

ICU Dance Company Tour Report

Number of members attending: 32 ICU student members
1 not full member

Dates of tour: 13th-14th February 2009

What happened while on tour – i.e. activities, etc.

As detailed in the tour application Dance Company travelled to Loughborough University to compete in an inter-university dance competition - this was a first for the club, having never had the opportunity to compete here previously.

We took 5 dance teams to compete in four different categories, namely ballet beginners & advanced, tap beginners, contemporary advanced and jazz advanced. We have never before entered so many categories/taken so many of our club members on tour before, so this was a big event for us involving a large portion of the dance company enabling more people than ever before (beginners as well as advanced) to show off their dancing skills to a large audience in a competitive environment.

After an extremely long day of dancing (where the standard was extremely high) and having watched guest dancers from Nike and danced in the Nokia Tube Dance (part of the advertising campaign for Nokia, sponsors of the event), we finally found out if we had been successful in our categories at the Afterparty.

Beginner tap – 1st
Beginner ballet – 1st
Advanced contemporary – 2nd
Advanced Ballet – joint 3rd

We feel that this was a major achievement for Dance Company, and hence are extremely grateful for the funds we received. This is also supported by the fact that Felix published an article re Dance Company's success during this tour (and another competition):

“What a month February has been for Dance Company! Two competitions, a guest performance and eight awards....

The competition season started two weeks ago when five dance teams travelled up to Loughborough University amidst snow-covered fields to strut their stuff at the Loughborough Dance Competition 2009 for the very first time. Full of anticipation and high expectations, our beginner ballet, beginner tap, advanced ballet, contemporary and jazz dancers took to the stage to dazzle more than 20 universities in front of a 400+ strong audience. Competition was fierce with such a high level of dancing on display, but that did not distract us from our goal. After a long, exhilarating day, and haven taken part in the Nokia Tube Dance at lunchtime, our efforts were certainly rewarded. Our sparkling, sophisticated beginner tap dancers and beautiful beginner ballerinas (choreography by Fumiyo Nakagawa and Louisa Brown respectively) both pipped the post winning first place in each of their categories. Additionally the elusive advanced contemporary entry (choreography by Elisa Bellomo) and the talented advanced ballerinas (choreography by Louisa Brown) were awarded second and joint third place respectively. The high energy, star-struck advanced jazz dance (choreographed by Hildur Einarsdóttir) just missed out on a place in the highest subscribed category of the competition.

After such a successful day at Loughborough spirits were high for the Edinburgh Dance-Off, a competition that Imperial has made their mark on over many years. Here, we saw the arrival of our sixth dance team, the sexy advanced tappers (choreography by Zoë Dobell), to form our biggest ever dance troupe of 37 dancers! Having danced to the highest standard, the audience (and I) were wowed by Imperial's melange of acts. This was reflected in the judge's decision to award first place to Imperial in the beginners/advanced ballet and contemporary categories and second place to beginners tap. But the celebrations did not end there – two of our very own dancers, Elisa Bellomo (winner of 'Best Dancer Award 2008') and Alvaro Feito Boirac, took to the stage to perform the last act of the day, their original guest piece based on a tale of two lovers. After such an ecstatic day, our celebrations commenced with food, drink and laughter and continued by boogying late into the night!

We are now looking forward to competing in our third competition of the year, at The Greenwood Theatre, London Bridge, for a London University derby next month. Good luck Imperial!”

Clubs and Societies Board
26th May 2009

Financial state of the tour

Good – all monies settled/paid for.
Each member who attended the tour paid their contributions up front.

Did it achieve the Aims and Objectives as laid out in the application?

Yes – and more!

Were there any changes to the proposed A&O and Activities

No

Members' impressions of the tour

The general feedback from other members re the Loughborough competition was positive. Everyone thought that the tour ran very smoothly from our end (coaches turned up on time, good to travel as a group etc) and all had a great time! Members who had been to the Edinburgh University competition in previous years thought that this tour was a great opportunity to experience a different style of competition (one which is much larger) and really enjoyed the challenge!

Any major issues which arose while on tour

A major issue that affected us just prior to going on tour was related to the accommodation that was booked. We were due to travel up to Loughborough on the Friday night by coach, as the competition commenced at 9 am on Saturday 14th Feb. However, due to an unforeseen eventuality (the hotel chain going into administration) we were forced to cancel our accommodation booking and travel up to Loughborough in the early hours of Saturday morning resulting in the company losing the 50% deposit. Fortunately Dance Company was able to recover the funds for this from the RCC (in the form of a contingency claim) and we are currently attempting to recover the funds from the hotel.

How to improve for the future

Although we were forced to travel up on the Saturday morning, this may have had a positive impact (indirectly) on how we conduct the tour next year. We have already tried out a more economically viable scenario (which we thought may have cut it a little close in terms of the time scale), hence being an improvement on our original tour plans. The one factor that may lead us to stay the night prior to the competition is the timing of the awards ceremony – as it was held at 9 pm this year we did not return to London until 12 am, which made this an extremely long and tiring day (having left at 5 am and danced all day!)

Photos!

We have LOTS of photos – the first two are photos that were published in Felix.



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