

Academy News

D&B ACADEMY
OF PERFORMING ARTS

Easter 2020

Well we would never have envisaged that a newsletter would be written while we are all at home in isolation, but this has given us a chance to really digest the incredible things that have been happening here at D&B over the last two terms! With all of our staff and pupils joining in the social media conversation at home, here's some great news that we can all smile about.

D&B MANAGEMENT

The last few terms have been incredibly busy, but exciting and rewarding for Ashleigh-Louise and Philip on the 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. Recently, we were delighted to welcome Becca and Gabriella from the BBC Casting team (Doctors and Holby City), Jenna from Lucinda Syson Casting (Wonder Woman, Batman Begins, X-Men, Aladdin etc.), Jane Anderson (Hank Zipzer, Law & Order, Apple Tree House etc.) and Kat from Jessica Ronane Casting (Matilda, School of Rock, The Kid Who Would Be King etc.). 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 that we're very proud of.

THEATRE

As mentioned in our last newsletter Jackson Laing had landed the lead role in a new theatre project. Jackson played the role of Dennis in the stage version of David Walliam's 'The Boy in the Dress.' Jackson got to work with David and also met Robbie Williams who co-wrote the lyrics for the show. The RSC were the team behind the show and it was performed at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. Jackson had an absolute ball on the show!



After a 4 year run in the West End, 'School of Rock the Musical' came to a close this March. Old students of Horace Green Prep School were invited back to take part in the finale one last time. Clients Phoebe Farnham and Jaydah Bell-Ricketts were invited back to rock out the stage of the Gillian Lynne Theatre one last time! They had an absolute blast and enjoyed seeing their cast mates again.

Leah Mondesir-Simmonds made her stage debut in the Donmar Warehouse's production of 'BLANK' last autumn. In association with Clean Break Production Company the play explored the impact of the criminal justice system on

women and their families. We were lucky enough to go along and see Leah in this brilliant production.



New client Joshua Schneider landed his stage debut in new play 'Leopoldstadt.' Joshua plays the role of Young Leo performing at The Wyndhams Theatre, (West End.) Harry Weston joined the cast in February as understudy for young Heini marking his stage debut as well. Leopoldstadt is an emotional and thought provoking journey of Jewish life and troubles during World War I. The play is written by Tom Stoppard and the cast includes Adrian Scarborough (Gavin and Stacey, Call the Midwife, the King's Speech.)



TELEVISION

This January the students of Cackle's Academy returned for the 4th instalment in 'The Worst Witch' saga. Kitty Slack, Ynez Williams and Kelsey Calladine-Smith all reprised their roles and we enjoyed seeing them back on our screens! Catch up on BBC iplayer.



Luca Evans plays the role of Felix in Sky Atlantic's new TV series – 'Gangs of London.' Due to premiere this year. We look forward to watching!

Phoebe Farnham played the role of Young Whitney in EastEnders in March. Phoebe got to work alongside actress Shona McGarty who plays Whitney. She also got to explore some of the famous Walford sets including the Old Vic!

Leah Mondesir-Simmonds joined the team at 'Holby City' last autumn playing the role of Erika Johnstone. The character is the Great Granddaughter of Hugh Quarshie's character, Ric Griffin. It was great to see Leah on the TV.



Ellie Dadd played the role of Cat in 'Silent Witness' this January. Working alongside long standing cast members Emilia Fox and David Caves. Ellie gave us a stellar and emotional performance. We loved watching Ellie in such a serious drama.

Nine of our clients joined the team on ITV's 'Because the Night' due to air later this year. The new Thriller mini-series stars Russell Tovey and Bertie Carvel. Congratulations to Jason, Vincent, Ronnie, Brooke, Freddie, Jay, Aubrey, Bertie and Molly!

