

Summer 2019

As we all start to enjoy our Summer break, here's a little taste of what's been going on here at D&B

D&B MANAGEMENT

These last two terms have been another exceptionally busy time for Ashleigh-Louise and Philip in our Agency team.

One of the wonderful things that we offer our clients is regular workshops in a wide range of skills for both stage and screen. During these workshops, as well as learning valuable skills and techniques, clients are given the opportunity to show major casting directors what they can do. It's not uncommon at all for further auditions and job offers to be made to clients purely from being introduced at our in-house casting workshops. Our February workshops were taken by Professional working Actors Sarah Middleton and Andy Coxon and were extremely valuable and informative for all of our clients. More recently we held castings with major casting directors who are responsible for casting shows like Mother Father Son, Kiri and major feature films, and west end shows like Matilda and School of Rock. We are looking forward to our next set of workshops and to welcoming more fantastic casting teams down to visit our wonderful clients at D&B!

Here's a roundup of some of our wonderful recent credits.

THEATRE

- Get your tickets this summer for the Technicolor Spectacular that will be 'Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat' at the London Palladium! Maci Hughes makes her West End debut joining the cast as part of the Child Ensemble, and has had a blast so far working alongside Sheridan Smith and Jason Donovan! Only in London for a limited run!
- As mentioned in our last bulletin, Sydnie Christmas relocated to Bochum, Germany to perform in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Starlight Express. The shows are now up and running and she is having a blast! For more information, check out our graduate destinations in the College section.
- HOT NEWS!! Jackson Laing has been confirmed for the lead role in a new exciting Theatre project starting in September working with Robbie Williams and David Walliams! WATCH THIS SPACE for more details!
- Ingrid Braisford took her final bow in Les Miserables in January, when two of our other clients took on the roles of Cosette and Eponine. Lana Wyatt and Maiya Eastmond have both since finished their contracts as the show is taking a hiatus while the theatre is overhauled.



TELEVISION

- We loved watching Harry Weston on Holby City this June! Harry heavily featured in two episodes playing the part of Oskar Johannson. This was Harry's first job following his first casting at the age of just 5 years old! Keep an eye out as another client will be hitting the Holby City screens in the not too distant future too!
- EastEnders saw the return of Sami Jackson – our very own Shiven Shankar and the menacing ways of Fraser played by Shanu Hazzan. Both boys did a brilliant job in their roles. Tilly Keeper and Zack Morris continue to wow us with their incredible storylines as Louise Mitchell and Keegan Baker and we are very proud of you all!



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- Kitty Slack, Kelsey Calladine-Smith and Ynez Williams started filming for Series 4 of The Worst Witch! If you missed Series 3 you can catch it on BBC iPlayer. We can't wait to see what is happening at Cackle's Academy in the new series.
- Carma Hylton returns as Candi-Rose for the next series of The Dumping Ground and has been busy filming up in Manchester. Catch TDG on BBC iPlayer now.
- This Spring Harley McEvelly could be seen playing the role of Jordan in Channel 4's new British Comedy 'Home', written and Starring Rufus Jones.
- Zachary Adeyemo can be seen on Series 3 of BBC's Apple Tree House in episodes 18 and 20. We will see Zachary on our screens in the autumn of this year but if you can't wait you can catch him on BBC iPlayer now.
- Following on from her TV debut in 'Flack' this summer, Alayna Wahid can be seen playing the role of Bub in Channel 4's comedy 6-part series 'This Way Up' written by and starring the Comedian Aisling Bea. Alayna features in episode 4 which airs in August.
- Seven of our clients got some great on-set experience working on Julian Fellowes' new TV drama 'Belgravia' which is due to air at the end of 2019/beginning of 2020! They were on set at locations such as Hampton Court Palace and Chatham Dockyard and had a ball filming on location.



FILM

- We enjoyed watching 'Williamson and Holmes' at the cinema in January, featuring Ellie-Rose Eames
- We wished Rhianna Dorris the best of luck in January as she jetted off to New York to do press for the fantastic feature film 'Kid Who Would Be King' alongside co-star Patrick Stewart. Rhianna was a lead in the blockbuster film!
- Dwayne Johnson and Jason Statham become 'Hobbs and Shaw' for a new Feature Film of the same name. Joshua Coombes filmed for this exciting project playing a young Jason Statham. We can't wait to see this in the cinema.
- Daniel Burt secured the role of 'Shoe Shine Boy' in new Amazon Studios Film 'The Aeronauts.' The film stars Felicity Jones, Eddie Redmayne and Himesh Patel.
- Gretchen Withecomb did us incredibly proud getting down to the final three girls out of hundreds of applicants for a major role in a new Marvel film. After a long audition and recall process in London, Gretchen and her mum were fortunate enough to be jetted across the pond to LA for a very exciting Screen Test at Marvel Studios. Gretchen read alongside Richard Madden and had the most magical time! She even got to have some down time and visit Universal Studios on her day off!
- As mentioned in one of our last instalments Phoebe Farnham filmed and played the role of Mary Steele in 'Amundsen.' Phoebe and her parents were lucky enough to attend the Premiere of the film in February in Oslo, Norway. Phoebe walked the red carpet and enjoyed seeing herself on the big screen!
- Four of our wonderful young dancers have been cast in the new feature film based on the hit West End Musical 'Everyone's Talking About Jamie'. Congratulations to Fantasia Miller, Kelsey and Olivia Calladine-Smith and also Sam Jennings who are all filming over the Summer holidays!



VOICE OVER

- Ingrid Brailsford, Keira and Aaron Langley, Phoebe Farnham, Shiven Shankar and Nicholas Seal had a fantastic time recording for the new series of 'Poldark'. They all loved working with the fabulous team at Blend Audio and trying out their best West Country accents!
- Nicholas Seal also lent his voice to the new Feature Film 'The King' playing the role of a Waterboy. Well done to Nick for pushing himself and recording in a Welsh accent! Our clients always have great fun recording voiceovers, and we're so pleased with how well they lend themselves to these engagements!



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REHEARSED READING

- Ky-Mani Carty took part in a rehearsed reading for 'Untitled Rapman Feature' film.

CRUISE AND OVERSEAS

- Abigail Tucker continues working as a Lead Vocalist at brilliant, luxury 5* resorts abroad. This summer, Abi can be seen at Sani



Resort Halkidiki, Greece.

- Eloise Dunford returned from P&O Cruises in May. Eloise was on-board the Cruise Ship 'Britannia' and had a great contract entertaining the Passengers as a Vocalist at Sea!

SHORT FILM

- Evan Moynihan filmed for Brighton Film School's Short Film 'Astrid' in April. Working with the third years on their final film. Evan enjoyed his experience on set and received great feedback from the team.
- Joshua Coombes has been confirmed for an exciting new 'short' filming in August. More details to follow.

RADIO

- Mika Osei-Owusu is super excited to be recording for a new BBC Radio Drama. This will be Mika's first job and he can't wait to hear himself on the Radio!

COMMERCIALS

- Nicholas Seal filmed for a new Vodafone commercial
- Hallie Barthram filmed for a Disney Toy Story 4 online Commercial in anticipation of the new film launch
- Jaydah Bell-Ricketts filmed for a Persil commercial
- Vincent Finch filmed for the new Walkers Crisp Commercial
- Jamie Schneider jetted off to Krakow, Poland to film for the Kaufland Christmas Commercial – channelling his inner Jedi!
- Lily-Sue Bennett participated in a Wayfair Furniture Commercial
- Aaron Langley spent the day on set for an ITV Rugby World Cup Promo
- Nylah-Rae Walcott was confirmed as part of a Sky Commercial

We are extremely proud of all of our clients and the hard work and time that they put into castings, learning lines and jobs that they secure.

D&B THEATRE SCHOOL

This academic year has certainly flown by for the Theatre School, but it has once again been filled by our pupils' amazing achievements and tons of fun!

Mini Combination

Our Mini combination classes for 4-5yr olds put on an amazing 'Disney' themed display for parents at the end of March. The children had a Disney make-over and professional photo shoot in tailor-made costumes before entertaining a packed audience of family members with their performance. It was such a brilliant morning and so thrilling for our youngest students, many of whom for which it was their first time on stage. We are sure it will be the start of many D&B performances in the future! Singing, Dancing and Acting classes (Mini Combination lessons) for 4-5 year olds run on Thursdays 4.30 – 5.30pm and Saturdays 8.55am – 9.55am and 1.15pm – 2.15pm. Please call 0208 698 8880 if you have a little one ready to perform in our next display at Christmas time.



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D&B Drama

2019 has certainly been busy for D&B LAMDA students. Pupils took LAMDA acting examinations here at our studios in February and achieved brilliant results- a 100% pass rate with all students attaining Merit or Distinctions and a whopping 38 Distinctions!

LAMDA pupils also entered the Sevenoaks Three Arts festival in June; a competitive platform for students to perform their scenes on stage and get feedback from industry professionals. We were impressed with how the students represented D&B so wonderfully in both their professional conduct at the festival and also in the results achieved! A special mention must go to Jahnissie Ormby (9) who achieved an 89% distinction result and was awarded the Combe Bank Cup for her overall high score for her solo piece. Well Done Jahnissie!



Street Crews

Following auditions last December, we had 2 brand new street crews working and competing together over the last 6 months at regional competitions. Teams UNIFIED and IMPACT. With professional dancers Leah Bauckham and Alfie Browne taking the helm our street crews have gone from strength to strength and kicked off the year with two 1st place team performances at 101 events in Essex.



We are incredibly proud of the teams and also how hard all pupils worked in Solo's and Duo's this year with a D&B record number of trophies for individual performances. We aim to keep pushing the children within this ever-changing genre of dance and challenge them to learn styles that are more specialised and difficult. We feel that bringing in top industry professionals to pass on their knowledge and encourage the children will help them progress even further. For this reason members of the crews are currently working with the amazing Carrie-Anne Ingrouille (Choreographer on SIX the musical, resident choreographer on HAMILTON, West End) in a workshop designed to improve their technique. Our winning street crews will be auditioning for new talent in December 2019- Look out for information on how to sign up!

UDO Street Dance

D&B have introduced a brand new UDO Street Dance classes for our younger pupils in June. Children have been learning fun commercial street dance routines to some of their favourite current songs in the charts as well as following a syllabus set out by the United Dance Organise (UDO).

Exciting, fun and funky; these are street dance lessons where children work towards taking examinations to move up to the next level. A variety of street dance styles are covered including Locking, Breaking, Hip-Hop, House and Lyrical. With small intakes per class, we can offer plenty of attention and feedback.

As a recognised Approved Dance Centre, our pupils can take examinations in our studios - at their own pace. Please call 0208 698 8880 if you know of any little ones that would be eager to join.

Our current older classes have just completed another incredible exam session performing their routines in front of legendary commercial dancer Ola Papior. Our lucky Grade 4's also got to dance



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alongside her and learn a routine! We are extremely proud of all UDO pupils for the hard work and dedication to practice and we can't wait to receive the results!

New Combi School

In February 2019 we were delighted that our Thursday Musical Theatre Classes were upgraded to become a brand new 'Combination School'. The School is structured in the same way as our hugely popular Saturday combination classes whereby the children rotate through Dance, Drama, and singing classes with their peer group.

D&B have been running highly successful combination schools for 30 years. The classes not only encourage confidence and self-esteem, but also allow focused training on the 3 disciplines of musical theatre in a fun and nurturing way. Students are training to be a 'Triple Threat' and improve their skills in all areas of the performing arts.

In our Thursday combination school, we are looking forward to welcoming parents in for a watching week at the end of term and then working on a Christmas display when we get back after the summer holidays.

New T-Shirts

Following the successful run of our 30 year anniversary T-Shirts last year, we are thrilled to be announcing that from September we will be offering a naming service on ALL of our D&B T-shirts. Personalised items are a fantastic way to ensure children always take home the correct T-Shirt! Orders will be taken from reception when classes return.

Graduation Showcase

A massive thank you and a huge well done to all Saturday Combination students who performed in the college Graduation Showcase at the end of June! D&B College Alumni Durone Stokes (Played CC in the West End production of Dreamgirls) performed his version of the Dream Girls track 'Family' alongside our talented pupils on stage at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley. The children gave a wonderful performance in front of families, VIPs and casting directors and it was an unforgettable moment to have our Theatre School support the College.

Summer 2019

We have spaces left in our Summer schools on offer this year running throughout July and August; including TV and Film school, Dance Party Day and a 'Hairspray Day' with Annalise who is fresh from the UK tour playing Penny Pingleton.

We are thrilled to be offering our popular TV and Film course to younger students for the first time this year. 6-8 year olds will have their own one-day course to develop their skills in this area.

Please get in touch at reception or call 0208 698 8880 for more information about any of our summer schools.

D&B SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

The end of the Summer term is always a bittersweet time for us at the College as we wave goodbye to our graduates as they embark into the industry. This year, however has been jam-packed for the College department.

Skills for Life

Here at D&B we've offered the option for students to study towards teaching qualifications, however this year we ramped up our teacher training and made it part of the timetable. All 2nd year students studied the London College of Music acting teachers Diploma as well as the UDO Street Dance teacher qualification. Students were given the option to take either (or both). We had a 100% success rate and can now boast a new crop of up and coming teachers. We were very passionate about not just teaching them what they needed to know to pass, but also how to promote themselves as a business, how to approach different age groups and some fundamental teaching practice that we would look for when hiring teachers. In the lead up to the exams we brought in professionals including the head examiner for the London College of Music to offer guidance and feedback. A huge congratulations are in order to the students as well as



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Kerri Doolan who coached the UDO qualification and Jon Emmanuel (Resident Director of Dear Evan Hansen) who took them through the acting diploma.

Adam Craddock (DipLCM TD), Anja Gibbs Bell (UDO), Arran Blears (UDO), Charlotte Laity (DipLCM TD), Daniel Jarvis (DipLCM TD), Haydn Smart (UDO), Hayley McMahon (DipLCM TD), Hollie Swain (DipLCM TD & UDO), Joshua Nkemdilim (UDO), Lauren Bowry (UDO), Lucia Valentino (UDO), Mia Pearce (DipLCM TD), Maura Dore (DipLCM TD), Oliver Hosier (UDO), Tia Dennis (UDO), Vikki Hughes (DipLCM TD)

Fulfil Your Potential

In January, Sarah Middleton, one of our screen acting teachers took a group of students to present a brand new musical workshop to 'BYMT' (British Youth Musical Theatre). They had the opportunity to experience the process of working on a new musical from conception and through development. They ended up coming 2nd in the nationwide competition and we'd like to thank Sarah for giving Alex Runicles, Emily Appleby, Sheldon Harling and Niall Fogarty this fantastic opportunity.

We were approached in April time by Phoenix who look after community housing and activities in the borough of Lewisham to perform at Foster Memorial Park as part of their huge fair. Along with one of our theatre school street teams, we were really proud of our students who came along to perform as singers and dancers as well as all of the students that came along to support and watch. I'd like to point out that when we started performing the sun came out! Great performances by Meghan Gray, Sheldon Harling, Brandon Jones, Lucia Valentino, Brooke Kelly and Josh Nkemdilim.



In March we held our annual in-house musical, Grease, here at the studios. We had to add an additional 3 performances which all ended up being a sell-out! We set the show as an immersive experience, with entertainment and action during the pre-show build up and the interval. All students were involved in some capacity, but we would like to give a special mention to Ronnie Law and Hayley McMahon who played Danny and Sandy. Directed by James Keeper, the show was a mix of the stage show as well as the film that we all know and love, featuring choreography by Jo Goodwin and Joel Cooper. Keep your eyes open to see what next years' production will be!



