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# NEWSLETTER

## 2023

Dear Diverse Performing Arts Center Community,

We are excited to bring you our annual newsletter, a reflection on the incredible year that was at Diverse. We've been busy creating magic through shows, events, exams and competitions that have truly highlighted the talent and dedication of our students and staff. We are overwhelmed with pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements of our students, staff, and alumni. It has been a year of unparalleled creativity, dedication and unforgettable moments and we are excited to share some of the highlights with you.



### **Guest Choreographer Extravaganza: Dane Bates Returns!**

In October, we had the pleasure of welcoming back the incredible Dane Bates, who journeyed from the UK to inspire and ignite our dancers' creativity. His workshops were a whirlwind of movement and emotion, culminating in the breathtaking performance "Don't Give Up" which won gold at both the Global Performing Arts Alliance Competition and the Global Dance Open heats, it was also performed at the Dubai Opera show, but more about that later!

### **Ballet Brilliance: Liliya Lishchuk's Workshops**

The year also brought us the wonderful opportunity to learn from the renowned Liliya Lishchuk, who graced our studio with her presence. Our ballet dancers had the privilege of participating in her workshops, an experience that left them enriched and inspired.



Graduate Dylan Rushworth performing in "Don't Give Up"

**More Info**

[www.diversechoreography.com](http://www.diversechoreography.com)

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### A Joyful Christmas Season

The holiday season swept over us with a whirlwind of activity! Not only did we host our very own Christmas Camp at the studios, but some of our incredibly talented students were also selected to be part of the cast of "Elf The Musical" at The Theatre, Mall of the Emirates. This professional show, featuring talent from the UK, showcased the extraordinary skills of our students on a grand stage.

### Winterfest: A Double Delight

As if all of that wasn't enough, we doubled the holiday joy with not one but two fantastic events at Winterfest. "Winterfest Rocks" and the "Winterfest Christmas Show" were choreographed by the brilliant Scott and featured our very own Angela and Jared dancing their hearts out, accompanied by the talented voice of Ben. These performances added a dash of sparkle to the holiday.

### Born to Perform – A Swiss Show Extravaganza

Our Swiss Show was a whirlwind of creativity, featuring students aged 5+ and five mini shows in one unforgettable day. It was a fantastic opportunity for our younger and junior students to showcase their incredible talents.



### Show Term: 'Our House'

We kicked off the year in January with a bang as our Intermediate and Senior 1 & 2 Musical Theatre production of "Our House" took center stage. The talent on display was nothing short of astounding, setting the tone for a year filled with artistic excellence.



Graduates Jacob Ryder and Carly Houston performing in "Our House"



## TRIUMPHS

Competition season arrived, and our students truly shone on the global stage. At the Global Performing Arts Alliance (formerly Urdang International), we proudly brought home 35 gold, 6 silver and 2 bronze medals, a testament to the dedication and skill of our performers and choreographic team.

### Global Dance Open - A Journey to Spain

We were awarded an amazing 27 gold, 20 silver and 11 bronze medals in the regional Global Dance Open competition.

Dylan Rushworth, Lana Bassiri, Gabi Wee, Keir Marshall, Sienna Marshall, and Keona McIntosh were also nominated for Dancer of the Globe. Three of these talented students, Sienna Marshall, Keona McIntosh and Keir Marshall along with other finalist students journeyed to Avila, Spain, for the world finals, and their achievements were nothing short of exceptional.

**Sienna Marshall and our Small Group World Champions have also been invited to represent the Global Dance Open at the Can You Dance Super Convention in Liverpool this month!**

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World Champion Sienna Marshall at the Global Dance Open Finals

Our students' dedication was further recognized with classes at Danceworks London and vouchers for dancewear.

“Attention” our Small Group World Champions also got to perform at the Global Dance Open dance Gala.



# WORLD CHAMPIONS

Medal Table Below:

**MT Song & Dance Solo Junior World Champion:**

Sienna Marshall

**Commercial Small Group Intermediate World Champions:**

Sienna Marshall, Keir Marshall, Bethan Mills,

Ariana Jethwani, Lakshmi Jethwani,

Christina Royall-Smith, Isabel Ahmad

**Tap Small Group Junior World Champions:**

Sienna Marshall,

Christina Royall-Smith, Mishel Reza, Keona McIntosh,

Matea Faine,

Adriana Rifai, Lakshmi Jethwani

**Tap Dance Solo Junior World Champion:** Keona McIntosh

**Ballet Duet Mini World Champions:** Antonia Faine & Daniela Dontu

**Tap Duet Mini World Champion:** Antonia Faine & Maysa Allaf

**MT Song & Dance Solo Junior Runner Up World Champion:** Keir

Marshall

**Show Dance Junior Runner up World Champion:** Sienna Marshall

**Lyrical Small Group Junior Runner Up World Champion:** Safiya

Bekhouche, Shoalin Gilley, Mishel Reza, Amelie Kruti

**Acro Solo Junior 3rd:** Christina Royall-Smith

**MT Song & Dance Solo Junior 3rd:** Keona McIntosh

**MT Song & Dance Solo Intermediate 3rd:** Ariana Jethwani

**Showdance Solo Intermediate 4th:** Keir Marshall

**Showdance Duet/Trio Junior 4th:** Sienna Marshall, Christina Royall-Smith, Keona McIntosh

**Commercial Solo Mini 4th:** Adriana Rifai

**Lyrical Duet /Trio Junior 4th:** Safiya Bekhouche, Shoalin Gilley

**Jazz Duet/Trio Junior 5th:** Sienna Marshall, Christina Royall-Smith

**Jazz Solo Junior 5th:** Isabel Ahmed

**Ballet Solo Junior 5th:** Matea Faine

**Commercial Duet/Trio Junior 5th:** Adriana Rifai, Shoalin Gilley

**Lyrical Solo Junior 5th:** Antonia Faine

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World Champions 'Attention' Dancers



# EXAM SUCCESS

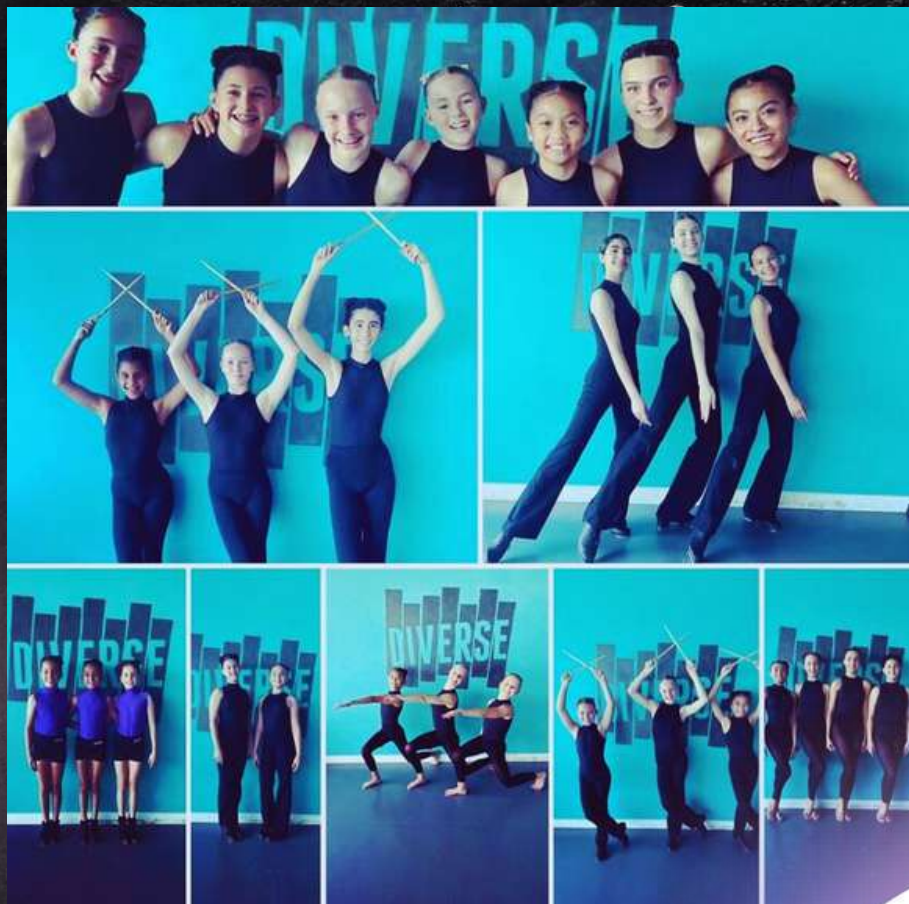
In 2023, our **Musical Theatre** department achieved a remarkable milestone with a 100% distinction rate in LAMDA singing exams, top scorer was Calan Marshall with 85/100

**ISTD Modern & Tap:** 51 Distinctions and 4 Merits, top scorers included: 96/100 Sarah Moore, 94/100 Ernestine Fay-Jourdain, 94/100 Eleya Decaix

**Trinity Drama:** 14 Distinctions and 4 Merits, our highest score was awarded to Kristiane Braathen with 93/100

**RAD Ballet Exams:** 25 Distinctions, 46 High Merits, 4 Merits with the highest score attained by Matea Faine

Our students' commitment to excellence was evident, and we couldn't be prouder of each of them



ISTD Modern & Tap exam students

## More Workshops with Industry Stars!

The new year also brought exciting workshops, including one with the incredible Rebecca Davies teaching her world renown Radar technique.

