

# 'Mini' performance a joy from beginning to end



**MYSTERY PERFORMANCE:** Homegrown Youth Dance Theatre at Chester Cathedral.  
Pictures: IAN COOPER IC100513dance-05

SMILES on the faces of hundreds of school children last Friday night said it all at a Mini Mysteries performance at Chester Cathedral.

The youngsters from Blacon to Dodleston, via Delamere and Ellesmere Port were taking part in a dance performance, based on the world-famous Chester Mystery Plays.

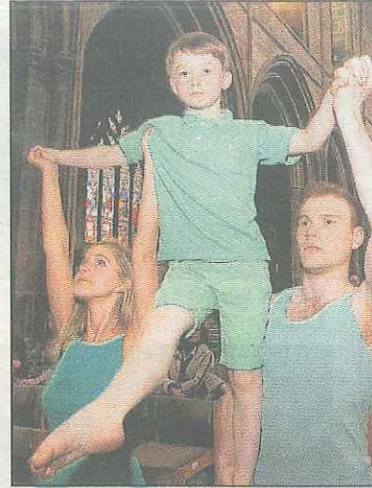
Staged by Julia Williams and her team at Homegrown Dance Theatre, it was a joy from beginning to end as each school group told a particular Bible story through the medium of dance.

The enthusiasm of the children from Dee Point, Dodleston and St Saviours

Primary schools, Delamere and Eaton Bank academies and the King's Junior School shone out and their awe at performing in such a historic venue was evident throughout.

The performance began with a solo by seven-year-old Harvey Reynolds, a former Dee Point Primary pupil who recently won a scholarship to the Hammond School. Each school followed with their interpretation of one aspect of the creation of the world dancing as water, sky, animals, earth, birds, light and human beings.

The collaboration between state and independent schools, dancers and non



**CREATION:** Dancers Elisha Baxter and Parsifal James (PJ) Hurst with Harvey Reynolds, aged seven, from The Hammond School.  
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by Jo Henwood

dancers, professionals and primary schools was no mean feat but it came together as one glorious whole.

Homegrown Dancers were stunning in their interpretation of the Slaughter of the Innocents and the Passion and professional dancers Elisha Baxter and Parsifal James (PJ) Hurst a delight to watch working with the talented young Harvey.

Chester composer Matt Baker composed the soundtrack for the performance and his 70-minute symphony was an absolute joy. Based on his original music for the 2003 and 2008 Chester Mystery Plays, I just wish it had been available on CD after the show.



**LET THERE BE LIGHT:** The youngsters from Dodleston Primary School.  
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**BIBLE STORY:** King's School Year 6 pupil Emily Hynes in the Mini Mysteries event at Chester Cathedral.  
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