.