

WAIT UK – 2010 Report

2010 was a tale of two halves for WAIT UK. With several older WAIT members still involved, we were able to make a number of very good performances from the beginning of the year, offering the WAIT message and spirit at the same time! After the summer, all the older ones decided to move on from WAIT, leaving behind a challenging, yet refreshing and younger looking team.

In January and February, we continued to teach dance at the Westminster Academy on a Monday afternoon, funded by a grant from Choice FM. Unfortunately, the attendance numbers dropped compared to the Autumn term. We believe this to be the case because of exam revision and new extra-curricular activities after the start of the New Year.



In February, we performed to around 80 people at the Dance Physics (partner of WAIT UK) Community Event where several groups showed us what they are about! Later that month, we held a Performance Workshop to prepare for future public events. 18 participants took part in the workshop.

In March, we visited Oxford, and performed at a BME Community Champions event in front of some 100 people. That led nicely to our “big event of the year!” – Fundraising at Victoria Station in London on 3rd April. The team performed several times during the day, but also fundraised, supported by family and friends. Possibly, 400-500 people saw us throughout the day!!



In May, we went back to Oxford, this time to do some training there. We were able to work with a group of 20, teaching the Rose Dance, Respect and Break Dance, as well as explaining what WAIT is and the rules.

In June, we did our annual trip to Birmingham, where we re-trained the WAIT members there, and performed 5 acts at the Bourneville Festival in front of some 120 people. Then, in July, we took part in the Church Street Festival, performing 2 acts, fundraising and running a stall to promote WAIT in front of some 300 local residents.

We started our 6th year in the UK at the end of October with a two and a half day event. With the usual presentations and trainings held, and supported by some parents, 7 brand new WAIT members joined!

We received funding to do what is called “Capacity Building” – a real opportunity for active WAIT members to receive professional training on Presentation Skills, Fundraising Skills and Public Speaking. On average, 10 people benefitted from these three training weekends! Gratefully, the team even had the opportunity to make a trip to Lyme Regis (on the Jurassic coast in Dorset) as a bonding, reflecting and planning event.



WAIT volunteers were also grateful to receive a Westminster Small Grant in order to carry out a variety of dance classes at the Westminster Academy. The sessions started in November, continued in December until Christmas, and will carry on in the New Year until March. These classes were particularly good for the younger and new volunteers, who got a special opportunity to learn new dances and drama.

Finally, we have decided to organise two WAIT Action Days (in February and March 2011) in order to put into practice what we learnt in the areas of presentations and public speaking so that our volunteers can move forward with more confidence and skills, and thus make more inroads in 2011!!

Marshall de Souza
Chairman, WAIT UK
27th January 2011