



NEWSLETTER

What an amazing 14 days celebrating the dreams and talents of Henley's young people.

Our vision for 2019 was to combine the arts & performing arts and show the children's creativity to a wider audience.

The initiative brought artwork into the Kenton in the form of scenery and props for a performance by the Young Shakespeare Company (YSC) with Shiplake Primary.



Shiplake Primary - "Now Until the Break of Day"

Nine Schools collaborated: Sacred Heart, Rupert House, Shiplake Primary, Kidmore End, Bishopswood, Badgemore, Valley Road, Trinity Primary and St Mary's Preparatory School.

Artist Emily Cooling worked with pupils to create batik backdrops and children made puppets for the front of the stage with illustrator Lily Rossiter.

Other pupils worked with Artpod on pen and ink woodland creatures and made Dreamcatchers with newcomer Floral Circus – their work was on show in the theatre foyer during the festival.

Artwork was on display at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot following HYF and will be on show at the Henley Festival on Family Sunday on 14th July.

And what better way to review HYF 2019 than in the words of those who were there - the performers, supporters, volunteers, sponsors and friends.

ART, FILM & WRITING COMPETITIONS

Judges were impressed by the children's creativity, the use of materials and the ability to think outside the box. Entries included photography, drawings, sculpture, diorama, animation, documentary and mix-media.

"I thought the festival's 'Dreams' theme was a great way to develop imagination." **Camilla Shelley, Artist & Judge**

"The films were all really well thought out and the animations were a step-up from last year." **Jo Southwell, Director & Judge**

"The reason I love this competition so much is seeing the children's imaginations in full flow." **Amanda Jennings, Author & Judge**

YOUNG REPORTER

Five young reporters, aged 12 -14, were lucky to see their articles feature in the Henley Standard on Friday March 22nd.

220 HYF RUNNERS

New sponsor, new venue, new format! For the first time in HYF history the HYF RUN was open to those in Reception to Year 11.

Every child running received a medal as they crossed the finish line. Valley Road (junior) and Gillotts (senior) both scooped £250 worth of sporting goods as the schools with most entries.



WE'RE POPPING UP



HENLEY YOUTH FESTIVAL ART WORKSHOP
10:40AM FAMILY SUNDAY 14th JULY IN BARCO



WORKSHOPS

In 2019 HYF delivered over 2,900 workshop places to primary schools in the Henley area – 70 hours of art workshops in week one and 73 hours of other workshop activities during week two.

“It’s amazing that we’ve had iPads in schools for years and we have never used them to purely teach [smartphone] photography. The children loved it.” **Tim Hoskins, Assistant Head, Badgemore Primary**

“I feel very passionate about supporting the arts. How can children get excited about subjects or activities if they don’t have the chance to try them?” **Kathryn Fell, Smartphone Photography - Art Workshop Provider**

“Hosting the dreamcatcher workshops for HYF was a great joy for me. Every dreamcatcher was unique... and the children were also a delight!” **Jo Wise, Floral Circus – Art Workshop Provider**

The art workshops included batik, screen-printing, pen & ink drawing, animation, smartphone photography, recycling junk and creating dreamcatchers and puppets.

The school workshops provided drama, singing, dance, stunt, squash, science, storytelling and many more activities for primary school children.

“The stunt workshop was perfectly pitched and really engaging for the kids.” **Mrs Park, Year 5 Teacher, Sacred Heart Primary**

“There was a resounding cheer from all 90 Trinity pupils when the Young Shakespeare Company performers asked if they had enjoyed their morning.” **HYF Volunteer – Alison Jean-Jean**



Dream Catchers & Batik Backdrops



Valley Road & Peppard Primary
Young Shakespeare Company Workshop



Puppets from Badgemore Primary



Many thanks to the Henley College students who provided the Storytelling Workshops to the younger primary school children and the drama course presenters who compered the shows at the Kenton Theatre.



PERFORMANCES

A total of 310 young performers in school Years 1-13 took part - many interpreting this year's theme 'Dreams' in lyrics, through movement or as a dream act.

