

Levi Moscovici

Mr Moscovici has hidden talents!! Not only does he teach the piano, he is also a 'rapper', producing the sound track for the 'TV Superstars' Playstation game and 'Dancing on Ice'. Levi recently wrote a score for a national horror movie competition in USA, and won a 'BEST MUSIC' award.



This year he has entered "Britain's Got Talent", he is preparing to demonstrate his virtuosity and versatility.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following girls achieved Distinction in their Associated Board and Trinity Guildhall Music Examinations:-

Epiphany Poon	Cello	Grade 8
Ho Jan Wong	Singing	Grade 4
Alice Elt	Singing	Grade 4

The following girls achieved Distinction in their LAMDA examinations:-

Speaking Verse and Prose		
Lorna Rolinson	Grade 2	
Flora Barber	Grade 6 Bronze Medal	
Speaking In Public		
Louise Hayes	Grade 6 Bronze Medal	
Morinsola Reis	Grade 6 Bronze Medal	
Yi Li Chen	Grade 7 Silver Medal	
Yan Yan Ng	Grade 7 Silver Medal	
Nai Yuan	Grade 7 Silver Medal	
Ifeoluwa Otegbeye	Grade 7 Silver Medal	

Acting Combined		
Miranda Davies	Grade 4	
Henrietta Hunter Hamilton	Grade 4	

Acting Solo		
Amelia Wrinch	Grade 4	
Faidah Lawal	Grade 6 Bronze Medal	

Acting Duologue		
Charlotte Jones	Grade 4	
Sophie Nairn	Grade 4	
Catherine Stylianou	Grade 6 Bronze Medal	

How to get in touch!

Each member of the Music Department has an individual e-mail address, so you can be specific when you get in touch. We are planning to phase out the use of 'music@...' in favour of these personal email addresses. The contact details are below:

Mrs Fisher – Head of Expressive Arts – fisherj@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mr Halliday – Head of Instrumental Music – hallim@malvernstjames.co.uk

Ms Langard – Expressive Arts Administrator – expressivearts@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mrs Lindner – Director of Performance and Vocal Studies – lindnl@malvernstjames.co.uk

Mr Strange – Head of Academic Music – strand@malvernstjames.co.uk

For tickets, please contact Amanda Langard at expressivearts@malvernstjames.co.uk or telephone 01684 564609
Malvern St James, 15 Avenue Road,
Great Malvern, WR14 3BA
www.malvernstjames.co.uk

Dates for the Diary

Year 11, 12 and 13 Art Trip to Madrid
9 February – 13 February

Young Performers' Platform
Friday 10 February, 1.00pm (Lawnside Room)

Alexander Technique Training
Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 February



Alexander Technique:
Last year's workshop run by Lynn Boreham was highly valued by all who participated. A follow-up series of training sessions for individual

music students and groups by this Alexander Technique expert will take place on 27 and 28 February. The technique helps performers to avoid muscle tension and thereby enhance their performances.

Lunchtime Recital: Ruth Cumiskey
Tuesday 28 February, 1.00pm (Lawnside Room)

An Evening of Jazz and Swing with MSJ and The Chase High School Big Bands
Thursday 1 March, 7.30pm (York Hall)

An Evening of Jazz and Swing is a new

venture in which the MSJ Jazz Band will join forces with The Chase High School Big Band. The programme will also include jazz items from the combined School Choirs and String Ensembles.



Junior Schools Art Exhibition
Saturday 3 March, 10.30am (York Hall)

Year 9 Art Trip to Birmingham
Wednesday 7 March

Year 8 - 10 Arts Awards Moderation Day
Thursday 8 March

Worcester Cathedral - Choral Evensong
Thursday 8 March, 5.30pm

The Choir will be singing Evensong at Worcester Cathedral having established close links with the Cathedral through regular services and participation in concerts at this historic and famous place of worship. All parents and friends are warmly welcome at the service.



GCSE, AS, A2 Music Recital
Tuesday 20 March, 7.30pm (York Hall)

GCSE Drama 'Examination' Performance
Thursday 22 March, 7.00pm (Drama Centre)



Exhausted by REP rehearsals? Or is something more sinister afoot? What? In our house?

