

## DIVERSE NEWS!

What an inspiring and action-packed year it has been at Dubai Performing Arts Center. From international conventions and elite workshops to major performances, competitions, and standout exam results, our students continue to raise the bar and represent Dubai with pride. Here's a look back at our incredible journey last year.

September arrived quickly, bringing with it a brand-new cohort of BTEC Performing Arts students and an exciting influx of talented new performers across the school. The term kicked off with great energy, setting the pace for an extraordinary year ahead.



## OCTOBER - CREATIVITY, CONVENTIONS AND FIRSTS

### Can You Dance Convention – Liverpool

Our students travelled to Liverpool to perform the epic MJ Medley, impressing the CYD audience and proudly showcasing the talent growing right here in Dubai.

#### First-Ever Halloween Camp

We hosted our very first Halloween Camp, which was a tremendous hit filled with creativity, costumes, and fantastic performance work.

### DANE BATES RETURNS

Choreographer Dane Bates worked with our advanced students on a brand new piece - Angels which earned gold in every competition, appeared at gala events, and was featured again at this year's CYD Convention. His latest creation, developed in early November of this year, is shaping up to be truly special, and we cannot wait to unveil it!



### AARON RENFREE WORKSHOP

Students also had the opportunity to train with Aaron Renfree, producing a high-energy Tate McRae Medley that went on to win multiple awards across various competitions this year.



### JANUARY - OUR MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE

After the holidays, we launched the first of our three annual productions: the Musical Theatre Showcase, featuring iconic numbers from Wicked, The Wizard of Oz, The Witches of Eastwick, Frozen, Annie & The Sound of Music. The show was a remarkable triumph, celebrating storytelling, technique, and character work across all age groups.

**DVRS ELITE @ MOVE IT  
LONDON**

A highlight of the year was our elite DVRS Company being invited to perform at MOVE IT, the world's biggest dance convention in London. Their dynamic piece, DVRS Army, choreographed by Kieran Daley Ward was delivered with fierce commitment and precision. They represented Dubai's performing arts community with incredible professionalism, and we could not have been prouder.



**MARCH - SHOWS, COMPETITIONS & BIG WINS**

**BORN TO PERFORM**

Our much-loved Born To Perform show returned in March. For many students, it was their first time on stage, and they performed with confidence and joy—they truly smashed it.



# COMPETITION SEASON

We took part in both the Global Performing Arts Alliance (GPAA) and won...

🥇 43

🥈 39

🥉 13

Our Global Dance Open (GDO) medal tally was even more impressive with:

🥇 56

🥈 30

🥉 14

Three of our standout dancers—Gabriella Arango, Sienna Marshall & Iona Millar (all pictured below) were nominated for Dancer of the Globe, a huge achievement!



**GLOBAL DANCE OPEN FINALS IN BIRMINGHAM**

Our GDO World Finalists travelled to Birmingham, returning with an exceptional set of medals and international recognition for their hard work and artistry.



🏆 x 12 🌍 world champion titles 🏆

**Main Division**

🌍🏆 x 12 🏆

Inter Showdance large Grp

Angels 🏆 (95.33 Invited to perform at Gala)

