

SpinDrift Falmouth University Apprentice

Week 2:

After finding my feet and settling down after a very busy week last week, I found this week with Spindrifft to be very informative.

Monday and Tuesday I spent all day in St. Austell shadowing, watching and dancing with HfCYDC and James Wilton who was choreographing and workshopping a curtain raiser for them to perform at his show, Leviathan, at Hall for Cornwall later on next month. This experience was great as it was so lovely to see the positive relationships and communication between the youth dancers, the co-directors Suzie and Rob and the artistic director Helen. I felt this was very significant as it's so important to know what the young people want and how to make them feel comfortable in all surroundings and confident with in this practice as young artists. Also how to construct themselves during a workshop with a guest practitioner and how creative they could be when they had the chance which was beautiful to witness. It was also helpful to recognise what kept such a large age range engaged and informed for everyone at all times and what worked and didn't work, this could be useful later on in my practise in case I wanted to use a large age range in my performances.

The sense of 'community' in this workshop was captivating, I say this again because I am focusing on the theme of relationships and consequences of those relationships between people, humans and objects. I really enjoyed the family vibe in the studio, as before I have witnessed some not so great energies resulting in rehearsals and workshops not going to plan. However, this was not one of them, it's definitely an organisation I would recommend to any youth dancer at any stage of their practise, as it's so kind, supportive and welcoming. Overall a very delightful and insightful two days.

In the evenings and on Wednesday and Thursday I spent with Suzie, offering Workshops to perform in the I, We, Us performance on Saturday evening. These workshops were again open to the public of all age ranges. Although we didn't have all of the cast members at all rehearsals and the number of participants weren't high, this did not matter. This gave Suzie and I the chance to really interact on a personal level with participants and again meet new dancers in the local area who are interested in the same things. The most important thing was consistency to deliver these workshops as the whole cast needed the same information for the performance to come together. This was very well done by Suzie who used imagery and physical language to help us through the repertoire. The energy levels were great and each workshop was delivered with care and quality, which I believe to be the best way as it gives the participants a friendly, positive experience.

The show day came around very quickly and when all cast members were together we helped each other with placements and repertoire and again it was a very communal loving vibe in the room. Spindrifft had an apprentice called Jools to also help us, observe our timing, what we could do better and giving general feedback of the final rehearsal. Jools was a very valuable asset that day, being only 15 it was great to hear what he had to say and to hear a young person's voice. We followed his advice along with all of Suzie's hard work and it definitely payed off as I felt like we gave it our all and the performance was so much fun.