



**REVIEW: END OF THE PIER SHOW 2
ST MARY'S PARISH HALL, WHITSTABLE, FEBRUARY 16**

IT COULD have been a dream. Or a nightmare. Or perhaps just the side-effects of digesting too much horse drug Bute in beef burgers.

I am sure, what we witnessed at St Mary's Parish Hall, Whitstable on Saturday (Feb 16) was some kind of hallucination.

Coinciding with the latest high profile problems in the NHS, controversial artist Sadie Hennessy's second sell-out End of the Pier variety show adopted a health theme.

A hastily put together sign alerted the audience that the hall was now the town's accident and emergency unit. It was like car-crash TV but live.

Talking fox Basil Thrush (Dick Crane) introduced the show wrapped in a surgeon's gown and even gave birth to a cub on stage in the second half after offering audience members "baby's fingers" to chew on in a tasty, sorry tasteless, reference to the baby attacked by a fox.

Sadie, donning the guise of "matron," warned at the start: "You will see things you couldn't imagine." She was not wrong. Where else would you see Queen Elizabeth I arrive in fine robes to officially open a show then fall to the ground, open her legs and discharge smoke?

Whitstable's answer to the Fishermen's Friends, looking a lot like the bearded members of Dead Horse Morris, loudly sang sea shanties while quaffing ale from tankards.

Pensioner poet Robert Brook recited a tale about a three-legged goat before Emma "Glory Pearl" Mitchell regaled the audience with a tale about wedding night sex before stripping.

The Rev Boogie Andrew Hall and his team of dancers from the town's Horsebridge Centre taught the audience how to hand-jive using the thoughtfully-provided Latex surgical gloves before making way for five women from dance troupe Burliscious who performed an amazing routine with chairs and feather boas.

Circus performer Paul Incredible (Paul Tann from Canterbury) hauled a woman up from the audience to hammer a nail up his nostril and balanced a Diablo on strings attached to his nipples.

Comedian Steve Bowditch, who was last in Whitstable supporting comic Harry Hill on one of his warm-up gigs, won the audience over with his deadpan series of well-observed one-liners accompanied by his guitar; Jimmy Savile impressions and Blakey from On The Buses singing Elvis.

The finale featured a "blind" nurse (Sue Hart) hurling knives at 63-year-old Lalo Borja from Cromwell Road who was sat in the front row.

The acts were accompanied by the House Band From Hell.

Sadie of Island Wall is now threatening a third show. If you'd like to take part, call her on 07886 676325.

John Nurden



EN POINTE: Canterbury Academy dancers showcase their moves

Cascade perform at national show

by Lowri Stafford

lowri.stafford@KRNmedia.co.uk

DANCERS from the Canterbury Academy stepped into action when they showcased their skills at a national conference.

The sixth formers from the school's Cascade Dance school were chosen from a shortlist of 100 schools nationwide to perform at the Youth Sports Trust conference in Shropshire.

Their winning routine, Fosse's World, was based on the work of jazz choreographer Bob Fosse and was first created in 2010 by former students.

Cascade's artistic director Samantha Blackden said: "The performance by the dance academy demonstrated the passion and enthusiasm that these young students

have for dance and the commitment to their art form.

"It was clear that the audience enjoyed the performance with signs of tapping toes, nodding heads and smiles, all followed by with a huge round of applause when the piece ended."

Dancer Ryan Abbott, 19, added: "Appearing at the Youth Sports Trust conference was a great opportunity and good fun too. We all felt really welcome at the event and I think the hard work paid off as the performance went really well."

The Cascade dancers, who included Adele Richards, Ryan Abbott, Jess Collinson, Emma Grove, Hannah Woodfine, Danny Keeler Clark, Zara Whitlock and Jordan Croucher, were one of only three dance groups to perform.

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The Youth Sports Trust is an independent charity that harnesses the power of sport to change young people's lives.

REVIEW: SIMON LANGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS CONCERT

THIS concert was a new venture, combining the voices of the junior choir with the melodious sound of the Simon Langton Brass Band whose musical director is David Cutting.

For music teacher Kirsty Attwood it was her debut concert conducting the 50-strong choir for the first time. The combination worked well with renderings of You Raise Me Up (Westlife) and a medley from Oliver, being particularly memorable and much appreciated by the enthusiastic audience.

Interspersed throughout the concert were short pieces from the newly formed Brassies, a brass chamber group, directed by Kirsty, in which Kate Shilling (cornet) and Alexandra McLanaghan (tenor horn) were outstanding as soloists.

Head of music Maria Young said: "It is our aim to produce a full brass band at the Langton School and as you have heard, Kirsty has the enthusiasm and ability to achieve this."

After the concert Kirsty said: "It was



all rather nerve-racking but in the end I really enjoyed it. "As you could see so did the girls, I felt so very proud of them."

Stuart Field, Bridge

Easter Days out

Where would you like to take the family this Easter?

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