Mini MT duet  
Maya & Fin 🏆

Teen MT small Grp  
If I only had a medley 🏆

Intermediate MT duet/trio  
You and me but mostly me 🏆

Senior MT large Grp  
I'm just Ken 🏆

Junior Tap duo/Trio  
Beetlejuice 🏆

Inter showdance small Grp  
immaculate 🏆

Inter Tap small Grp  
Hamilton 🏆

Senior hip hop/commercial large Grp  
MJ 🏆

Junior hip hop / commercial small Grp  
Pump it 🏆

Teen hip hop/commercial teen solo  
Iona 🏆

Teen hip hop/commercial teen small Grp  
Sisi & Rhys 🏆

🏆 x 11

🏆 x 8

x 6

x 9

Upper Division Solo Acro

Christina 🏆 Solo Jazz

Sienna

**🇦🇪 UAE WAS THE 2<sup>ND</sup> HIGHEST SCORING COUNTRY!**

🏆 x 11

Mini MT solo  
Fin 🏆

Teen MT solo  
Phoebe 🏆

Teen MT duet/trio  
Sisi and Rhys 🏆

Junior MT duet/trio  
Celine & Max 🏆

Teen small Grp  
Ease on down the road 🏆

Senior MT duet/trio  
Ariana and Aarav 🏆

Intermediate MT duet/trio  
Aiden and Jude 🏆

Inter Lyrical duet/ trio  
Keir & Gabi 🏆

Senior hip hop/commercial small Grp  
Ariana and Aarav 🏆

intermediate Duet/Trio Showdance  
blackout 🏆

🏆

Junior MT solo  
Celine 🏆

Junior MT small Grp  
Hard knock life 🏆

Teen MT duet/trio  
The end of the line 🏆

Intermediate MT solo  
Ariana 🏆

Teen Tap duet/Trio  
Presley & Lakshmi 🏆

inter hip hop/commercial solo  
Jessie 🏆

Inter hip hop/commercial large Grp  
T8 McRae 🏆

Junior Acro small Grp  
Fear 🏆

### END OF YEAR SHOWS FOR BTEC & DUBAI OPERA

May brought our first ever BTEC production which was a fantastic opportunity to watch these talented performers showcase their work in a show produced entirely by themselves. All of the students graduating from the BTEC gained places at their first choice professional colleges in the UK and obtained distinction stars for the BTEC qualification.



We closed the year with our breathtaking end-of-year showcase, Bring On Tomorrow,

performed at the stunning Dubai Opera. Students presented extracts from Fame, Starlight Express, and more, delivering a polished and powerful show that highlighted the enormous growth of our performers.

## CHILDREN'S AGENCY KIDS EVENTS!

Our performers lit up stages and venues across the city, delivering professional-level work at major events including:

Singing in the Rain Flashmob – Dubai Mall

Rugby 7's – catch our performers again this year!

Carols by Candlelight – Expo City

IDRA World Congress

These appearances showcased our students' versatility, discipline, and passion—true ambassadors of Diverse!



## EXAMS 2025 - OUTSTANDING RESULTS!

This year was fantastic for examinations across multiple disciplines:

**Modern & Tap** - 54 Distinctions, Highest score Christina Royall Smith with 98 for Inter Foundation Modern and Jessie Burnett with 97 for Intermediate Tap

**LAMDA Singing** - 25 Distinctions, highest score Rhys Bunting with 97

**Trinity Drama** - 20 Distinctions, highest score Rhys Bunting (again! ) with 92

**RAD Ballet** – 30 Distinctions, Highest scores Matea Faine 83% for Intermediate and Tenuji Chandradasa 80% for Advanced 1

Our students achieved exceptional marks, demonstrating technique, discipline, and artistry at every level.

## GOODBYE GRADUATES!

This year we proudly waved goodbye to our first ever BTEC Graduates, Keir Marshall, Rachel Richardson and Eliny Eglintine who are all settled into college life! Keir has been a Diverse student since he was four years old and is now attending the Urdang Academy studying a BA in Musical Theatre. Also studying a Musical Theatre BA is Rachel Richardson who is currently attending Arts Ed. Eliny is attending Addict Dance Academy to study a Dance BA.

We also said goodbye to Aleisha Lindon, studying Acting at Arts Ed, Trisha Lahiri studying Marymount Mahattan College, together with Gabby Arango, Anoushka Agrawal, Araav Laungani, Suria Cramer , Cahaya Cramer, Dunya Saas, Eva Freire, Freya Kowland and Michaila Arnot We are already missing seeing all of you around the studios!



# 2025 ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE CHARLIE WADDELL IN HER NEW ROLE.

DUA LIPA - ROYAL ALBERT HALL CONCERT, LONDON  
DANCER  
CHARLIE WADDELL

“Diverse Performing Arts is truly my second home. The bonds and friendships I've made at the studio are sure to last a lifetime. Thank you to Lisa, Scott and all the amazing staff at Diverse for pushing me to my fullest potential and believing in me always! I wouldn't be where I am without you all. Lots of love!”  
Charlie Waddell



**dua lipa**  
the royal albert hall 17.10.202



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE HARRISON WILDE IN HIS NEW ROLE.

