



# YOUR ECHO

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# Greek tragedy with a timely resonance

ST Mary's College in Crosby has reinforced its reputation for finding a modern slant on the significance of classical Greek tragedies with its latest sellout show.

A large cast of more than 30 talented young actors won rave reviews for their production of the Trojan Women by Euripides, initially presented in the school's O'Halloran Hall - and then on the following evening in the prestigious surroundings of the University of Liverpool's Stanley Theatre.

The tragedy follows the fates of the women of Troy after their city has been sacked and their husbands killed, and their remaining families are about to be taken away as slaves.

Although the play was written in the 5th century BC its central themes of fate, freedom and the horror of war have real resonance for modern audiences.

Against the background of the Syrian civil war and other current global conflicts the cast dedicated the production to refugees everywhere who have been 'beaten, broken and abandoned'.

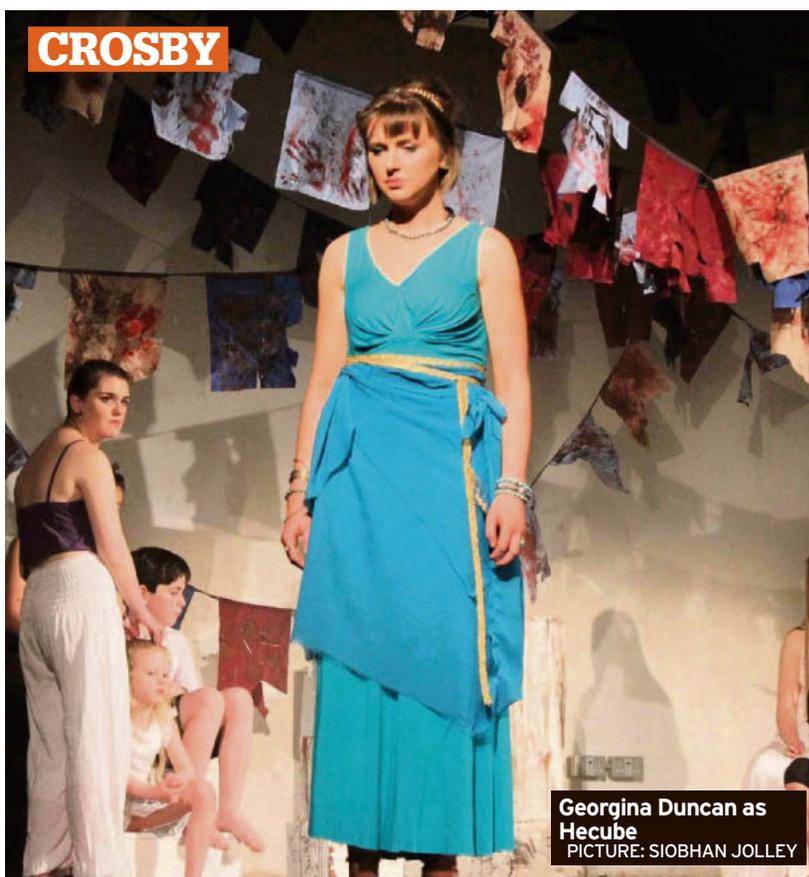
Collections were taken at both

performances to raise money to support the work of Asylum Link Merseyside, raising in excess of £400.

The main female roles in the Trojan Women were performed by Georgina Duncan as Queen Hecube, Lily-Joy Lancashire as Andromache, Tilly Doyle as Cassandra and Heloise Cottrell-Boyce as Helen of Troy.

Joe Houghton as the reluctant soldier Talthibius and Josh Nayagam as the Greek hero Menelaus played the leading male roles. However, the undoubted star of the evening was eight-year-old James Burke-Lau from St Mary's Prep School who played the role of Astyanax, the young Trojan Prince who is thrown to his death in the course of the play.

The production also featured a seven-strong group of dancers, with routines choreographed by dance teacher Victoria Harrocks and music from a six-piece student band, directed by sixth form students Matteo Ressa and Ciara Merriman. Matteo and Ciara arranged stunning versions of songs such as True Colours and Fields of Gold to accompany the play.



Georgina Duncan as Hecube  
PICTURE: SIOBHAN JOLLEY

## NOTICEBOARD

### Liverpool

THE cast and company of The Bodyguard were visited by over 50 students from LIPA in support of the show opening in Liverpool.

Some of the students met with stars Alexandra Burke (Rachel Marron) and Benoit Marechal (Frank Farmer).

The show is produced by LIPA Companion Michael Harrison, together with David Ian.

Michael Harrison has given several talks at LIPA in recent years for students keen to pursue a career in performing arts.

He was awarded the title of LIPA Companion in 2012 in recognition of his outstanding achievement and his practical contribution to students' learning.

One LIPA student added: "It's so exciting to stand on this stage with two really talented, successful performers such as Alexandra and Benoit.

"The Bodyguard is one of the most popular touring shows out there, it would be a dream to perform in a show like this, particularly on the Empire stage.

"Alexandra and Benoit have been giving us tips and advice and we're really excited to see the show."

The Bodyguard finished its run at the Liverpool Empire on Saturday, March 9.



LIPA students meet the cast of The Bodyguard

**Here's how to get in touch:**  
email: [yourecho@trinitymirror.com](mailto:yourecho@trinitymirror.com)  
Write to: Communities Team, Liverpool ECHO, PO Box 48, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, L69 3EB  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/YourEchoCommunities](http://www.facebook.com/YourEchoCommunities)

## KNOWSLEY



The Mind Maintenance Matters conference

LAST month, a group of 80 primary school children from Knowsley took part in a mental health awareness and wellbeing conference at OurPlace entitled Mind Maintenance Matters.

The pupils, from eight primary schools across the borough, took part in four workshops throughout the day led by a diverse range of practitioners using

laughter, music, improvisation, drama, mindfulness, art and 'tapping' - a calming technique that combines traditional acupressure with deep breathing and a verbal message to your subconscious - to break down the stigma associated with mental health issues and learn techniques to identify, improve and maintain mental health

and wellbeing.

Councillor Graham Morgan, leader of Knowsley council, opened the conference and it was brought to a close by the presentation of certificates to the children from the Mayor of Knowsley, Cllr Jackie Harris, followed by a performance from blues/rock band, Xander and the Peace Pirates.

YOUNG People who are currently on Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Prince's Trust Team Programme recently completed a renovation makeover on a youth room at Christ Church Youth and Community Centre in Bootle.

The revamp was part of the Prince's Trust Personal Development Programme in which the young people had to plan a project of their choice within their community.

TEAM 38 chose to complete their

challenge at Christ Church Youth And Community Centre as they felt the youth room was rundown and the organisation receives little funding.

To raise funds for the makeover and assist with the running of the programme, they completed a bag pack at Asda in Aintree, raising more than £410.

■ MFRS Prince's Trust are recruiting for the next Team Programme, which starts on May 6. Contact Marie Morgan on 07809 375223.



Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Prince's Trust's Bootle Team 38