



## FILENOTE

**subject** YDance  
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**present** Visit to YDance workshop at the Tramway as part of “**Dance Machine**”

YDance working in conjunction with Glasgow City Council's Arts Development Team undertook a dance residency from the 7-12 July held at the Tramway for young people aged between 12-18 years.

Andy Howitt, Artistic Director of YDance worked with three excellent hip-hop dancers from France who taught class and lead part of the dance programme choreographing a mixture of street dance styles.

The participants who attended came from a variety of backgrounds including those who had some experience of dance and others who were complete beginners in dance experience.

There was a total of seventy young people attended the residency including some from residential homes in Glasgow. One the first day participants could choose to attend dance, poetry, film or music workshops with the aim of producing a mixed performance piece at the end of the week to the public.

Lindsay Warner, a performance poet lead one group who were devising a rap poem. Inigo Garrido and Jim Muotane worked with film and 'digimusic' which included a mixture of DJ-ing and live percussion.

A series of taster workshops took place throughout the city before the residency took place to build interest in the project targeting bilingual groups, youth groups and residential groups. The overall response from young people to the project was good attributed to the hard work invested by the Arts Development Team prior to the start of the project. There was disappointment that none of the bilingual groups attended the project through given so much work had gone into involving them in dance before the start of the residency. There was only one boy who opted to take part in the dance workshop which was disappointing for the organisers given the quality of hip-hop teaching from the French dancers.

It was only the second day into the project when I visited which naturally, was not without its difficulties. Young people getting to grips with the physical demands of the dance workshops combined with some challenging teenage behaviour made for a tense settling in period for staff and kids.

Two performances will take place at the end of the residency held at Tramway. The Arts Development Team and artists emphasised the importance of enabling the young

people to work towards a clear end result with a performance. This in turn puts additional pressure on the participants especially for those who have never performed before. The staff were extremely sensitive in dealing with those young people whose confidence was fragile and counteracted this by becoming ambivalent towards the project. YDance can spot this immediately and offer their experience and expertise to those kids who are struggling by adapting their teaching style and knowing when and when not to put the pressure on.

The atmosphere at Tramway was lively and busy. I am convinced the effort of the week will result in a vibrant performance opening the door wider to young peoples involvement in the arts in Glasgow.