

MKSCHOOLS

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Kids from Fame are stars of the future

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Give them time and the youngsters set to perform in the latest Stage Experience extravaganza at Milton Keynes Theatre will be shooting straight to the top of the class for singing, dancing and acting.

The stars of the future are excitedly waiting for curtain up on the opening night of Fame The Musical tomorrow evening (Friday) and they are ready to light up the sky like a flame!

Selected through open auditions earlier this year, the unique project will see over 100 local performers aged between 10 and 21 years old present three live shows.

Fame The Musical will be the theatre's fifth critically-acclaimed youth production, following in the well-choreographed footsteps of West Side Story (2011), Guys and Dolls (2012), Footloose (2013) and The Wiz (2014).



The enthusiastic cast have been rehearsing hard this week, donning their leg warmers for fast-paced routines and fine-tuning their voices for all those 'fame'-d songs.

Led by a group of industry professionals - including director Robert Marsden, choreographer Laura-Ann Smith and local musical director Matthew Reeve - the project promises to be an unforgettable experience for performers and audience members alike.

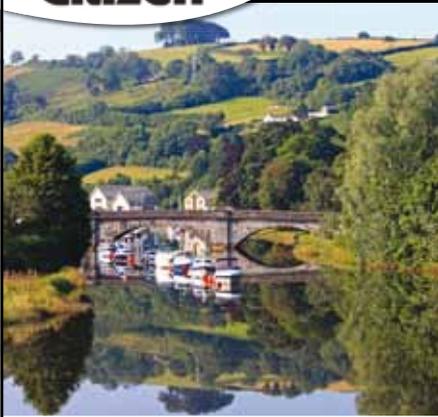
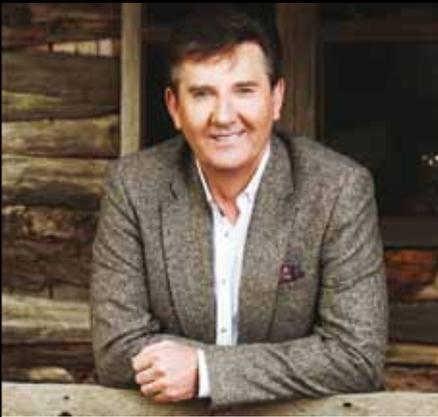
Fame The Musical follows the story of a diverse group of students at New York City's famous High School for the Performing Arts. A bittersweet but ultimately inspiring tale, it demonstrates that there is more to show business than fame and stardom.

Performances of Fame The Musical are on Friday, August 5, at 7pm and Saturday, August 6, at 2pm and 7pm. Call the box office on 0844 871 7652 or visit www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes for more information.



MK Theatre Stage Experience Fame rehearsal

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Taste of Broadway as pupils star in Mack and Mabel

A combination of recorded film and live action wowed audiences who witnessed Denbigh School's production of classic Broadway musical Mack and Mabel at the end of the summer term.

A cast of 40 young performers expertly brought to life the tumultuous romantic relationship between Mack Sennett and Mabel Normand throughout the show's three-day run.

Using both black and white film footage and stage performance, students told the story of how Mabel (an American silent film actress, screenwriter director and producer) fell for Mack (a studio director) and how doing so shaped her professional and personal life.

Headteacher Andy Squires said: "The time and effort that the students and staff put into the Mack and Mabel performances paid off as it was an extremely entertaining show."

"I was delighted that Stephen Normand - the great-nephew of Mabel Normand -



Denbigh School production of Mack and Mabel

attended all three shows to encourage, and lend his support to the students."

The musical, which was performed in the school's new purpose-built theatre, was only made possible thanks to Stephen, who helped se-

cure the rights required to perform it. He also visited the school early on in the rehearsal process, to explain the story's background and give the performers an intimate insight into the characters' personalities.

Pre-school youngsters move on in graduate style

Thirty-one children from Kiddi Caru's Caldecotte day nursery graduated from pre-school in style recently.

Leaving their days at nursery behind with a special party, the youngsters all donned hats and gowns and were presented with a certificate by Kiddi Caru's mascot, Roo.

As part of the celebrations everyone tucked into a delicious barbecue and enjoyed singing and dancing.

Senior nursery manager Sonia Bell said: "This is a time of great change for the pre-school children, and going up to 'big' school can be a little daunting for them. We do lots of activities to help to give them confidence and prepare them for the



Kiddi Caru Caldecotte graduation

change and the graduation ceremony is a way of reassuring them that this is also a very special time.

"The graduation marks their achievements at nursery and gets them excited about the new experiences and chances to learn that they will have at primary school."

Charity's fourth anniversary

City charity Believe in Young People is celebrating its fourth anniversary of improving the links between young people and the workplace. Established in 2014, BIYP offers users an online portal which generates a

portfolio for learners. Both teachers and employers are able to access this. Participants are also advised on career paths and helped into work experience placements. Visit <https://biyp.org/> to learn more.

Bosses placed under the grill

The world of work seems a long way in the future when you are at school so students loved having the unique opportunity to quiz local business owners recently.

Students in years 10 and 12 at Ousedale School in Newport Pagnell enjoyed a full day of speed interviewing which allowed them to chat to local employers about their roles to gain a valuable insight into their careers.

Mark Lancaster MP was one of the advisors involved. He said: "I was absolutely delighted to have been involved."

Gwyneth says goodbye

A specialist teaching assistant at Slated Row School is looking forward to enjoying retirement after devoting 35 years to helping students.

Gwyneth Toms retired from her position working in the school's sixth form at the end of the summer term, having supported students across all age groups throughout her time there.

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Saturday 19 November 2016

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