Training With the Professionals

In March we held our annual panel assessments which is where every student gets to show all of their skills to an extremely large panel of our professional tutors. Having introduced a new technical jazz syllabus in September we were particularly blown away by the incredible improvement that was evident across the standard of dance in the college. In other departments, students were able to showcase their singing and acting to a panel of over 10, including our artistic advisor and West-End Director Alison Pollard who is always on the lookout for students and graduates for her portfolio of shows.

Reaching Out

As part of our outreach programme, we participated in 4 Can You Dance events this year, in Glasgow, Essex, Norwich and Sheffield. Our first piece that we performed was choreographed by Ashley Day, who began teaching for us in the theatre school 10 years ago! Ashley is an incredible performer, having played the lead in an American in Paris and 42nd Street over the last couple of years. He's now living the dream, performing in 'Freddie Falls In Love' on Broadway. His piece 'Bury A Friend' featured 7 of our students across all year groups. Once Ashely relocated to New York, the wonderful Joel Cooper stepped into look after the piece. If you



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have a chance, do check out our Instagram page for videos of the event- it's worth listening out to the crowd gasp in Glasgow after Josh's crazy high box jump!

For our final two performances we commissioned a second piece, this time choreographed by the wonderful Carrie-Anne Ingrouille who was up for best choreographer at this year's Olivier Awards for her creativity on 'Six' the musical. She is also resident choreographer for Hamilton in the West End. She created a wonderful piece illustrating gang culture to the song 'Run Boy Run' which was chosen to close the college showcase at Can You Dance Sheffield. We reprised the piece for the showcase in June.



We also held two more open days, one in January and then again in May. Open days are a great way to see what we do at the College so please do give us a call if you're considering post-16 full time training and would like to look around!

This year we jumped out of the dark ages and started offering online applications for the college course- the process is now far simpler and quicker for all of our applicants. Just visit the college section of the website and hit apply!

We held our first College Experience Day for many years this June, welcoming students aged 14-18 from all over the country to join in a jam-packed day of classes including lyrical jazz, commercial jazz, musical theatre, singing technique, ensemble, screen acting and acting for the stage! With over 60 attendees, we put on a spread so that everyone could get to know each other over lunch, and an ice lolly to reduce the temperature while our wonderful students put on a performance at the end of the day! It was such an enjoyable day and we have put our next one in the calendar for November. Please do give us a call if you'd like to book in!

We were thrilled to announce our scholars for 2019 after a rigorous set of auditions throughout the year. We welcome Rhianna Dorris and Ellis Kirk into the college family and we look forward to seeing them progress over the next three years alongside a wonderful new group of 1st years. We are very excited to see how they all develop as they join the D&B Family.



A Showcase For All

The Summer term is always dedicated to the biggest event in the college calendar, the Graduation Showcase. Held at the Churchill Theatre on 27th June, our students wowed in an impressive performance encompassing a wide range of styles in Musical Theatre and Pop. The feedback has been incredible and offers came flying in for our graduates within hours. The process started in January for us, when we initially sat down to discuss what material we'd like to include in order to really show off our wonderful 3rd years. Immediately following our in-house production, auditions began to cast the show. Starting off with



Les Miserables, students were asked to learn short sections for every part of every section throughout the show for the singing rounds. Every student has to do this, meaning that they learn a huge amount of material in preparation. There are also dance auditions held for any selected dance numbers. Over the Easter holidays, the cast list is sent out and we begin the mammoth task of organising rehearsals and costumes for each number. This year we were blessed to work with some incredible choreographers who put together sections featuring Jesus Christ Superstar, Hello (our 3rd year introduction), Run Boy Run,



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Bring It On, A Star is Born, Les Miserables, Mary Poppins, A Ciara Streetdance, The Commitments, The Wiz, Legends in Heaven, The Cotton Club and a tear jerking finale featuring graduate Durone Stokes and pupils from the part time school before the students took their final bows. We can't thank everyone involved enough for the incredible show. We've booked in for the same time next year so please keep your eyes peeled for tickets. This year was a total sell out so make sure you don't miss out! Keep your eyes peeled on our social media for snippets of the showcase @dandbperforming



Following the showcase, we held agent week here at the studios including visits by graduates Dan Bell who is now a producer and employing our students in pantomimes around the country, and Josh Harwood who now works as a prestigious agent!

