

**11 Million Takeover Day**  
**South East Dance**  
**Friday 7 November 2008**  
**Report**

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## 1.1 11 Million

11 Million is a national organisation led by the Children's Commissioner for England, Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green, whose role was created as part of the Children Act 2004. The mission of 11 Million is to ensure that the views of children and young people are consistently asked for and listened to, and that outcomes for children improve over time. It is hoped that by bringing children and young people into the heart of the decision-making process it will increase understanding of their best interests and ensure that they are more valued by adult society.

## 1.2 11 Million Takeover Day at South East Dance

South East Dance invited AS/A2 Dance/Performing Arts students from Varndean, Blatchington Mill and BHASVIC to spend the day at our offices in Kensington Street on 7 November 2008 as part of the nationwide initiative 11 Million Takeover Day. This demonstrates our commitment to involving young people in our work and decision making and also contributes towards targets for Moving Voices.

## 2 Key Facts

- 15 students + 3 staff from **Varndean / Blatchington Mill / BHASVIC** attended the day
- South East Dance staff:
  - Project Manager: **Kyla Lucking**
  - Project Coordinator: **Rowena Price**
  - Workshop Leaders: **Emily James [Debating Dance]**  
**Sharon Duggal [Re-branding]**  
**Jo Cornes [The Dance Space]**  
**Charlotte Semlyen [The Website]**
  - Logistics: **Catherine Gill**
  - Press/Comms: **Anna Jefferson**
- 2 photographers
  - Michael Massingham (freelance)
  - Sam Stephenson(The Argus)

## 3 The Workshops

Jo/the Dance Space:

- Jo took groups to see the space at **Brighton Youth Centre** and **The Basement**, followed by worksheets on the relevant space/Chisenhale Dance Space as a case study

- The groups also discussed/shared their **thoughts on what makes a good dance space**, including suggestions for the plans for our Dance Space

Sharon/Re-branding:

- Sharon led a task based workshop, focusing on ideas for re-branding
- Ideas from the students included “**iDance**” and “**FUSEDANCE**” – they also sketched out ideas for logos

Charlotte/the Website:

- Charlotte led a research based workshop looking at our website and others to determine what worked and what required improvement. Feedback on the SED website included **positive comments on images used**, but also suggested improvement on the following areas: info (too much – could be broken up with images/condensed), **colour scheme** (wanted coloured backgrounds) **moving images** (they found the site too static – wanted changing images/more videos within easy reach)
- Students also filled in worksheets feeding back on their research into sites on the web and sketches of suggested SED homepage with improvements

Emily/Debating Dance:

- Emily led discussion based tasks on **debate/current issues in dance**
- Groups were split into small groups to come up with a few key discussion points and then presented these to the rest of the group – debates followed...
- Key areas that came up included: **funding** for dance based further/higher education, balance of funding for arts in education in comparison to humanities/sciences etc, **careers information** for dance – beyond dancer/teacher/choreographer

#### 4 Evaluation

- During the lunch break, workshop staff along with Kyla, Catherine and Rowena made the decision to **cut the workshop time in the afternoon session as staff were finding they were getting through work fairly quickly**, particularly as we had fewer students than initially anticipated. Instead, **we spent the first 45 minutes after lunch in a group session with all students and staff to talk more about South East Dance**, what we do and the different roles of the staff that work here. **This session was led by Kyla and included a showing of the Screen Dance promo and the Making of Once Upon a Time Down South**. We then used the remaining time to rotate the groups for delivery of the rest of the workshops.
- At 3pm **three of the students stayed to meet with John Durrant from the SED Board of Trustees, along with Kyla, Rowena, Jo and Emily**. This consisted of feeding back to John on the outcomes of the various workshops throughout the day and a group discussion about what both

parties had gained from the whole experience. We did this to **maintain communication with the Board on current projects and youth based work.** This also ensured the young people experienced interaction with the Board and were able to voice their opinions on the day itself and the work of South East Dance.

## 5 Outcomes

### For the Young People

- Gaining **new skills and knowledge** in relation to the dance world
- **Inspiration** for their future aspirations in dance/life in general!
- Gaining a better understanding of the **processes and decisions that affect them and their dance practice**
- Understanding the process and **responsibility of decision making** by dance facilitators
- **'V' Certificates** were sent to all students who attended the day

### For South East Dance

- Gaining **new ideas**, insight and creativity from the **young peoples' perspective**
- Continuing to develop a working relationship with key stakeholders
- Gaining an improved knowledge and understanding of how the young people experience dance and the issues/services we are concerned with
- Raising our profile in terms of commitment to listening to the views of young people, achieved through local press coverage (The Argus 12/11/08)
- Building relationships between South East Dance and local schools/colleges
- An official 11 Million feedback form was completed with a request to be a case study for next year... watch this space!

## 6 Feedback

- Feedback Questionnaire
  - Organisation rating (average): **4.3** (5 being high, 1 being low)
  - Workshops rating (average): **4.1** (5 being high, 1 being low)
  - Enough opportunities to offer personal input into decision making during workshops? **100% Yes**
  - Would they take part in another 11 Million Takeover project in the future? **100% Yes**
  - Negative feedback: **None!**
  - General comments included: enjoying meeting new people, learning about what goes on at South East Dance, learning about career options, getting involved with improvements at South East Dance, interacting with the South East Dance staff (for comments, see Comms section)

# **Appendices**

Appendix a) Timeline

Appendix b) Communications Information/Quotes

## Appendix A

### Timeline of the Day

Time	Activity	Who
9:30am	Young people arrived – met in the foyer with South East Dance staff for introduction/briefing/tour	All YP Teachers Rowena, Kyla, Catherine, Jo, Sharon, Charlotte Emily
10am – 12pm	Workshop/Focus Group delivery	Group 1 & Jo Group 2 & Sharon Group 3 & Charlotte Group 4 & Emily
11am	Freelance photographer arrived	Michael/Sharon/Rowena
12pm – 1pm	Lunch	ALL
1pm – 1.45pm	Group talk led by Kyla on South East Dance and its work	ALL
1.45pm – 3pm	Condensed workshop/focus group delivery (groups rearranged)	Jo/Sharon/Emily/Charlotte
2pm	Photographer from the Argus arrived	Sam/Sharon/Rowena
3pm – 4pm	Meeting/feedback with young people and John	John, Kyla, Rowena, Jo, Emily + 3 students
4pm	END	

## Appendix B Communications

Student Comments (thoughts on the experience in general/what they enjoyed)
<i>"It was really useful and really good to find out about alternative jobs in dance"</i> (Rosa Firbank, BHASVIC)
<i>"I found it very useful to define my dance pathway and really enjoyed looking at dance spaces. Very nice people, opened up more opportunities"</i> (Katie Dale-Everett, BHASVIC)
<i>"It was nice to learn about how much work went/goes into South East Dance. (I enjoyed) meeting new people and thinking about new designs"</i> (Vicki Martin, BHASVIC)
<i>"(I enjoyed) getting involved with improvements"</i> (Natalie-Mia Stenton, Blatchington Mill)
"It was good!" (Kirsty Bruce, BHASVIC)
"(I enjoyed) getting involved in designing and thinking about the new studio" (Georgia Rogers, BHASVIC)
<i>"(I enjoyed) putting our ideas into the dance space project. Thank you so much!"</i> (Natasha Tavani, Varndean)
<i>"(I enjoyed) putting ideas into the dance space project. Thank you for letting me come!"</i> (Emily Robertson, Varndean)
<i>"(I enjoyed) interacting with the people who work at South East Dance"</i> (anon, Blatchington Mill)
<i>"(I enjoyed) designing the website"</i> (Douglas Wood, Blatchington Mill)
<i>"I think this is a great organisation, and its very good that you take students who have been 'kicked out of school' etc to be here as its giving them better hope and opportunities"</i> (Hamida Bibi, Blatchington Mill)

Further quotes from South East Dance staff/volunteers can be found here: <W:\11 million takeover\Quotes for 11 Million Takeover Day Press.doc>

### Photographer Information

- Sam Stephenson, The Argus
- Michael Massingham, Freelance
  - Pictures stored [here](#): \\a0906svr\Marketing\Images\Community and Learning\Current projects\11 Million Take Over