

The **New Zealand**
Dance Company
presents

AWESOME ROBOTS

Awesome Robots is a contemporary dance and music collaboration by choreographer **Lucy Marinkovich** and composer/musician **Lucien Johnson**. The work is intended as a dynamic and spectacular piece which would be ideally suited to outdoor events and music festivals.

Awesome Robots has been inspired by trends surrounding vintage science-fiction and the current re-alignment of futurist metaphors to reflect cultural diversity. In particular, *Awesome Robots* has been influenced by the movement known as Afrofuturism. This movement seeks to place the African diasporic experience at the heart of science-fiction narratives. In turn, *Awesome Robots* uses this as a point of departure for exploring the possibilities of creating a uniquely Pacific futurism.

An initial section of *Awesome Robots* has been developed and performed by The New Zealand Dance Company for their Tamaki schools tour. The audience reaction from both children and adults was extremely positive from the first five minute section of this work. We are now proposing to develop this work into a 45-55 minute work. The work would include five dancers and two musicians, a performance design and costume design. The work is intended to be performed with live musicians, and can also be performed to a pre-recorded soundtrack.

Chief collaborators include choreographer Lucy Marinkovich, founder of Borderline Arts Ensemble and formerly a dancer with Footnote NZ Dance and guest with the NZDC for their production of *Orpheus – a dance opera*. The music is created by Lucien Johnson, an award-winning composer with an international career and former member of renowned band The Black Seeds. He is joined on stage by hip-hop MC **Imon Starr**. Costume design is by **Kate Hawley**, who has designed costumes for



multiple Hollywood films including *The Hobbit*. *Awesome Robots* is a unique work that captivates audiences' imaginations through highly rhythmic music, stunning sci-fi costumes and visual effects, and an athletic and scintillating choreographic language which bridges popular and contemporary dance styles.

Performers:

Musician	Lucien Johnson
MC	Imon Starr
Dancers	The New Zealand Dance Company

Timeline:

June 2018

Initial development for the *Kanikani Hou Kanorau* New Works Project

June-July 2018

Performances of *Awesome Robots* for The New Zealand Dance Company's *Tamaki Tour*.

Aug 2018

One week development workshop to expand *Awesome Robots* into a full length festival work.

2019

Full work creation (a further two-weeks development) to be ready for performance by February 2019.

Creative Collaborators

Lucy Marinkovich is a multi-award winning New Zealand contemporary dancer, choreographer and the creative director of the Borderline Arts Ensemble. A former member of Footnote Dance Company, Lucy has been awarded Tempo Dance Festival's "Best Emerging Artist" and "Best Female Dancer" awards, the Eileen May Norris Dance Trust Scholarship, Creative New Zealand's Tup Lang Choreographic Award, and is a Leadership Network Member of the Asia New Zealand Foundation. Lucy works as the Dance Educator for the Royal New Zealand Ballet, and has performed as a Guest Artist with the New Zealand Dance Company, Movement of the Human, and her performance credits include appearances with the *World of Wearable Arts* (NZ, