

Performance 3

Hello and welcome to 'Performance' - the newsletter that keeps you up to date with all the latest activities within **Swansea College's Music and Performing Arts department.**

As you will see from this edition, much of our work at Swansea College is created by the students themselves.

Devising, improvisation, choreography and creative writing are core skills for performing artists while musicians compose, arrange, record and mix in the sound studios as a normal part of their everyday college work.

If you would like to be a part of the Music and Performing Arts team here at Swansea College it's not too early to find out about our **applications process for September 2009.**

Hope to see you soon!

Contact us on 01792 284000 or email m.johnson@swancoll.ac.uk

Martin Johnson, Curriculum Team Leader,
Music and Performing Arts

Big Brother is watching you...

Originally created by our National Diploma Performing Arts students for a general audience, 'ICU' is inspired by George Orwell's 1984, the work of physical theatre company DV8 and the CCTV filled surveillance society we all live in.

Now the students are in their 2nd year they have reworked the piece to suit a school audience of Year 10 and 11 pupils. 'ICU' is touring local secondary schools in late November and early December 2008.

For more information on the 'ICU' school tour please contact Rachel Dooley on 01792 284021.

Ho, Ho, Ho... its time for the panto!

The first task of the year for National Diploma Performing Arts students is to create an original Christmas show suitable for children. Not only do they have to put together the story but they also have to rehearse and perform it together with the First Diploma students.

National Diploma in Music Technology students are involved too - they arrange and record the musical score, working closely with vocalists to create a tailor-made soundtrack.

The Christmas show - 'Saving Wonderland' - has to have plenty of singing and dancing and a storyline that young children can enjoy.

The plot of this year's show is being kept under wraps but we can

give a little bit away! It's set in a Winter Wonderland where the Ice Queen has been imprisoned in the Ice Cave. Will she escape and wreak havoc on the world or will we all live happily ever after? Better come and see the show to find out...

The Christmas panto will be performed during the w/c 8th December. There will be matinee shows for school pupils and a public evening performance on Friday 12th. For more information please contact 01792 284021.

'Special' Effects take music prize

A band from Bishopston Comprehensive scooped the top prize at the Live & Unsigned grand final held at Llwyn y Bryn.

This competition, organised by Swansea College and The Wave, was a fantastic showcase for the many talented bands on the local music scene.

The Effects won a series of recording sessions in the college's two sound studios. These were managed by the 2nd year Music Technology students who undertook the master recordings of the band's first CD 'Satellites' and then produced their own mixes as a natural part of their coursework.

The Effects also featured on The Wave when the live mix from Live & Unsigned was broadcast on Johnny B's show.

The event was a great experience for the Music Technology students and a fantastic boost for the band!



New technologies at your fingertips

One of the best things about the Llwyn y Bryn campus is that, if you take a look inside the lovely 19th century building, you'll find a range of state-of-the-art 21st century facilities.



Our Music Technology suite has had a major upgrade.

Each workstation is now equipped with a Quad-core PC featuring Cubase 4 software that allows students to compose, arrange and record music. Individual mixing desks boast top of the range graphics cards and ½ terrabyte storage per PC.

Swansea College is the first further education college in the UK to offer students a fully equipped 'surround sound' mixing suite which includes a 5.1 mixing facility, control desks and multi-screen editing facilities.

Our Counterpoint Theatre has also been upgraded. It now features a 4m square projection screen that can be used for educational and entertainment purposes. We can record students' performances and then play them back with the help of a new projector and high performance laptop facility.

The dance studio also has a new PC suite and has been fully curtained, mirrored and fitted with a brand new 'sprung' floor.

NEW Music course on offer

The **Level 2 BTEC First Diploma Music** course develops practical and theoretical skills while giving students an understanding of the music business.

Students will develop their playing skills and become acquainted with music technology software and its use in the music studio. Study units include:

- **Making a music product**
- **Composition**
- **Music performance**
- **Understanding music**
- **Computer systems for musicians**



Student profile

"My exam results at school had been disappointing so I thought it would be good to 'try again' at Swansea College and enrolled on the First Diploma Performing Arts course.



Darryl Thomas

Llwyn y Bryn is so friendly I found it easy to mix with all the other students.

Performing Arts was scary at first because I had to sing and dance but I soon gained plenty of confidence and passed the First Diploma.

Now I've progressed onto the National Diploma course and am busy preparing for the big Christmas show for children. It's great!"

>>>> STOP PRESS! <<<<<<

Results!

In 2007/08 students on our vocational courses [National and First Diplomas] achieved outstanding results leading to excellent progression onto higher level and Higher Education courses.

- First Diploma in Performing Arts - 80% successful completion with one distinction and four merits.
- National Diploma in Music Technology - 100% successful completion with students achieving nine distinctions in their unit grades. Five of the ten students went onto Higher Education and the others have obtained work in their chosen fields [from recording studios to performance venues.]
- National Diploma in Performing Arts - 100% successful completion of the first year with students gaining two distinctions and five merits. This is a new course and students are now completing their UCAS forms for university entrance next year.

Congratulations to them all!

Would you like to know more about studying Music and the Performing Arts at Swansea College? Would you like to talk to us about applying for a place?

If so, contact Martin Johnson on 01792 284000, email m.johnson@swancoll.ac.uk or visit www.swancoll.ac.uk