

Annual Report 2007-2008



Introduction

This year has been a huge success for Green Candle Dance Company. Touring its newest production 'Falling About', Green Candle has reached hundreds with its show and accompanying workshop, proving a hit all over London. Work within the community is as strong as ever, with a developing emphasis on working with older people. We have successfully conducted projects in a range of schools, spanning both primary and secondary education, as well as running our 9th Deaf Dance Summer School at Sadler's Wells.

Productions



This year Green Candle has been touring its newest production '**Falling About.**' A humorous and light hearted look at falling, both emotionally and physically, the show proved a resounding success in all the venues it toured. The production was followed with a workshop to promote dance and fitness to the older person, based on movement themes and songs from the production. These workshops brought to attention both the physical and psychological benefits dance can bring to anyone who takes part. This tour linked directly to Green Candle's work within the community, promoting movement and dance to all ages.

'Falling About' Tour
07-08 Jreena Green and
Fergus Early



'Falling About' Tour 07-08
Jreena Green

'Your company succeeded in stimulating our residents in two ways:

First, captivating their minds and holding their attention throughout the performance.

Secondly, the workshop motivated them further physically to engage in movement'

Older and Dancing

Let's Twist Again



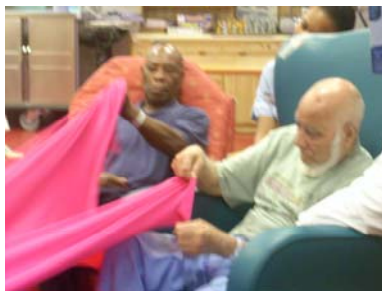
'Let's Twist Again!'
workshop at Laurence Close

Autumn 2007 saw the launch of the project 'Let's Twist Again!' involving approximately 41 participants (not including carers and staff) in collaboration with Gateway Housing Association in Bow. The project's aims were to increase participants' mobility, physical health and confidence whilst stimulating their creativity and combating the sometimes isolated nature of their housing situation. All participants found they benefited from the workshops both physically and socially.

Noticeably, there was a huge increase in the confidence and sociability of the group. Follow up sessions were requested and took place over four weeks at Hugh Platt House.

"It's very good for tenants to meet their aspirations by participating in activities like this and encouraging other residents suffering from isolation to join in."

Community Work



Workshop on Shadwell Ward, Mile
End Hospital

This year has seen Green Candle continue its relationship with both Mile End Hospital and Sundial Centre. Mile End Hospital saw patients of 70-90 years old (many with dementia and recovering from strokes, falls or serious surgery) take part in seated dance classes, whilst Sundial Centre saw approximately 41 participants benefiting from the workshops. In both these projects, movement recognition, body awareness, memory skills and self esteem were improved, with greater social interaction

between the participants. These sessions will continue to take place over the coming year. Alongside this, Green Candle ran St Hilda's Pensioners project in Tower Hamlets, consisting of 8 sessions over 2 months, ending with an informal

showing and intergenerational workshop. We also ran The Elders Project, a series of workshops held at Lansbury West Centre in Poplar.

Green Candle Senior Dancers



Green Candle Senior Dancers in rehearsals at Oxford House

Funded by Tower Hamlets Mainstream Grants and the Headley Trust, this year the Senior Dancers have performed a huge array of performances, most noticeably being asked to take part in The Big Opportunity, London's launch of community participation in the 2012 Olympics, as well as performing in the Tower Hamlets International Older People's Day. The Senior Dancers had a very successful collaboration with the Hot Pots, Spare Tyre Theatre's older people's group, and created the pantomime 'Alice' which was performed at our home, Oxford House. The Senior Dancers also performed their work at the Southbank Centre, as part of the Capital Age Festival and took part in sharings alongside the Junior Dancers.

Horwood Bangladeshi Men's Group

Green Candle has recently set up a new exercise group for Bangladeshi men. The sessions aim to challenge mental capacity, improve physical agility and increase the health and fitness levels of the participants. This group now has 12 regular attendees, all over the age of 60. The project will continue weekly throughout the coming year.

Norfolk Residency

The Norfolk residency was an intergenerational arts project, set up in collaboration with Norfolk Music. The project lasted for three days and aimed to foster a greater understanding between younger and older participants, involving a core group of nine young people aged 11-18 and eighteen older dancers. The project inspired great enthusiasm, the younger dancers noting "we are all the same essentially." Ending with a performance to a large audience at Downham Market Town Hall, the project served to increase self esteem and understanding and empower the older generation to value their experiences as a source of knowledge and inspiration.

"The young people are more interested in doing things than I thought"

"Brilliant, really encouraging and inclusive"

Education and Participation

Young and Dancing: Schools

Green Candle has worked in a variety of schools over the last year, involving students of all ages. Green Candle delivered classes spanning both primary and secondary education.

Working (on separate occasions) with students from Central Foundation Girls School and Islington Green School, Green Candle led workshops based on Dance and Citizenship. Participants found these to be a highly effective method of conveying topical issues, such as Freedom, which was used as the stimulus with the workshops at the Central Foundation Girls School. Green Candle also ran two workshops at Bow Idea Store for Key Stage 3 students to raise awareness of cyberspace bullying.

As part of the Annual Arts Week at Roding Primary School, Redbridge, the company also led a Dance and Maths project at Hanover Primary School.

Bounce!

was a performing arts day held at Culloden School, seeing 21 deaf Key Stage 1 and 2 students take part in dance workshops.