FILM

Sisters Kelsey and Olivia Calladine-Smith, Sam Jennings and Fantasia Miller joined Choreographer Kate Prince as dancers, on the Feature Film version of London's hit musical 'Everybody's Talking about Jamie.' They filmed last August and the film is due for release in October 2020! Star casting includes Richard E. Grant, Sarah Lancashire and Shobna Gulati. We cannot wait for everybody to be talking about this!

Phoebe Farnham took a screen test for a new Disney film in February and here she is to tell us more about it. "In February I found out that I had got down to the final 3 actresses Worldwide for the amazing lead role of "Wendy" in Disney's new live action feature film "Peter Pan and Wendy". Two other young actresses from Canada and the USA joined me for the most exciting 3 day audition in London.

- Day 1 - We met the Director, Producers and UK and USA casting teams along with 3 hopeful "Peter" actors. We all partnered with each other in different combinations to see our chemistry and worked on various scenes from comedy and tears to full on arguments!
- Day 2 - The Wendy and Peters met with potential Michael and Johns again trying out different group scenarios.
- Day 3 – This was the most exciting of all as we got to work individually with Disney's Hollywood stunt team - Fitness, play fighting, drop falling, fear factors and best of all sword fighting which I discovered I had a talent for (who knew?) and even managed to "kill" my instructor when I advanced on "ready" before he said "action".

It didn't go my way in the end but this was such an amazing experience - everybody got on so well, and there was no tension only fun. I learnt so much and had such wonderful feedback that after this I'm ready for my next opportunity with an open heart, and maybe a sword"



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VOICEOVER

'1917' – Directed by Sam Mendes was the epic British war film set in World War One. Aubrey Newman and Macauley Keeper took part in an ADR to voice soldiers of the trenches. Heading over to Shepperton Studios the boys recorded both in a sound booth and also an exterior set-up. A make-shift trench with microphones was set up so the boys could get really into character!



Siana Liard landed her first job voicing the roles of Chika and Chuka the Monkeys in animated series 'Brave Bunnies.' Harry Weston also voices the role of Flou-Lou the Lemur.



Heidi Williams is currently lending her voice to a new series of animated show 'Ricky Zoom.' Heidi plays the role of Toot.

Temi Orelaja showed off her many accent talents when she recorded an ADR session for BBC Three's comedy-drama 'Enterprise.' Temi recorded in her own accent as well as African and Jamaican.

Leah Mondesir-Simmonds voices the role of young Celeste in a flashback scene for Channel 4's Hollyoaks.

The names Wahid...Alayna Wahid! Alayna lent her voice to the new Bond film 'No Time to Die.'

COMMERCIALS

Ky-Mani spent a couple of nights at Butlins in Bognor Regis, filming for the 'Ready to Butlins' Commercial



Ravi experienced filming his second commercial; this time for the British Heart Foundation, where he rehearsed on his birthday!

Zachary is a huge Star Wars fan, and was therefore delighted to be confirmed for their Tool Kit commercial

Alayna and her Dad made special memories working together on set for the Baby Born - Back to School commercial. Alayna's Dad did a fabulous job at doing her hair!

Temi filmed for a Barclays Customer Obsessed internal video

RADIO

Nifemi played the role of 'Young Dodger' in Oliver Twist, which aired on BBC Radio 4

Luca played the role of 'John' in My Dads Wardrobe for BBC Radio 4, which was also voted as Drama of the week in January

SHORT FILMS

Harlie spent a few days at the Seaside during the chilly Autumn months filming for Blank Shores.

Ingrid participated in filming for Dandelions, where she learnt valuable experience on a Television set for the first time

CRUISES/OVERSEAS

We're delighted that D&B College Graduate Olly is now rehearsing as a dancer for P&O Britannia, and will embark on his new home in May before setting sail on the Mediterranean seas! Olly was due to graduate in the Summer, and whilst we were sad to cut Olly's time short with us, we are excited to have a job secured for him after three hard years of training.

Eloise leaves the Britannia ready for Olly to join after she has just finished her second contract with P&O. Visiting the Caribbean this time she got to explore the many islands and all the wonders they hold.