REP Performance
Thursday 22 March, 7.45pm (York Hall)

MSJ Spring Concert
Sunday 25 March, 7.30pm (York Hall)

The Spring Concert is our termly showcase for our flagship ensembles: Orchestra, Choir and Jazz Band, with some chamber music and soloists for added variety and entertainment!



Associated Board Music Examinations
Tuesday 27 March

Years R - 6 Talent Competition
Tuesday 26 March, 4.30pm (York Hall)

Trinity Guildhall Music Examinations
Thursday 29 March

LAMDA Examinations
Thursday 29 March

Malvern Priory Lunchbox Concert
Thursday 29 March, 1.00pm

The Priory Lunchbox is a concert series run by Malvern Priory. Malvern St James is invited to participate on a regular basis. We will be offering a programme of chamber music and vocal works in this beautiful setting.

Ledbury Rotary Club Spring Concert
Friday 30 March, 7.00pm

Ledbury Rotary Club Spring Concert: MSJ musicians have been invited to participate in a concert at St Michael's Church, Ledbury. Tickets cost £8 and will be available on the door, with all proceeds going to the Royal National College for the Blind, Hereford.



AS Drama Examination Performance
Thursday 10 May (Drama Centre)
6.00pm Monologues, 7.00pm Play

Young Performers' Platform
Friday 11 May, 1.00pm (Lawnside Room)

Worcester Cathedral Lunchtime Concert
Tuesday 15 May, 1.00pm

Prep Schools Choir Competition
Sunday 27 May, 2.00pm (York Hall)

Elgar Festival Jubilee Concert
Thursday 31 May, 8.00pm
(Worcester Cathedral)

Evening Recital: David Strange
Tuesday 12 June, 7.30pm (York Hall)

Young Performers' Platform
Friday 15 June, 1.00pm
(Lawnside Room)

Years R - 6 Jubilee Summer Concert
Friday 15 June, 2.30pm
(York Hall)

Year 10 Drama Examination Performance
Tuesday 19 June, 7.00pm (Drama Centre)

Year 10 Art Trip to Cornwall
21 - 24 June

Years 7 and 8 Arts Week - 'A Show in a Week'
25 - 29 June. Final performance on
Friday 29 June, 2.00pm (Drama Centre)

Midsummer Cabaret
Sunday 1 July, 7.30pm

SPRING 2012

Expressive Arts

NEWSLETTER

'Girls are very creative in Art and Drama: Music is a real strength'. (ISI 2011)

The Newsletter comes to you at Half Term, just as we are reflecting on some of our successes and working towards the next challenges! We are proud that the Inspection Report recognizes the strengths of the Expressive Arts areas, telling us that creativity is especially evident in Art, Drama and Music. There is no doubt that we are very busy working with our girls to create the most outstanding work in the Arts and give them the chance to achieve artistic goals of which they did not know they were capable! The Spring Term is full of exciting activities in Expressive Arts and the staff are planning the Summer Term events and beyond.

In this edition, we have included contributions from members of the School, who invariably see things with a very fresh eye!

NEW HEAD OF ACADEMIC MUSIC

We are delighted to welcome our new Head of Academic Music, David Strange, to the Expressive Arts team from January 2012. Before joining MSJ, he was Teacher of Music and Head of Strings at St. George's College, Weybridge. He has performed throughout Europe and the USA as a violinist and violist, working in versatile musical environments with prestigious musicians including the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, The Ulster



David strange

Orchestra, The John Wilson Orchestra, Sir Colin Davis, Katie Price and Westlife to name but a few! Please do feel free to contact Mr Strang with any queries regarding academic musical progress of the girls.

Birmingham Art Gallery

Birmingham is a centre for Victorian Pre Raphaelite art. This Year 9 trip in March exposes the girls to the work of the Pre Raphaelite brotherhood, including a specialist lecture from the Education Department's Curator.

The girls will have the opportunity to draw and critically analyse the paintings and make comparisons with modern movements which subsequently followed those earlier pictorial conventions. It promises to be an inspiring trip!



The Secret Garden and a visit from local Theatre Directors

Lizzie Fenwick (Year 10) has been working with the Malvern Theatre Players in the recent production of 'The Secret Garden' at the Forum Theatre in Malvern. After auditioning in October Half Term, Lizzie was delighted to have been selected for the part of Martha.