EVITA - LONDON PALLADIUM, WEST END  
ENSEMBLE  
HARRISON WILDE

“Diverse changed my life. They gave me the confidence and the belief in myself, that I could actually pursue Musical Theatre & Dancing as a serious career choice, not only that but I had a place that I belonged and would call a second home. I owe everything to this amazing family, and I am always forever grateful for their ongoing love and support” Harrison Wilde



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE CALLUM BELL IN HIS NEW ROLE.

OLIVIER AWARDS  
MUSICAL - WHY AM I SO SINGLE  
CALLUM BELL

“Diverse has simply changed my life and paved the way for me to truly achieve success in something that once was thought of as a hobby but it is now being realised as a career. I can't thank Diverse enough for the incredible training they provided or for the ever-growing second family I have been blessed with, Diverse is truly something special and will always be in my stride.”  
Callum Bell



**OLIVIER AWARDS**



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR FORMER STUDENT NATASHA WILDE IN HER NEW ROLE.

HAMILTON - WEST END, LONDON  
ENSEMBLE  
NATASHA WILDE

“Diverse was my first performing family and one I will never forget. Scott, Lisa and all the faculty at Diverse formed me into the performer I am today and I couldn't be more grateful. They've pushed me, cheered me on and supported me since I was only 7 years old and STILL continue to do so after so many years. I have Diverse to thank for bringing out the love I have for performing and wouldn't be where I am without them. Truly the most welcoming, safe and passionate environment to train in. Diverse Performing Arts, Scott & Lisa, my forever family, thank you for everything!”  
Natasha Wilde



# 2025 ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE CHARLIE WILLIAMS IN HER NEW ROLE.

OPERATION MINCE MEAT MUSICAL - WEST END  
ENSEMBLE 1st COVER JEAN  
CHARLIE WILLIAMS

“ From day 1 walking into Diverse, it was as if I was being welcomed into the most incredible family, a family that still stands to this day. I am infinitely grateful to have been trained by the teachers at Diverse whose training and experience provided me with the knowledge that anyone who didn't go to this wonderful school could only dream of. Diverse constantly challenged me and pushed me, while constantly supporting me and giving me the



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE ANNEKETRIEN VAN WASSENHOSE IN HER NEW ROLE.

WEST SIDE STORY, NETHERLANDS  
CARMENCITA, COVER MARIA  
ANNEKETRIEN VAN WASSENHOSE

“ I can honestly say that Diverse has shaped me to become the performer I am today. It is because of the intense training provided by the incredibly dedicated teachers that I can finally turn my childhood dreams into reality by going off to GSA. I have been pushed harder than I could have ever imagined and am beyond grateful for that. Diverse is and will always be my second home, not only because I spent more time there than I actually did in my own home over the past 5 years, but also because of my talented friends and the unbreakable bonds I have been able to make during my time as a student at Diverse.”  
Anneketrien Van Wassenhose



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE ISABEL SNAAS IN HER NEW ROLE.

MARIE CURIE - WEST END, LONDON  
ENSEMBLE & ALTERNATE MARIE CURIE  
ISABEL SNAAS

“ I have so much to thank Scott and Lisa for; without them, I could never have cultivated my love for the performing arts in such a supportive and loving environment that was Diverse. During my time there, I was able to act out the likes of Maria in West Side Story, Mary Poppins and Christine in Phantom of the Opera, ticking off some of my most dreamed about roles. In addition, I met the most incredible students (as well as teachers!) and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for each individual and the amazing school that is Diverse Performing Arts. Thank you!” Isabel Snaas



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE CHARLIE WADDELL IN HER NEW ROLE.

CHRISTINA AGUILERA, JOY AWARDS.  
DANCER  
CHARLIE WADDELL

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Charlie Waddell



# 2025 ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE ISABEL SNAAS IN HER NEW ROLE.

KISS ME QUICKSTEP - DERBY THEATRE

SAMANTHA  
ISABEL SNAAS



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OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE CALLUM BELL IN HIS NEW ROLE.

