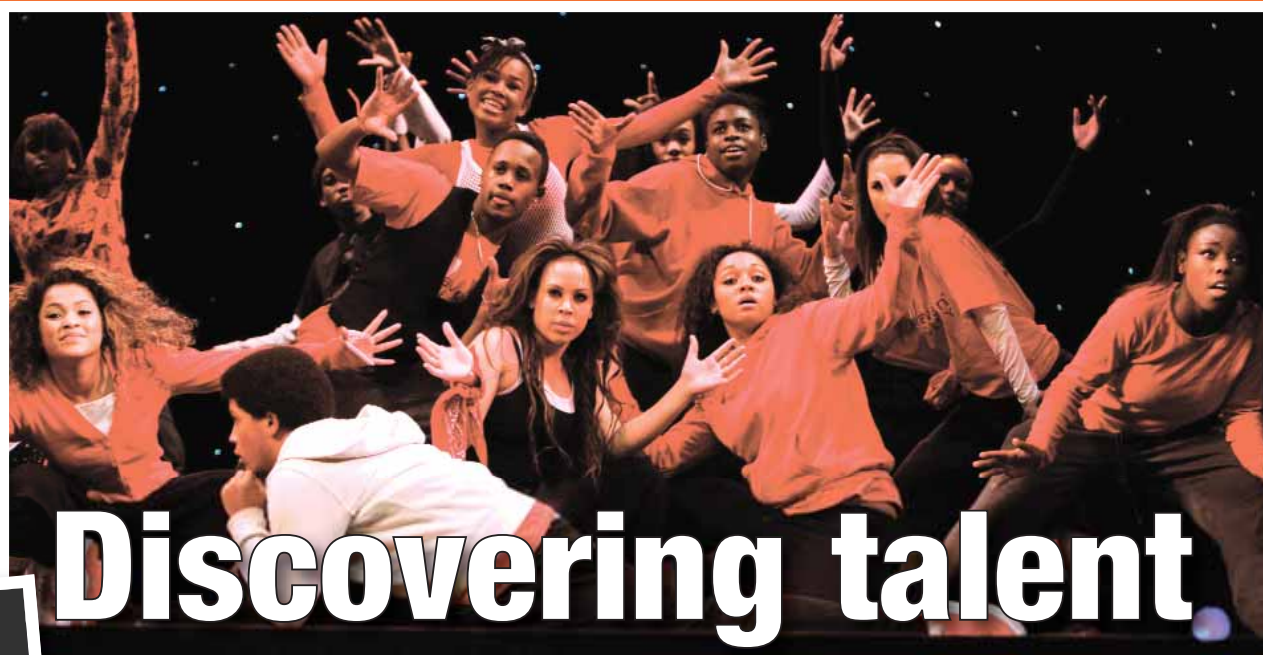


Pictures: Gary Mantline



Discovering talent

(Clockwise from left): Zelia Mazele, Lusha Thompson-Allen & Juliette Hudson from L'Amour; guest act X7; and host Kat B

HEADLINERS

MAKING NEWS CHANGING LIVES

The stories on this page have been supplied by Headliners – a youth journalism charity, that helps young people aged 8 to 19, produce videos, radio, written news reports and podcasts. For more info, visit: www.headliners.org



By **Nyasha McLean, 15** and **Ola Adeniran, 12**

WE went to Hackney Empire to watch the launch event for this year's Discover Young Hackney (DYH '09).

The show was called I'm In and in the spirit of the festival, allowed Hackney young

people to showcase their talents.

The night was hosted by Kat B from Choice FM, who entertainingly changed the borough's name to 'Harckney'. Acts included Lawrence Rowe, who sang his own version of Ordinary People by John Legend; Shernice White, who performed Follow You to the Moon and the Sky Above; and Naria Afonso who sang Superwoman by Alicia Keys.

The winners of the contest

were sensational all girl group L' Amour who sang Halo by Beyonce. It was a truly great performance and a well deserved win. L'Amour have already appeared on X Factor and could well be on their way to becoming the next big thing, following in the footsteps of Hackney's Leona Lewis.

We thought the night was entertaining and well organised. The local talent went down really well and almost all acts got a huge round of applause at the end

of their performance. However, we thought the night was a bit short and didn't show the variety of Hackney's talents we expected. There are poets, dancers and MCs who could've taken part in the competition, but it was just focused on singing. Who knows – maybe next time?

MORE INFO

For full details of DHY 09 events see the preview on **pg 8&9**

Is this goose any use to teenagers?

By **Rebecca Dixon, 14, Jamila Sami-ludlam, 14, Ola Adeniran, 12 & Rhasan Brunner, 14**

AFTER seeing an article about Mother Goose in Hackney Today, we wondered whether it would be as enjoyable for teenagers as it is for young children.

Mother Goose is a story about a woman who adopts a goose that lays golden eggs. Clive Rowe played the part of Mother Goose and he was

particularly fun to watch, especially when the cast went off script and were forced to improvise.

Billy, played by Kat B, was our favourite character however, because he was the one we

could most sympathise with. He was funny and his originality made him very interesting to watch. We felt he could connect with younger children more as he

played the part of someone who was nervous.

We loved the costumes which were vibrant and very extravagant. The only bad point was that Mother Goose never changed her red shoes, so she didn't always colour co-ordinate, and some of us girls think that's very important.

The script writers also created panto names of

places we knew – like Hackneytopia and Dalstonia, which we loved.

Some of us see the pantomime each year, yet for others it was a new experience.

Whilst we expected younger children to enjoy and participate in the traditional pantomime and slapstick humour, we also found ourselves joining in and actually enjoying it.

One of the main reasons the Hackney Empire pantomime was such an enticing show was because it also appealed to teenagers

by using slang like 'are you chirpsing me?'

Don't think that just because you are a teenager you won't enjoy pantomimes. We did, so make sure you go next year!