"I particularly enjoyed working in a professional theatre, and it was really good to work with so many different age groups - from eight to sixty!" said Lizzie. After a busy rehearsal schedule from November, the performance run was in January.

The Director of the show, Chris Bassett, came into School with his colleague, actor and fellow Manager, Nick Wilkes, to talk to all the Year 10 Drama students about careers and opportunities in the arts, and theatre in particular. Their visit helped to strengthen the links between MSJ and local theatre, proving to be a fascinating insight into the rich history, as well as the modern day workings of theatre in Malvern.



MALVERN ST JAMES
GIRLS' SCHOOL



Arabian Nights looking out from the stage...

Review by Harriet Salt

On a Friday and Saturday night in mid-November, people flocked to the York Hall to watch the extravagant performance of Arabian Nights, which was alive with different age groups, colourful dancers and a nervous yet vibrant atmosphere. Little did the audience know that it would be filled with flying heads, drunken merchants and reluctant donkeys!

From upstage, you could see the smiling faces of the audience drawn into the exotic Arabian dancing, watching the hips swaying, hearing the bells jangling and marvelling at the vivid coloured silks. Towards the end, smiles were all around, although this was a bit much for some

of the actors, and being only human, someone started to giggle, which triggered the shameful corpsing of members of the royal court! Beth Barnes, who was playing the role of King Shahryar, just managed to control herself, and with the line "Vizier take the day off!" saved the day and started a round of applause!

Overall, the performance was a great hit that immersed and amused the whole audience and I am really looking forward to next year's show!

For more information, please look on the website link:
<http://www.malvernstjames.co.uk/senior-school/latest-news/magical-performance-of-arabian-nights>

After some fantastic dancing in 'Arabian Nights' it was decided to start a dance club this term for those girls who would like to try a variety of styles. The aim is enjoyment but also to develop skills and perform. There will be the opportunity for girls to lead a session and/or invite visiting workshop leaders.

The first session on 20 January was very successful with girls from Year 7 to Year 13 taking part. This was very well led by Yemi Shittu in Year 12 who encouraged everyone with her clear explanation and fantastic dancing. Anyone in Year 7 upwards is welcome in the future, you do not have to have experience, just enthusiasm!



by Elizabeth Rees

Reviews

MSJ's Choir Tour October 2011

After arriving in Paris and getting to grips with the Metro, we went for an evening boat trip on the river Seine. Despite the cold, the trip was very enjoyable, giving a different perspective of the beautiful city. After a Parisian style breakfast the next day, we walked from our hotel up to Montmartre, where we had some free time to look around the artistic area before we set off to one of Paris's best known landmarks: the Eiffel Tower. Sadly we couldn't go to the top of the tower, yet we had fantastic views of the city from the second floor. The busy day continued with a tour of the fabulous Paris Opera House. On the tour we were shown the gilded hall where the Parisian nobility once gathered during the intermission and the meaning behind the interior design was explained. This was one of the highlights of the trip for me. In the evening we sang mass at L'église Saint-Eustache. This was challenging, yet the church staff were very hospitable and the French service was a new and interesting experience.

We spent the next day in Disneyland where we took part in a musical theatre workshop before performing on the stage. After a successful concert, we were allowed to spend the rest of the day on the rides which all the girls enjoyed. This day was fun, not only because of the rides, but because it gave us a chance to perform different styles of music.

The next day was more relaxing with a morning of shopping and a visit to the contemporary Pompidou Museum. In the afternoon we held a concert at L'église de la Madeleine, which looks more like the Parthenon than a church from the outside. This was our longest concert of the tour with solo, instrumentals and choir pieces. This was my favourite concert of the tour as the building was magnificent and we sang some beautiful pieces.

For our last day in Paris, we sang at the best known Cathedral: the Notre Dame. Despite our short time slot we were warmly received by the crowd it was an amazing experience to sing in such a historic building. Before leaving for the Cite de la Musique museum, we did some busking outside the Notre Dame which was a really fun way to end our music on the tour. We spent the remainder of our day at Cité de la Musique which housed an incredible variety of instruments. I really enjoyed visiting the museum as the collections were very interesting, including a tortoise guitar; it was an apt ending to the tour. I can't wait for the next one!