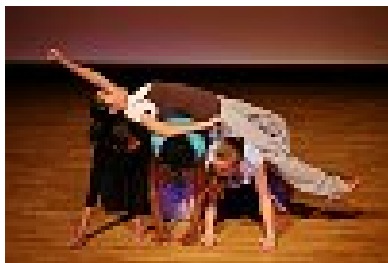
Marie Lawrence ran a three day residency for the company at Bowes Primary school, Enfield, involving 20 Year 4 students and 5 students with learning difficulties from Oaktree School in dance activities.

Thomas Tallis School saw a day of dance reach 14 deaf students ranging from years 7-11. This was in Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the school's deaf support centre. At the end of the day students shared their work with year 7 students.

Green Candle also ran two inclusive workshops with Rushmoor Borough Council as part of the Schools Dance Festival. Both disabled and able bodied young people participated in these workshops to produce some outstanding work.

Young and Dancing: Community

Freedom!



Final performance at 'Freedom!'

Green Candle Dance Company ran a photography and dance half term project in October 2007, based on the 200th anniversary of the slave trade. The project involved 16 core students age 11-13 for the whole week and 52 students on two taster sessions, as well as hundreds who came to view the photography exhibition. The collaboration of dance and photography ended with a performance and exhibition of the students' work which was highly complimented by all.

"I learnt new dance rolls and how to express myself. I learnt what other people thought about freedom"

BBC Blast!



Workshop at 'BBC Blast!'

Green Candle was invited to lead two workshops over two days as part of 'BBC Blast on Tour 2007' held at Hertfordshire University. A total of twelve participants attended the workshops, culminating with the group performing alongside peers in 'Merge', an informal sharing of work to close off the weekend.

Make It Happen!

As part of the Tower Hamlets Summer University, Green Candle ran a week long project using dance and film to express and explore participants' take on freedom. The summer school involved eight participants who showcased their work at the end of the week.

Girls Street Dance

Green Candle ran an all girls street dance group from the Youth Centre at Weavers Fields helping the girls work towards their Bronze Arts Awards. The group performed alongside the Senior and Junior dancers in the sharing at Oxford House.

Junior Dancers

Over the last year, Junior Dancers has run for three full terms, with a core group of approximately 14 students. The dancers have performed in the sharings at Oxford House to peers and family and performed at 'Watch This Space' Stratford Circus, as part of the London-wide Festival of Youth Arts.

Deaf and Dancing



Participants perform in DANCE 'N' DRUM

DANCE n' DRUM

This year Green Candle was proud to run its ninth Deaf Dance Summer School, held at Sadler's Wells. DANCE n' DRUM explored the links between rhythms, movement and expression, with each participant learning and creating dance as well as having the opportunity to play West African drums.

The summer school ended with two performances involving students aged 6-18, who were split into three age groups. The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) provided a youth worker and the NDCS Deputy Director for Children and

Youth attended the performances, commending the work the summer school had achieved. As always, the summer school was a great experience for all involved.

Performing Arts Day

Green Candle ran its third and fourth Performing Arts Day for deaf children, the third held at the Royal School for the Deaf and the final day at Oxford House. This brought to a close our series of performing arts days for deaf children. Work continued with hearing impaired children with two Listening Eyes workshops taking place for deaf children and their families in conjunction with Lambeth Hearing Impaired Support Service.

Staff Changes

Having taken maternity leave earlier in the year, Louise Klarnett decided to resign from her position as Community Dance Artist at the end of 2007. Sonia Illescas took over her position at Green Candle until funding allowed us to appoint her as Community Dance Artist specifically for older people. We now have a number of freelance artists working with us on all the projects.

Grant and Funding

Green Candle received two important grants this year. The City Bridge Trust is sponsoring the new position of Community Dance Artist, specifically for older people. As mentioned above, Sonia Illescas has taken up this position. The Rayne Foundation have become a core funder of Green Candle, awarding us funding over the next three years.

Staff

Core Staff

Artistic Director: Fergus Early
Associate Director: Rachel Elliot
Administrator: Rosemary Evans
Development Manager: Annie Pooley
Community Dance Artist: Adesola Akinleye
Community Dance Artist: Marie Lawrence (Maternity Cover)
Community Dance Artist (older people): Sonia Illescas

Falling About

Director: Fergus Early
Choreographers: Fergus Early, Jreena Green
Performers: Fergus Early, Jreena Green, Marie Lawrence (maternity cover)
Composer/Musician Martina Schwarz

Placement/Volunteers

Louisa Hennessy (University of Chichester– Jan-March 08)
Sonja Brühlmann (Goldsmiths University– Jan-March 08)
Natasha Robinson (Central School of Speech and Drama– Feb-March 08)
Emily Anderson (Loyola Marymount University– Feb-April 08)
Paola Piccato (Laban– March 08)
Theresa Hawkins (University of Surrey Post Graduate)
Katie Walker (Work Experience Sept 07)
Ellie Moss (Central School of Speech and Drama– Oct-Nov 07)
Francesca Calvo (FIE internship)

Board Members

Chris Phipps (Chair)
Naseem Khan (Vice-Chair)
Richard Howarth (Treasurer)
Darryl Jaffray (MBE)
Sheryl Aitcheson
Sue Hall
Jean Harwood
Darryl Jaffray Griswood
Shiria Khatum
Braham Murray

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Photo Credits

(From left to right, top to bottom)
Pg1: Hugo Glendinning, , Sonia Illescas, Kathryn Gilffroy
Pg2: Hugo Glendinning
Pg3: Sonia Illescas
Pg 4: Marie Malinder
Pg 6: Belinda Lawley, Alexandra Russell, Sonia Illescas
Pg 7: Belinda Lawley