



## **Students shine in remarkable Talent Show**

**By Bradley Green**

Students took to the stage in what was widely believed to be 'the closest and most exciting talent show seen in years'.

The event was organised by Student Liaison officer David Beesley and both the Events Classes; an event intended to give the students a chance to prove what they could do in front of an audience.

Friends of the participants did not disappoint as they flocked to the theatre in large groups, ensuring a full house and a wide array of support. A total of 14 acts performed, highlighting the diversity in talent of the sixth form students. Friendly speculation was rife on who would win the right to headline this year's College Fest event.

The acts were whipped away to a hideaway within college prior to the start of the show as they brushed up on their acts and tweaked them with last minute improvements.

The modest pairing of Korede and Daniel gave an insight into their act as the start of the show drew closer, and spoke of the competition this year. Korede said: "I will be playing the piano with Daniel singing. It is fairly basic but we have put the work in lately to put in a good show today. I know a few of the other acts, and they are all brilliant. It will be tough."

In contrast, Parallax hoped to impress the audience with a different type of act. They spoke of their dilemma as they decided what song they would perform. "We hope to bring originality to the stage. Two of us play guitars, one on bass, one on drums and one on vocals. We hope to perform a cover of a popular song, allowing time for a song we wrote ourselves."

The show got underway with Rhian Saunders handed the nervous task of performing first. She opened the show with a soft solo that the crowd warmed to. The judging system was introduced to the audience with

college staff Lisa Arnell and Larry Leaf among the panel. The four judges lifted up their scores and the contest was underway.

Next was Fit For Viewing, who dazzled the crowd with a powerful cover of Hallelujah. The four girls combined well and impressed the judges at this early stage. Both Korede and Parallax then took to the stage and gave good accounts with diversely brilliant showings. Korede performed an uplifting piano solo that was greeted with the loudest round of applause yet when it came to a close.

Ex-student and actor Leila Borris, who was on the judging panel, called it 'stunning'. Parallax then sent the crowd into frenzy with a performance of their own song, earning rave reviews from the judges. The early acts had set the high standard for those remaining.

Miriam & Yemi carried out a themed parody with Valentines Day around the corner, as they rapped about love and people in relationships. The judges picked up on this and congratulated them on linking it with a recognised calendar event.

William Marvin played guitar and sang, brilliantly combining the two. The audience was reminded how hard this actually was, as ex-student Michael Lynch on the judging panel called it 'an incredibly hard thing to do'.

Aisha Adenija carried on the trend of singing as she sang Butterflies by Alicia Keys. Lisa described the voice of Aisha as 'beautiful' with Leila backing up this statement. The next act brought something different to the show as Sandra and Aisha carried out a Robin Thicke parody. This impressed the judges and they awarded high scores.

However, the standard increased further - if that was possible - when Daniel Agyman took to the stage. His soulful voice stunned the audience and gained him comparisons with soul artist Lemar. His voice combined brilliantly with Korede playing the piano in the background, and this was enough to gain the highest scores of the day. The judges branded him 'a class act' and it seemed at that point that he was destined to win.

Damon Mackins appeared after Korede and was hailed once again by Larry for the challenging task of playing guitar and singing. He impressed the judges and the audience as the last four acts awaited their time to shine. Just when the audience thought they had seen everything, out stepped Joshua Onworde. He put in a mind-blowing performance, combining street dancing with perfectly-timed flips. The judges appeared as if they couldn't put it into words, but Michael Lynch tried. Leila paid Joshua a glowing compliment when she stated

he was good enough to appear on a TV dancing competition, urging him to apply.

When Joshua confirmed that he had choreographed the routine himself, it appeared once again the winner had perhaps been found. After Joshua, Isabelle Ezekwesili went on to belt out a Jennifer Hudson song. The round of applause was almost equal to that of Joshua's, and she achieved the highest marks, just like the act before. With two acts remaining, it surely couldn't get any better.

Jordan and CJ made their entrance, with Jordan declaring he would be singing a range of different songs with CJ playing the piano. They went from strength to strength, as the confident Jordan got the crowd on their feet with his powerful voice. The judges were once again taken aback and awarded Jordan and CJ high marks.

It was then time for the last act to stake her claim to win the show. Out stepped Rebecca Francis. Her stage presence was clear to anyone as the crowd waited eagerly to see what she had to offer. She did not disappoint as she performed an acoustic solo, showing all the attributes of a superstar. Her striking resemblance to X-Factor winner Rebecca Ferguson was plain to see, and her raw talent shone through at a time when the scorecards should have been calculated and the winner almost decided.

Lisa on the panel asked Rebecca whether she was directing the solo at someone in the crowd, as it was that intense. It was no surprise when Rebecca was awarded 11s from three of the judges and a 10 from Larry. The crowd had seen everything – and no-one could have disputed the clear winner.

Assistant Principal Paul Nutter gave a speech at the end of the successful event. He said: "This once again shows how talented the students are in this college. Earlier on, someone behind me said that Havering's Got Talent, and I completely agree. Thank you to those who made the event possible, the acts, and of course the audience."

When the theatre had cleared, I caught up with Rebecca who said she was still in shock at her triumph. Her modest attitude to winning represented the students of the college on a day when they showed Havering does indeed have talent.