A Winter's Tale Review by Katie Stow

If one was to mention cross-dressing, Beyoncé dancing and sheep in woolly hats the first word to pop into your head probably isn't 'Shakespeare'. However, on a recent trip to the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, Year 10 and 13 were introduced to this wonderful amalgamation of classic literature and contemporary hilarity to form the winning combination for 'A Winter's Tale'.

The outstanding play follows the dramatic tale of King Leontes and his unfounded distrust in his loving wife Hermione, and his accusations lead to tragic consequences of both his son's and his wife's death and the banishment of his newly born daughter Perdita. I know this isn't sounding like the jolliest of tales but somehow 'Propeller Theatre Company' transformed this bleak storyline into something of a glorious performance where laughter came as frequently as the word 'thou'. Through the introduction of the country folk, the audience was whisked from the first half into the second (and arguably more entertaining) half where royal crowns were swapped for flower garlands and suits for sheep.

Being one of Shakespeare's only plays to fall into the category of two genres (both rom-com and tragedy) the actors did a fine job of juxtaposing the two territories to emphasise the contrast in characters and morals – where the Royal Palace may force out a little tune on a piano, the countryside offered rock concerts performed with a shepherds crook and sheep as backing vocals. In addition, a stylistic device I had not seen before in a Shakespeare production (but left me wondering why it had not been featured more) is the use of the bootylicious dance to 'Single Ladies' – performed by men in drag and a farmer's boy at the jauntiest barn dance in history. Whilst this left our girls reeling with laughter, it is fair to say that the joke was somewhat lost on the older members of the audience, who I can't help thinking were hoping for a more docile slice of Shakespeare than the one unraveling on the stage before them.

If I were to leave you with one last word about 'Propeller Theatre Company's' performance it would be...

'thisstunningpieceoftheatreisreallyremarkableasitfusesmodernandclassicalfeaturestoproduceathoroughlyinterlectualandalsohilariouspieceofdramasobasicallygowatchitnow!'



by Katie Stow

The Wild Bride

The audience at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham was excited, the atmosphere buzzing in anticipation of Kneehigh Theatre Company's magical production of 'The Wild Bride'.

The play started with the devil sitting centre stage playing the banjo and singing, 'Cross Roads'. The lyrics of the song were narrating the play and the audience instantly knew this would be no normal fairy tale. The simple set surrounded the devil on his rocking chair; ladders and branches created a tree, which blossomed through the journey of the innocent child, turning into the wild girl, turning into the bride.

The most surprising and interesting prop used was hanging light bulbs representing the Prince's Pears - it was incredible the way the actress (Patrycja Kujawaska) took them in her mouth as though taking them off a tree. We could almost taste the sweetness.

Fear and shock accompanied the scene when the devil cut off the daughter's hands, the real axe adding a huge amount of dramatic tension, the red paint symbolising blood in a very gory way. The girl's new, metal hands, were made to symbolise farming tools, we felt true sadness for the grieving, guilty father and the broken child.

This production of 'The Wild Bride' was brilliant. The actors communicated really well with the audience who responded equally well. The sound and movement set the mood and the songs throughout helped to tell the story. The simple set kept the play natural and the tree blossoming at the end showed the always desired, 'happily ever after', which was then comically shattered by the devil's "Now, who the hell's next?!"



by Claire Cassell

Inspiring Speech and Drama Teacher: Jessie Wild

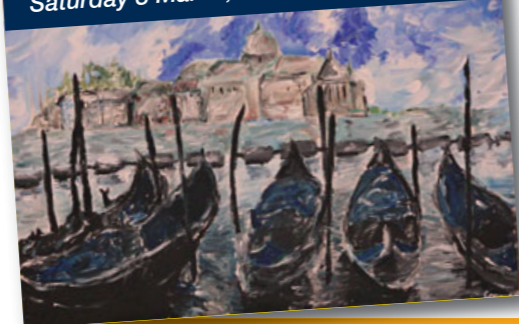
I spent many years touring Shakespeare around secondary schools all over Britain, but in case you were wondering, no this hasn't quenched my love of Will's work! Touring as an actor really does test you to the limit every day. Not only were we pounding up and down motorways in time for school assemblies, but once we arrived, we had to put up the set, and sort out our own costume, hair and makeup – often full Tudor rigmarole. We were usually required to workshop with the students afterwards, skipping from playing a ladylike Juliet, to showing how to vanquish your enemy on stage with a sword! Quite often our audience were not as enthusiastic as we were about the bard – I will never forget having to weep and wail as Julius Caesar's mad wife, whilst some particularly horrid boys on the front row let off stink bombs under their chairs – let's hope they didn't grow up to be theatre critics!