Living The Dream

We've been fortunate to touch base with lots of graduates recently who are out there in the industry flying the D&B flag and achieving wonderful things. We are so proud of all of our graduates- no matter what they go in to, following their 3 years of full time training, we can be sure that they are focussed, determined and motivated young people who can be exceptionally proud of all that they have achieved.

- In January, we took an office trip to see the hilarious musical 'Club Tropicana' at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley to see Rory Phelan who graduated in 2016
- Rachel Rawlinson has been busy playing one of the Divas in the hilarious 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' Musical for NCL.



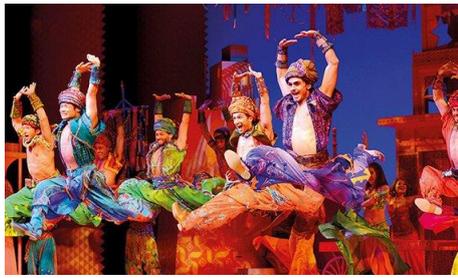
- Jacob McIntosh continued his contract as a swing and cover Lola in the UK Tour of 'Kinky Boots'. He's had the opportunity to don the famous red boots and go on for the lead a good few times now. This is Jacob's 2nd UK tour, having started off in 'Beautiful'



- Sydnie Christmas has been having an absolute blast for rehearsals for 'Starlight Express' in Germany. She is a swing in the show which means she has to learn multiple parts and be ready to go on at a moments' notice. She made her onstage debut this week in the role of 'Wrench'



- Ronnie Law, who has just completed his 1st year made his on-screen debut in 'Grantchester' on ITV this year having secured the job through the agency even before he started his full time training with us
- Chris Taylor, who graduated this week, was fortunate enough to perform at the What's On Stage Awards in March.
- Graduate Jayme-Lee Zanoncelli started her new contract in 'Tina' the musical having just finished her time at 'Motown' as dance captain. We loved watching her in the Tina segment at West End Live.



Justin Thomas made time in his busy schedule performing in 'Aladdin' at the Prince Edward Theatre to come in with his wife Lauren Stroud to take partner work classes with the students.

- Mohammed Mansaray has been going all around the country in the National Theatre Production of 'Barber Shop Chronicles'. He had previously toured America in the production, but is about



to start residency at the famous RoundHouse in Camden. We've booked our tickets!! It's just been announced that he'll be finishing off this wonderful production on Broadway!

- Chloe Smith started a contract with Costa Cruises as a dancer and is currently travelling all around, from the Greek Islands to the Maldives!
- Bethan O'Donnell appeared in a really exciting new online serial drama called UNRD. This online serial plays out in real time and is viewed through a special app.
- Alice Goodman joined the MSC Sinfonia as a dancer, travelling between the Mediterranean and South America. She'll be rounding off the tour in August.
- Zack Morris was nominated in April for the Best Actor at the British Soap Awards for his portrayal of Keegan Baker in EastEnders. He also got the incredible experience of going onstage to collect the BAFTA along with his cast mates for best Soap- What an experience!!
- Mac Rathmill popped in to say hello, having finished his tour of Italy in a musical version of Romeo and Juliet
- Hannah Holmes joined the show team at the luxurious Desert Rose Resort in Hurgada, Egypt for TMC Productions!
- Dominic Hansford has just been cast as the lead in Top Hat on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth



This is just a taste of our graduate destinations... we could go on forever, but we do try to shout about everyone on our social media so please do give us a follow! We also urge all graduates to update us about any jobs they start as we'd love to sing your praises!

Our offices will be open weekdays from 9am – 5pm (excluding bank holidays) during the Summer Break.

D&B break up for the summer holiday after classes on Saturday 20th July 2019. (With the exception of all Thursday evening classes that will have one last session on Thursday 25th July)

Classes will resume from Monday 16th September 2019.

Thank you for a wonderful year, wishing you all a lovely summer.



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