



Africa Spectacula!

The idea for this showcase of work from the West End production of The Lion King. Tashaka Creative Faculty was born last June when we discussed a way in which we could work together on a common theme with the new Y7 pupils that began at DCS in September 2009.

The idea began to take shape and we agreed that we would base our work around some of the “Lion King” songs. Each class was allocated a song, which they learned during their Music lessons. They created some Art work to go with it.... Some did T shirts, some banners, collages, masks, head dresses and other costumes. A small group were able to work in the Media Dept to create posters and work with photos taken of lessons and rehearsals. In Drama the students looked at characterisation, dialogue and freeze frames to help develop a storyline and set the song in context. The project provided some great opportunities to work together as a team, use their imagination, develop potential as performers and to see how the Creative subjects work and support each other. Over 170 students took their place on stage in the Grand Finale!



We were joined on the night by West End Star Tashaka Baumber who played the original Nala in who recently took part in the 10th anniversary event of The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre London really enjoyed her experience at Dinnington Comprehensive.

“The children were incredibly enthusiastic. They really enjoyed the whole experience of the evening and so did I. You have a lot of

very talented year 7 students at Dinnington and I would love to come back and work with them again”. Tashaka has performed in many other west end productions and has been a backing singer for recent X Factor winners Shayne Warne, Leona Lewis and Alexandra Burke. A few years ago Tashaka appeared in East Enders as Gary’s girlfriend whilst working for Alfie Moon in the Queen Vic. The evening proved to be a great experience for all the Y7’s who took part as it also addressed the social and emotional aspects of learning, gave a new focus for the work of the Creative Faculty at the start of the year and as Headteacher Paul Blackwell said in summing up the success of the evening “most of all it was good fun!!” Well done to all Staff and Students for your hard work... It truly was a night to remember **Hakuna Matata – No Worries!!!**

