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## **CRC STUDENTS EXCEL IN STORYTELLING COMPETITION**

Wednesday 25 March 2009

**Students from Cambridge Regional College (CRC) have recently achieved outstanding results in the National Storytelling competition held in Birmingham Theatre Library.**



**Luke Weller, Gemma Cage, Michael Achilles, Chris Till, James Essery**

A group of 7 students in their first year of the National Diploma Performing Arts at CRC, attended the event to compete head-to-head with other “storytellers” in various categories. Chris Till (17), James Essery (17) and Gemma Cage (17) were entered in the under 18 Group Performance category. They performed “Perseus a Greek tale”, and were rewarded with excellent feedback and first prize! Luke Weller (16) also received highly commended second place for his solo performance in the 15-18 category. Michael Achilles (18) and Chloe Russell (17) both entertained the audiences with their best performances yet.

The entire group received excellent feedback from all the three judges on the high standard of their performances. A number of students have since been approached by external organisations regarding opportunities on summer workshops.

Moragh James, Lecturer in Performing Arts said, "The students excelled themselves they were a beacon of excellence for the college, both myself and Peter Hilken the workshop leader were so proud of their performances. They shone".

The students form part of a group of 13 who have been voluntarily attending training sessions for the last 10 weeks at the College. The sessions cover areas such as presentation, voice projection and public speaking techniques. Peter Hilken the workshop leader said, "The students were great to work with, they have so much energy and imagination."

The national competition, now in its fifth year, is organised by the Traditional Arts Team. Twenty-four young tellers aged between 15 and 25, each had 10 minutes to narrate a traditional tale of their choice. This most ancient art has been revived over the last decade or so, thanks in part to Midlands arts organisation the Traditional Arts Team, who devised the competition to encourage talented youngsters to take up careers as professional storytellers.

Graham Langley from the Traditional Arts Team, said: "The youngsters are helping reinvigorate the art form, which has traditionally been performed by older artists. Storytelling helps to build confidence in public speaking and connecting with audiences; skills that are eagerly sought by potential employers".

There will be another opportunity to see the CRC students' performances on Wednesday 22 April, when they perform at CB2 Café on Norfolk Street and again in the Storytelling festival in July.

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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