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Leah was thrilled to have been offered her second contract with Grayboy Cruises as a dancer again; she's currently rehearsing in sunny Australia with fellow graduate Alfie, before embarking on the Pacific Explorer 7. We look forward to catching up with them both at the beginning of November!

MUSIC VIDEOS

Brooke and Freddie had a brilliant time filming with the iconic band Stereophonics, for their official music video for 'Fly Like An Eagle'



STILL PHOTOGRAPHY

Harry and Kayla-Mai had a fun photoshoot for Pearson Education's Kids Lab books

PANTOMIMES

We were incredibly proud to have a wealth of students and graduates performing all over England over the Christmas season in various Pantomimes. Our students were employed by Qdos Entertainment, Paul Holman Associates, Enchanted Entertainment, UK Productions, Evolution Productions and Sevenoaks Pantomimes, playing an impressive mixture of lead roles and various Ensemble roles!

There are lots more exciting projects we aren't able to talk about just yet so watch this space!

D&B THEATRE SCHOOL

We are dearly missing our wonderful D&B Theatre School pupils and cannot wait to see everyone back in class. Let's look at some of the amazing things that have taken place over the last few months.

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY 2019

Our Thursday Combination School, which started in February last year, put on their first in house production, along with our Mini Combination and Wednesday Group singing classes. It was a Christmas Themed Display. The children were with us for a fun-filled few hours to have a glittery makeover to match their sparkly custom made costumes, and posed for a professional photo shoot before entertaining a packed audience with their fabulous festive performance. It was such a fantastic day, with everybody feeling the Christmas spirit and especially with the amazing homemade cakes, which were made by one of our talented parents, as a treat for the children. Thank you Kelly Burrowes!

Classes will next be putting on a 'Pop Star' themed display to current chart tracks when we return. If you'd like your child to be involved then please speak to us about one of the classes below.

Singing, Dancing and Acting classes run every Thursday 5.00pm – 6.30pm for 6 years and over and our Mini Combination lessons for 4-5 year olds run 4.30pm – 5.30pm on Thursdays or 8.55am – 9.55am/1.15pm – 2.15pm on Saturdays. Our Group Singing classes run every Wednesday 6.00pm-6.45pm for 8 – 15 year olds.



DANCE TO THE MUSIC UK TOUR

This January, pupils from the theatre school and full time College were given the opportunity to perform at the prestigious Churchill Theatre in the UK Tour of Dance to the Music alongside Jake Quickenden and Kristina



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Rihanoff. We were asked to participate and put together a street dance number. Graduate Leah Bauckham pulled out all of the stops with her wonderful choreography and in three rehearsals; they were ready to take to the stage. They all performed brilliantly, and you can see all of the performance on our instagram tv feed! Get watching and **KEEP DANCING!**



As well as Dancing with D&B's very own champion street dancer Leah Bauckham at the Churchill Theatre, our street dance students were given amazing opportunities to be involved with other influential and dynamic choreographers in the form of advanced workshops here at our studios.

We were lucky enough that the amazing Carrie-Anne Ingrouille (Choreographer on SIX the musical, resident choreographer on HAMILTON, West End) came along to pass on her extensive knowledge as well as Marlon "SWOOSH" Wallen who is the CEO|Director and creator of global street dance sensation Flawless. The workshops took place in July and September 2019 respectively and were a massive hit with our advanced street dancers who got to explore different styles.

EXAMINATIONS

We are constantly blown away by the amazing work that our theatre school pupils do. We know that everyone is so talented. This makes it even more special for us when outside examiners and adjudicators come along to watch the kids in action and prove us right!

This year alone, D&B have held examinations at our studios in ISTD Ballet, Tap and Modern and LCM Singing with roaring success and 100% pass rate. Over 70 students also took LAMDA acting and verse and prose exams over 2 weekends in Feb and March this year and we will have those results sent over as soon as we have them.

To anyone that was due to take a dance or singing exam at Easter 2020, please rest assured that we are getting in touch with exam boards in order to reschedule the grading for when the studio's re-open.