My most treasured memory however was the day we performed Romeo and Juliet at a school in East London. It couldn't have been more different from our beautiful building at MSJ – it was a tower block on a busy road with no grass to be seen and security on the door. Yet when Juliet breathed her last moments, you could have heard a pin drop and as we took our bows, someone shouted "that was wicked man – I love that Shakespeare". I couldn't have agreed more!

JUNIOR SCHOOLS Art Exhibition

The Junior Art Exhibition is an exciting event, showing the work of young artists in a wide variety of media. The exhibition aims to encourage creativity and technical excellence. Schools from across the region participate and will be judged this year by professional artist and illustrator of children's books Mr Piet Grobler.

Saturday 3 March, 10.30am, (York Hall)



TRIP TO MADRID

Year 11, 12 and 13 will be travelling to Madrid at Half Term, taking part in visits to the Thyssen Bornemisza Museum, Outdoor Sculpture Museum, Museo del Traje and the Reina Sofia National Museum and Art Centre. Read all about it in the next newsletter!



So you think you know your Shakespeare?

Come and enjoy an entirely new comedy thriller with every word by the Bard himself! Who is the unexpected guest at Lady Macbeth's reunion? And who is the guilty party? Still, all's well that ends well – maybe? The REP presents the secret life of Shakespeare's heroines! What – in our house?

Thursday 22 March, 7.45pm (York Hall)

Bronze and Silver Arts Awards



56 girls are entered for Bronze and Silver Arts Awards this year, the Silver Award being a new venture for a whole group. The Silver Award asks the candidates to fulfil a challenge, and what greater challenge, than producing a Shakespeare play in 4 weeks, as achieved by our Year 10 GCSE Drama students. The feedback was outstanding for the venture and the work will now be assessed by the Trinity Examination Board, backed by the Arts Council. Girls have been working over the term on creating the most imaginative and detailed portfolios demonstrating their progress and achievement in the Shakespeare Schools Festival and the way they shared their new found knowledge and inspiration with younger Years in the School.

Year 10 girls working on the Silver Arts Award Portfolios



Ruth's Recital

"I am looking forward, a little nervously, to my recital at the end of February, and am practising hard in preparation! Having only just finished my own education - I graduated from the University of Birmingham in June 2011 - I am finding it rather strange being on the other side of the fence at MSJ, particularly being called 'Miss Cumiskey'! However, I am greatly enjoying my year in MSJ and will be very sad to leave in July."



The flute pieces I have chosen for my recital (Bach and Doppler) are contrasting in style, but they do a good job of showing off two differing sides of the instrument's character and history. The clarinet piece I have chosen to play is one of the first I heard as a child and is one of my mum's favourites! Its singing melody brings out the richness of the clarinet's sound. Some may know this piece as the theme tune to the television programme 'Victorian Kitchen Garden', made famous by the clarinetist Emma Johnson.

Doppler - Fantaisie Pastorale Hongroise (Flute and piano)

CPE Bach – Concerto in D Minor, Movement 1 (Flute and piano)

Paul Reade – 'Prelude' from Victorian Kitchen Garden Suite (Clarinet and piano)

GCSE Production

A compact GCSE Drama group is working towards the examination production on 22 March using Jim Cartwright's 'To' as their stimulus. The task from the Examination Board was to create a play based on the idea that 'Everyone has a Story that Needs to be Told'. The characters in 'To' each have individual tales to share, demonstrating this theory perfectly. However, during the rehearsal process, the group have become inspired by characters from beyond the play and are gradually including a wider range of stories and anecdotes which continue to fulfil the brief, as well as including physical theatre, music, mime and excellent characterisation which cannot help but bring the production to life!