Commercial sensation Aaron Renfree wowed us once again with another show-stopping piece which was performed at the Dubai Opera Show.



# A NIGHT AT DUBAI OPERA!

## A Grand Finale: Senior Showcase

To cap off the year, our senior students presented a stunning show that showcased their incredible talents and the choreography of our dedicated teachers at Dubai Opera. It was a fitting end to a year filled with creativity and growth.

As always the show was bitter sweet as we said goodbye to some of our graduating students who have gained places at prestigious colleges in the UK, Dylan Rushworth is attending Urdang, Jacob Ryder, Mountview and Carly Houston, Italia Conti. Wishing these superstars the best of luck in the next chapter of their performing arts journey!



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[Click here to view some Dubai Opera Highlights](#)



# TV COMMERCIALS

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## Young Stars Shine in TV Commercials

Our Children's agency had an outstanding year, with several of our talented young performers making their mark in TV commercials:

- Keir Marshall, Chloe Boyle, Rahul Morzeira and Anika Boyle in 6th Street's Back To School Campaign
- Sienna Marshall, Ariana Jethwani, Celine Koussa, Seba Al Sayegh, Anya Liddington, Maxime Humbert-Droz, Danny Chudzynski and Rahul Morzeria at Yas Island for their Miami campaign
- Sienna Marshall, Keir Marshall, Faris Al Mutawa and Isabel Ahmad worked with the "Greatest Showman" Choreographer Ashley Wallen for Dubai Tourism
- Ziella Simon, Iona Millar, and Christina Royall-Smith appeared in a TV Commercial with Karim Benzema

Scott, our talented choreographer, had a busy year too, choreographing various TV Commercials, one of which was for Via Riyadh with Modern Family's Sophia Vergara!



[Click here to view 6th Street's Back to School Campaign](#)



Diverse dancers on set with Sophia Vergara

[Click here to view the Yas Island TV Commercial](#)





# ALUMNI SUCCESS

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Callum Bell on the set of

*Barbie*



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## Alumni Success Stories

Our alumni continue to shine on the global stage with impressive roles in musicals, live shows and movies:

"Guys and Dolls" - West End, Callum Bell and Izzy Snaas

"Wizard of Oz" - West End, Harrison Wilde

"Sunset Boulevard" - West End, Harrison Wilde

"Cats" - Tour, Alice Oberg

"Chicago" - Melbourne, Devon Braithwaite

"Mama Mia I Have a Dream" - ITV, Charlie Waddell

"Cabaret" - Paris Lido, Charlie Waddell

"Half a Sixpence" - Westend, Callum Bell

"MSC Cruises" - Lily Naylor

"Thursford Christmas Spectacular" - Hannah Morcos, this was actually Scott and Lisa's last choreography job in the UK before they left for Dubai in 2008!

"Barbie Movie" - Callum Bell

**Callum Bell also stepped into the lead role of Nicely Nicely Johnson with no rehearsal to save the show from being cancelled due to cast illness, way to go Callum! [To read the full article in Broadway World click here](#)**



# WHAT'S ON

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## Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards A Slime-tastic Experience

In September, our students had the incredible opportunity to participate in the 2023 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards. Some of our talented students performed live on stage with artists Jessie J, Issam Al Najar and Elyanna and many more. Others starred in a special VT shown live at the event. Over 200 children from Diverse were part of the live audience, enjoying the show and of course, lots of slime! It was a day filled with fun and cherished memories.

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Diverse Students Backstage with Jessie J at the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards

[Click here for Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards Highlights](#)

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# LOOKING AHEAD

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## Looking Ahead

We have more thrilling events on the horizon. Celine Koussa and Sophia Falconer have been selected to perform in "Macbeth" at Dubai Opera in November. We can't wait to witness their exceptional talents on stage!

## Expanding Horizons: Diverse Abu Dhabi

We are thrilled to announce that Diverse Abu Dhabi is now officially up and running at our venue in Nord Anglia School on Al Reem Island. We offer a range of classes, including Dance Fusion, Ballet, Tap, and Musical Theatre. For further information, please contact our admissions department.



[Click here for more information on classes being offered in Abu Dhabi](#)



## Exciting News Teaser...

Lastly, we have some extremely exciting news on the horizon for next year, but our lips are sealed for now! Stay tuned for a big reveal.

As we wrap up this extraordinary year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our students, parents, staff and community for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have made 2023 a year to remember, and we cannot wait to see what the future holds.

**Wishing you all a wonderful and creative year ahead!**

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