Exam based classes are great for building the foundations of technique in Dance, Drama or singing with clear goals and levels to attain. Please get in touch if you have any questions about starting an exam based class at D&B.

UNIFORM

Before everyone was stuck indoors we had been working extremely hard in the office to help improve the waiting time for any uniform ordered. We worked with our new suppliers and listened to feedback from parents.

As such we also implemented a naming service which is now available for *any* D&B T-shirt ordered if students wish. We have also updated our brand of legging and child jogger to ensure that the quality is durable for all forms of dance and movement. Please come and visit us at reception upon re-opening to purchase any items needed and do keep tagging us in your video and pictures of pupils in their D&B uniforms at home practicing. We love to see them!

VARIETY SHOW

Saturday combination pupils were in full swing this past term starting rehearsals for our massive bi-annual theatre school variety show. It's a massive performance with lights, tailor-made costumes and pro sound teams coming together at the theatre to give pupils the most professional on-stage experience. Sections were already starting to come together and look incredible. Please rest assured that we will be back continuing to work on the show numbers as soon as we return. All choreographers are continuing to work at home to make sure that we can hit the ground running upon return. It's set to be an incredible show and certainly something to really look forward too.

LIFE AFTER TRAINING



We have been lucky enough to have been able to watch some of our crazily talented pupils and graduates doing what they're best at on TV and in Theatre's during the last few months and we couldn't be prouder than when their training and talent leads them to bag incredible jobs and experiences (often through our wonderful agency). D&B Staff had a special treat in August when they got to go along and see Theatre school and College alumni Mohamed Mansaray performing in the Barber Shop Chronicles at the Roundhouse in Camden.

Mohammed trained at D&B in the theatre school from a very young age before applying for the full-time course.

We have loved staying connected with staff, parents and students via our 2 new Social Media pages.

Parents are invited to join our closed Facebook group 'The D&B Community' and check out our new Instagram page @DandBLockdown where we will be doing our very best to keep educational and fun content available for all of our students and parents.



There are also D&B Online Video Master classes in Dance, Drama and singing available to purchase for students to take part in as many times as they like from home along with some complimentary warm-up videos. If you require any info about this please contact kerri@dandbtheatreschool.co.uk.

Please keep tagging us in your videos of you all singing, dancing and performing at home. We couldn't be prouder of how our D&B family have come together in the face of the unknown.

Our staff members are currently working from home at this time during the office hours of 10am- 5pm Monday- Friday and we will be happy to help you if you have any queries at all.

D&B SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

This is certainly the strangest 'End of Spring Term' that we've ever experienced here at the College with our college showcase auditions currently playing out across kitchens, gardens and computer screens all over the UK! However, we've had a fantastic first two terms which all started with a wonderful welcome meal organized by our head boy and head girl Lucia Valentino and Arran Blears. This Annual meal is a wonderful opportunity for the students to get to know each other and make friends before they embark on three years of intensive training. With students relocating from all over the country and further afield it is so important that they are all made to feel welcomed into the D&B family.



We kicked off induction day with a wonderful and informative talk on injury prevention and nutrition to support our intense training from an expert from OneDanceUK, a charity who strive to provide information and encourage safe and effective training across the dance sector in the UK. Students were given a valuable pool of information in regards to how to look after themselves, prevent injury and fuel themselves properly for the day to day training that we provide here.