BURLESQUE - WEST END, LONDON  
SWING  
CALLUM BELL



*"Diverse has simply changed my life and paved the way for me to truly achieve success in something that once was thought of as a hobby but it is now being realised as a career. I can't thank Diverse enough for the incredible training they provided or for the ever-growing second family I have been blessed with, Diverse is truly something special and will always be in my stride."* Callum Bell



OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE CHARLIE WADDELL IN HER NEW ROLE.

WICKED MOVIE - UNIVERSAL PICTURES

DANCER  
CHARLIE WADDELL



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OUR DIVERSE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATE MIRRIN THOMSON IN HER NEW ROLE.

BETTER MAN, MUSICAL MOVIE  
DANCER  
MIRRIN THOMSON



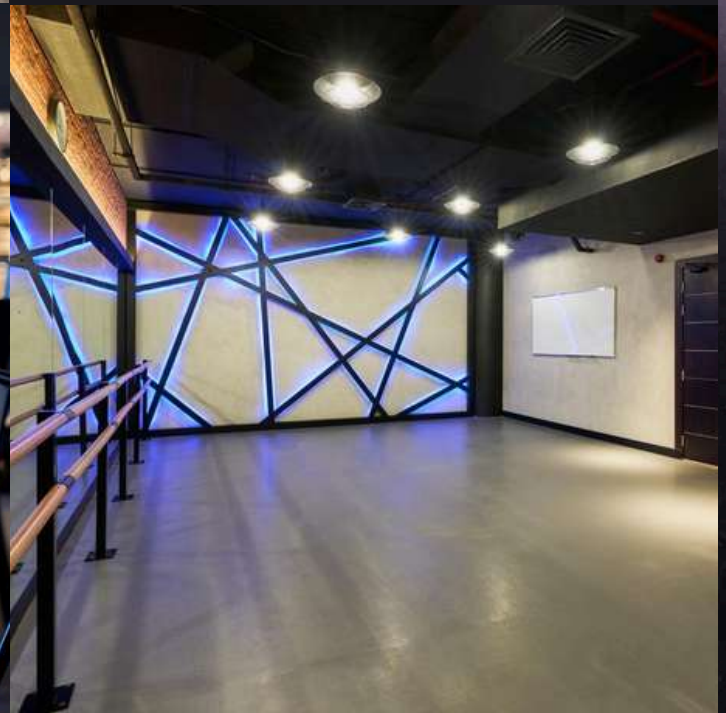
*"I honestly don't even know where to start or how to properly put into words how much diverse has changed my life! If it wasn't for Scott, Lisa and all the incredible staff at diverse showing me so much love, support and always believing in me without fail, I can truly say I wouldn't be where I am today and it breaks my heart to have to leave what I proudly call my family but I know that I am ready for any challenges that are thrown my way due to the insane training and life lessons I have been given from when I first stepped foot into the studio at 10 years old and now 8 years later going to my dream college, Laine Theatre Arts to get my degree! I really couldn't do it without you guys and I can't wait to come back and visit soon! Thank you for everything, you will always hold a special place in my heart. Lots of love"* Mirrin Thomson



## LOOKING AHEAD IN OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW STUDIOS!



You may have noticed our gorgeous newly renovated studios, which we are thoroughly enjoying. With an additional studio and a Musical Theatre suite (including 2 new practice rooms!), not to mention our HUGE coffee shop we are super proud of this transformation and would like to extend a big thank you to our Office Manager Karen for giving up her summer to manage this project!



With new BTEC students settling in, another successful Can You Dance trip completed, and workshops, shows, and events continuing to fill the calendar, we're excited for the months ahead.

Catch our students at Rugby 7's, Expo, and in the upcoming Annie Musical at Zabeel Theatre.

Here's to another year of creativity, excellence, and unforgettable performances at the Dubai Performing Arts Center, and one last thing...

## GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR THE MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE!

DIVERSE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

# MUSICAL THEATRE Showcase!

THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

SCHOOL OF ROCK  
CATS  
SUNSET BLVD  
EVITA  
CINDERELLA  
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

7 FEB | 4PM & 7PM  
SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, DUBAI