HYF JUNIOR PROMS

"Wow, everyone keep going, you all have very promising musical futures ahead of you!"
Jennie Breen, Special Advisor

"I've been really impressed by the standard of music I've heard today."
Lucie Henwood, HYF Trustee

"I loved the actual piano and the chance to perform my Grade 3 piece."
Max Miller, Piano Performer



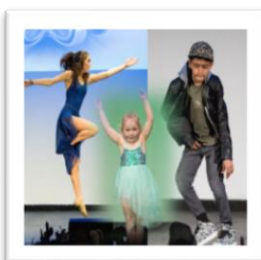
HYF PROMS

"I was very privileged to see these young, ambitious musicians perform."
Emilie Dimmestol, HYF Young Reporter

"We thoroughly enjoyed the whole of the performance and were just amazed by the talent displayed by all of the young musicians."
David Murray, Henley Lions - an HYF Sponsor

HYF DANCE

"Dancers were expressive and gave stylish performances that included moonwalking, ballet fusion, interpretive dance and rhythmic jazz moves."
Henley Herald



HYF YOUNG DANCER

"Everyone was fantastic - from the Divas and Dudes who opened the show, to the polished hip-hop medley which closed the show."
Julie Green, Festival Organiser

HYF GIG NIGHT

"Youngsters in the area should definitely 'give it a go' and get involved next year."
Daisy Roberts, HYF Young Reporter

"It's a great way for the young people of Henley to broadcast their talent."
Natasha, Audience Member

145 musicians, 75 dancers & 80 singers

HYF ENTERTAIN

"It's a real variety show - they all had a good time and loved it as much as we did watching them."
Steph Maxwell, Festival Organiser

"Henley's got talent! And plenty of it as demonstrated by the wide array of performances"
"All the acts certainly inspired me and I bet they inspired other kids too."
Jack Scanion, HYF Young Reporter

"It was full of great talent and such a wonderful variety. It's marvellous to see so many children on stage and getting a kick out of performing. All the children should be really proud of themselves. Well done to all."
Muffin Hurst, Special Advisor

"It was my first band performance and I felt really proud to be part of it. I was nervous, but as soon as got on stage it was fun and I want to do it again. We rock!"
George Weatherley-Bates, Keyboard Player

HYF SING

"WHAT a remarkable finale to the Henley Youth Festival. There was a wide range of ages and talents singing a variety of music, all without words or music. Grown-ups take note!"

"All the singers were terrific, with a backing track, piano accompaniment or other instrument."
Henley Standard



Every child aged 4-18 living or at school in the Henley area can take part in this “one in a million festival” that brings the whole community together.

In 2019 HYF delivered 14 days of workshops, competitions and educational activities to nurture talent and grow confidence in the visual arts, performing arts and sport.

But all of this could not be achieved without the support of the local community who continue to dig-deep and pull-out-all-the-stops year on year.

It costs in excess of £25,000 to put on the festival. This is funded entirely by sponsor donations and the generosity of the HYF Friends.

Our volunteer team give their time and energy to keep the show on the road, and a number of local partners continue to give their venue, people or support to ensure the festival happens in and around town.

If you can support the festival in any shape or form, big or small, we'd love to hear from you - hyfinfo@gmail.com

A big ‘Thank You’ on behalf of all at the Henley Youth Festival.

This year we say farewell to Co-chairs Kate Swinburne-Johnson and Jo Dickson. They met organising Junior Proms and worked tirelessly over the last five years to develop the festival for the benefit of Henley’s young people.



It takes commitment to manage more than 100 different organisations and volunteers to deliver the 10 events and 20 different workshops that make-up the festival. Together, Kate & Jo have done a brilliant job seamlessly bringing everyone and everything together.

SPECIAL THANKS

To all our sponsors | Henley Educational Trust, Henley Town Council, Harpsden Wealth Management, Henley Royal Regatta, Henley Municipal Charities, Invesco, Thamesfield Youth Association, The Arts Society Henley, Penningtons Manches, Henley Lions, IBS Office Solutions, South Oxfordshire District Council, Cornerstone Arts Centre, Shiplake College, St Mary’s Preparatory School, St Joseph’s College, Rupert House School, Moulsoford Preparatory School, Physiologic, Reading Children’s Orthopaedic Unit, Henley Business Partnership, Rotary Club of Henley Bridge, Divas & Dudes Dance Academy and Henley Information Systems.

To our local partners | The Henley Standard, the Kenton Theatre, Swiss Farm, Higgs Group, Lovibonds Brewery, First Aid Matters, Henley Rugby Club, the River & Rowing Museum, Tesco, The Bell Bookshop, Young Climate Warriors, Southern Plant, Waitrose, Meadows Farm Studios and Henley Life.

To the HYF community | HYF Trustees, HYF Steering Committee, our Special Advisors, all our the HYF Volunteer Teams: including production and back-stage teams, workshop and event organisers, and many, many more.