From there, we dove straight into our timetable which we carefully put together over the summer break. Following the introduction of our technical jazz syllabus in 2019 and the incredible success and improvement that we saw across the board, our jazz teachers came in for a full day of training with our head of jazz, Jo



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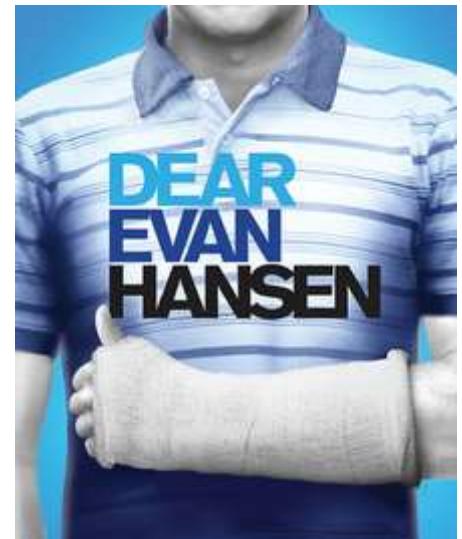
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Goodwin to develop the syllabus for the students. Our team of technical jazz teachers includes Jo Goodwin, Joel Cooper, Will Lucas, Grace McKee and Genevieve Nicole who are all experts in their fields with a wealth of experience in performing themselves. Alongside our incredible Ballet department, consisting of Nicola Simpson, Leila Seeley and Belle Erskine, the morning sessions here at D&B are technical, focussed and give the students the perfect start to the day and lots of time to really hone their technique and foundations for all subjects, including more specialised styles of jazz like commercial with Kirsten Wheeler and lyrical with Will Lucas.

We are fortunate enough to have an incredible faculty that are extremely instrumental in the wider profession, so unfortunately we've not had Ed Goggin (Director of Beautiful UK Tour) with us this term due to his directing commitments but we were so pleased to welcome back Mark Hilton to the drama faculty this term. Mark was one of our original drama teachers here at the college and is currently director for School of Rock in the West End. Alongside Mark, the students have had incredible acting lessons with Jon Emmanuel (Director of Dear Evan Hansen, West End), acting and acting through song classes with Ben Morris (Waitress the Musical, The Commitments), Dayle Hodge (Jesus Christ Superstar, Jersey Boys, Les Misérables), Michael Vivian (QDOS Pantomime Director), Lucyelle Cliffe (former pupil of D&B, Wicked, Les Misérables, Legally Blonde), Cleve September (Hamilton, In the Heights), Michael Pickering (Joseph & His Technicoloured Dream coat) etc etc! Our TV acting team have also been consistently bringing a completely different side of acting skills to the students, and we thank Ben Rawlings, Sarah Middleton, Linda and James (Inquisitive Pictures) for all of their hard work. The proof has certainly been in the pudding with students working professionally on screen this term (more details to follow!).



We welcomed more fabulous teachers to the singing faculty this year, with more due to start after the extended Easter break, solidifying our already diverse and passionate team of vocal coaches and musical directors here, delivering a carefully planned and wide ranging syllabus including technique, ensemble, harmony, reading music, repertoire and lots of solo singing!

Skills for Life

Here at D&B we offer the option for students to study towards teaching qualifications and all 2nd year students study either the London College of Music acting teachers Diploma or the UDO Street Dance teacher qualification. 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 chief examiner for the London College of Music to offer guidance and feedback. A huge congratulation is in order to the students as well as Kerri Doolan who coached the UDO qualification and Alex Southern who took them through the acting diploma.



Annabelle Laing (UDO), Ashley Rowe (UDO), Bethany Smith (UDO), Brooke Kelly (UDO), Caitlin South (UDO), Charlotte Parker (DipLCM TD), Danielle Springer (UDO), Faye Butcher (UDO), Jessica Packard-White (DipLCM TD), Jude Thornley (DipLCM TD), Nicholas Rowlands (DipLCM TD), Nicola Coates (UDO), Ronnie Law (DipLCM TD), Sheldon Harling (DipLCM TD), Sophie Moore (DipLCM TD)

Training With the Professionals



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In March we held our annual panel assessments which are where every student gets to show all of their skills to an extremely large panel of our professional tutors. The panels were made up of over 19 members of staff, including the resident directors of Dear Evan Hansen, School of Rock, Book of Mormon and Dreamgirls! No pressure then! We were blown away by the improvement across the board and it always ends up being such a wonderful part of the college calendar, really giving us the opportunity to see the fruits of the incredible tuition and hard work here at the college.

