

## **FOUR HUNDRED CHILDREN SHOWCASE THEIR WORK AT DANCE CITY**

Four hundred excited children from three schools in the region came together recently at Dance City to share and celebrate the results of an innovative year-long project working with dance practitioners and other artists.

The project, which was set up by arts organisation The Forge as part of Cultural Hub Durham and managed by Dance City, has involved St Joseph's RC Primary and St, Hild's College CE Primary and Tanfield Lea Juniors.

"Four hundred children took part in one of the most exciting days at Dance City," said Raul Calderon, regional development manager at Dance City. "When the children were given not only the opportunity to showcase their work but, along with their teachers, share their experiences.

"Both projects have been delivered over a year at the schools and have given children and teachers the unique opportunity to explore dance and to create work that comes entirely from the children's creativity," he added.

The two primary schools worked throughout the year with local dance company Bare Toed, who led the day at Dance City, on the theme My Body My Life. Whilst Tanfield Juniors' project involved working with an illustrator to create a book telling the tale of the Lambton Worm, then working with dance practitioner, Rose Payne, re-interpret the story in movement.

"This has been a fantastic experience for all involved," said Tony Harrington, director of The Forge. "The children and their teachers have benefited enormously from working with dance professionals over a pro-longed period and it shows in the work that they have created."

**ENDS**

### **The Forge**

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**NOTE TO EDITOR:**

This project is part of a wider programme called Cultural Hubs. This exciting initiative aims to ensure that all of our young people have access to a full and active cultural life. At the heart of the scheme is a belief that young people have the right to be both consumers and creators of culture. Teachers and people working within the cultural sector hold the key to this by working more closely together. Schools, museums, galleries, theatres and other heritage and arts organisations can open up a wealth of new opportunities for young people to experience and create a new and rich diversity of cultural products.

Cultural Hub Durham is managed by The Forge an organisation that specialises in developing high quality participatory arts projects, working with young people, artists and educators throughout County Durham, Sunderland, nationally and internationally.

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