

**When Dance Meets...**  
**Project Resources**

# Contents

- [Introduction](#)
- [Project Plan](#)
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Useful information](#)
- [Contacts](#)

# Introduction

## Concept

*When Dance Meets...* is the overall artistic concept for the education programme that East London Dance will deliver under the Triple A Programme between 2008 and 2011.

*When Dance Meets...* explores the fusion of dance with other art-forms: Theatre, Music, Voice or Film. Each project brought together a team of artists, who worked collaboratively on the creation of a piece, and in close partnership with teachers and students from two Creative & Media Diploma delivery schools in Newham and two secondary schools in Canning Town. *When Dance Meets...* forms a close partnership between artists and teachers in the planning, creation and delivery of creative workshops to young people in schools. By bringing two art forms together, the concept introduces young people to artists from different backgrounds and enables them to make and create a performance piece under the direction of arts professionals. By doing so, the project involves young people in all aspects of a production and provides a hands-on experience to the students and their teachers. *When Dance Meets...* culminated in a showcase celebrating new and diverse works featuring young, talented performers and art makers as part of Newham's Festival of Culture, the Arts and Sport.

## Aims

- East London Dance to work in partnership with two Creative & Media Diploma delivery schools (Brampton Manor and Lister) in Newham and two secondary schools in Canning Town (Royal Docks and Eastlea), delivering work-based learning for students.
- East London Dance to deliver a series of education workshops in which young people will gain industry level skills to a high standard and an awareness of how to work as a professional artist.
- Teachers to obtain development in their practice by working in close partnership with artists.

- Each team of artists, teachers and students to create a performance piece/product that will be showcased at Stratford Circus as part of Newham's Festival of Culture, the Arts and Sport.

### **Objectives**

- East London Dance to engage artists from a dance background as well as theatre, film, music and voice disciplines to develop partnerships and work in the schools to deliver projects.
- Artists to work in collaboration with teachers in the planning, creation and delivery of these workshops.
- Artists to deliver 'live' work based learning experiences in order to convey information, advice and guidance to the students.

### **Outputs**

- A performance at Stratford Circus as part of Newham Festival of Culture, the Arts and Sport.
- Students to obtain industry level skills in dance, collaborating with other art-forms.
- Students to have worked to a brief and deadline, experiencing the process of working as a professional artist.

# Project Plan

## Structure

East London Dance worked in partnership with professional artists from a number of arts organisations.

Strand	School	Number of students	Number of teachers	Number of artists
When Dance Meets...Theatre with C12 Dance	Lister School	10	2	2
When Dance Meets...Voice with Vocab Dance	Royal Docks Community School	17	2	3
When Dance Meets... Film with Homegrown Media and Avant Garde	Brampton Manor School	13	2	3
When Dance Meets... Music with Uchenna Dance	Langdon School	23	1	3

**Total number of students: 63**

## Schedule

*When Dance Meets...* started with a planning and research phase for artists in early spring 2009. The delivery of workshops in the 4 schools and the partnership work between artists and teachers took place over the spring term. The workshops culminated in a showcase as part of Newham's Festival of Culture, the Arts and

Sport 2009 on the 10th June 09. An intensive evaluation has been carried out between June and August 09, which included the liaison with all participating schools about progression routes and future partnerships between the artists and teachers for the academic year 09/10.

- **Planning & Research:** Feb-March 2009
- **Delivery & CDP:** 23rd April – 10th June 2009
- **Performance:** 10th June 2009
- **Evaluation & Planning next steps:** 10th June – 10th August

# Evaluation

## **What Went Well...?**

- New relationships built between East London Dance and Creative and Media Diploma Schools
- Strong partnerships developed between teachers and artists
- Students engaged in a variety of different roles within the production of a piece whilst also exploring more complicated aspects of the production as something accessible to them
- The material and creative ideas for each piece came from the students, which was key in engaging all participants in the projects
- The exploration of dance in dialogue with another art-form enriched the project and gave young people and teachers access to more than just one arts specialist
- Students have become clear about progression routes within the arts
- Teachers reported that they learned different strategies to engage with young people by working with an artist

## **Even Better If...?**

- There a longer lead-in to the planning in order for activities to be further embedded into the Creative and Media Diploma
- The Creative and Media Diploma delivery could be more flexible and accommodate creative workshops more easily
- One of the target schools, Eastlea, were unable to take part in the project so with short notice was replaced with Langdon School

### **What the students thought**

#### **In your view did the artists leading the project seem to be:**

Very well prepared	Adequately prepared	Ill prepared
69.4%	26.5%	4.1%

#### **Were the sessions:**

Well structured	Fairly well structured	Poorly structured
49%	51%	0%

#### **How suitable was the level of the project?**

Very challenging	Just right	Too easy
30.6%	55.1%	2.0%

#### **How was the timescale of the project?**

Too long	Just right	Too short
4.1%	61.2%	34.7%

#### **How were the creative tasks?**

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
14.3%	67.3%	16.3%	2%

#### **How were the other art-forms?**

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
30.6%	47%	22.4%	0%

#### **How was the piece you created?**

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
34.7%	35.7	26.5%	2%

#### **Did the project provide you with new ideas and skills which could be utilized in the future?**

Yes	No	Not sure
71.4%	18.4%	10.2%

**Has working with professional artists inspired you to think more about a career in the arts?**

Yes	No	Not sure
55.1%	14.3%	28.6%

**In what ways? / Comments**

- Has helped me gain ideas for my future career 18.4%
- Would like to go into singing/dancing 4.1%
- The project has encouraged me to become a dancer 2%
- Would like to develop management skills 2%
- Would have liked to see more professional artists/work 2%
- Not really interested in dance professionally 2%

**What have you enjoyed most about the project?**

- Trying new styles of dance 30.6%
- Final performance piece 24.5%
- Working with professionals 12.2%
- Performing on the stage 12.2%
- Everything 10.2%
- Working with others/team work 8.2%
- Dancing 4.1%
- Time away from school 4.1%
- Working in Stratford Circus as a professional venue 4.1%

### **What have you enjoyed least about the project?**

- Nothing 28.6%
- Rehearsal process 16.3%
- The lack of music 12.2%
- Vocals 12.2%
- The final dance piece 10.2%
- Warm up's 6.1%
- Finished too quickly 4.1%
- Performing on stage 4.1%
- Ballet 2%
- Not having a real break- gruelling work schedule 2%
- The other students/interacting with others 2%

# Useful Information

## **Links**

**East London Dance**

[www.eastlondondance.org](http://www.eastlondondance.org)

**Edexcel Creative and Media Diploma Specification**

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/diploma/creative-media/Pages/default.aspx>

**Skillset**

<http://www.skillset.org/qualifications/diploma/>

# Contacts

For more information on When Dance Meets... contact:

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For more information on the Creative and Media Diploma in Newham contact:

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