Our wonderful artistic advisor, Alison Pollard also came in to audition students for upcoming contracts for Dreamgirls, The Book or Mormon and preliminary castings for Mean Girls the musical. There are students currently in the audition process now, so fingers crossed.

We welcomed Stacey Haines, director of The Lion King who has also creatively worked on The Producers, Guys and Dolls, Fame, Flashdance, West Side Story, Singin' in the Rain, Starlight Express, Cats, The Rocky Horror Show, Rent, Smokey Joe's Cafe, My Fair Lady, One Love and Chicago to name a few! She is currently the co-director and choreographer of Mamma Mia the Party at the o2. She came in and worked with lots of the students on their audition rep whilst submitting them for further auditions for the jobs she is working on!

One of the final lessons in the studios was held by Ted Talent who gave a workshop on working abroad, before auditioning the 3rd years for future contracts.

Students have also been lucky enough to welcome the following guest tutors and workshops so far this year!

- Rory Phelan (D&B Graduate) Hairspray workshop
- Antoine Sturgeon- 9-5 the Musical
- Ben Cogan- TV Director who held a casting here
- Leon Kay- Casting Director who held a Les Miserables workshop
- Ebony Clarke- Everybody's talking about Jamie
- Libby Watts- Wicked
- Adam Lyons- Commerical and Musical Theatre
- Holly Dayle Spencer- Annie
- Rebecca Fennelly- Cats
- Jay Gardner- Casting Director who was auditioning the students for TV and theatre projects
- Khylie Williams- Smash workshop
- Lindsay McAlister- Resident choreographer of Hairspray Tour
- Dee Hylton- Yoga
- Sam Haughton- School of Rock
- Lucyelle Cliffe (former pupil of D&B)- Les Miserables, Wicked, Legally Blonde
- Jo Fletcher- Wicked
- Tom Inge – Cats
- Akeem Hyman- Motown

Reaching Out

This year we attended our first Can You Dance Superconvention up in Liverpool. The event went over two days and was attended by over 12,000 people and was a fantastic way to promote the College to visiting pupils and schools. These conventions are run by our showcase director, Matt Flint and the students were given the opportunity to perform a commercial piece choreographed by Kirsten Wheeler and an all singing-all dancing musical theatre number





from Six, choreographed by Joel Cooper and musically directed by Nikki Gummer. We were also approached by the event to provide a performance as part of a fashion show for Zier Clothing. 3rd year Josh Nkemdilim was tasked with putting this performance together and did an incredible job. It was no exaggeration to say that the students' performance in the fashion show literally stopped people in the tracks! Students also assisted teachers at the event including Carrie-Anne Ingrouille, Katy Hards and Mike Denman.

A few weeks later, we took part in the CDMT Careers Conference which was held at Mountview in London. The CDMT is our accrediting board and the event is a way for all of the accredited colleges to provide information to the hundreds of students that attend the event. We were asked to provide an open rehearsal that people could come along and watch. The students rehearsed their 'Six' piece with Joel. They were the only students to sing on the day and with the door thoroughly propped open, people were literally running up the stairs to watch what they could hear!!



In November and March, we held our College Experience days for people that would like to come along and try out a typical day at the college. Lots and lots of students came in to help out and take extra classes and they were a huge success, topped up with a performance of Six, assessment routines and the fashion show, as well as solo vocal performances by selected students.

We even managed to squeeze in a whistle stop tour of Dublin, holding auditions over there for 2020. It was wonderful to meet so many lovely students, including some familiar siblings of current students!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the students who have taken their time to represent the college beautifully at these events and look forward to more Can You Dance Events and external workshops in the near future!

We also held two more open days, one in October and then again in January. 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! We've also now received applications for over 100 people to audition for our next year group starting in 2020. We're still scheduled to have one more audition session in May and under the current circumstances, we're also accepting applications via video submission.

A Showcase For All

We've been able to act quickly amongst the COVID-19 pandemic, and have successfully pushed back the date of our College showcase which will now be held at the Churchill Theatre on the 8th October. Tickets will be available through the Churchill Theatre website and we'll be sure to let you know when they are available!

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 August, we took an office trip to see graduate Mohammed Mansaray in The Barbershop Chronicles at the Roundhouse, just before he jetted off with the show to perform it on Broadway!

- In March we had the pleasure of performing on Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway with JLS. The choreographer of the show, Matt Flint, just so happens to direct our showcase and asked us to provide him with 40 students to go along to the television Centre to film. They had a fantastic time!
- Jacob McIntosh returned to Beautiful the Musical (working with our head of Acting Ed Goggin) following his stint on Kinky Boots. This marks Jacob's second tour with Beautiful.
- Sydnie Christmas has just hung up her skates following an incredible year in Starlight Express in Bochum, Germany.
- We loved watching Justin Thomas performing on Children In Need with the cast of Back to the Future the Musical! The show opened to fab reviews in Manchester in March.
- Zack Morris currently has a pending nomination for best serial drama performance at the National Television Awards- Watch this space!
- Chloe Smith is due to jet out to South Africa to begin rehearsals for Costa Crociere cruise ship which will sail around Northern Europe.
- Elle Crees is also about to start rehearsals for the Carnival Ecstasy as a singer/dancer
- Brandon Jones is in rehearsals for Potters!
- Niall Fogarty will be off to Egypt to work for Sensatori as a singer as soon as possible
- Georgina Doig will also be heading over to Greece to work as a dancer as soon as travel permits
- Josh Nkemdilim (3rd year) performed on The Greatest Dancer with Anne-Marie in February along with BoyBlue. We are lucky enough to have Kenrick, the creative director of Boy Blue working with us on the upcoming college showcase!
- We were approached by [Kristina Rihanoff](#) to provide dancers for 'Dance to the Music' at the Churchill Theatre so we performed alongside Jake Quickenden! I have to say... the D&B guys absolutely smashed it! Head to our Instagram for footage!
- Ben Rawlings wrote and directed 'Christmas Spectacular' for GladRag Productions at the Regent Centre Christchurch. The production was choreographed by another graduate Carly Simmerling!
- Mac Rathmill returned to Italy, this time playing Kenickie in Grease!
- Alfie Browne and Aaron Ramsden performed together in Disneyland Paris!
- Now Alfie is with another graduate Leah Bauckham rehearsing in Australia for P&O Australia!
- Graduate Dan Walters is now releasing fab music on Spotify and itunes under the pseudonym Claydan- get listening everyone!
- Over the Summer, we had 4 lovely graduates, Keli-Ann Corcoran, Jess Mason, Chelsie Flain and Annalise Liard-Bailey working on their show 'The Greatest Showgirls' which they have since been performing onboard cruise liners! They worked on their musical arrangements and tracks with Nikki Gummer, another D&B grad!
- Durone Stokes has now finished his run in 'A Taste of Honey' for the National Theatre alongside Jodie Prenger.
- Brooke Kelly appeared in a music video with the Stereophonics
- Glyn Pritchard appeared in the national tour of 'In the Night Garden'
- And just in case you missed it, Jacqueline Jossa was crowned QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE on I'm a Celeb! Look out for a little nod to that in our theatre school show!



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!

At the moment, our team is busily working away at home, preparing for our return and trying to make sure that we're doing everything we can to support our D&B Community.

If you'd like to see more of anything on our @dandblockdown or 'D&B Community' social media accounts please let us know! And we'd love to see videos of you performing in your living rooms with the whole family!

We are available by email at this time
Theatre school- kerri@dandbtheatreschool.co.uk
Agency- Ashleigh@dandbmanagement.com
College- nikki@dandbperformingarts.co.uk

Please stay safe and well, and we can't wait to give you all the biggest hug when we return to our second home on Bromley Road.

Lots of Love

Donna, Bonnie and the whole team at D&B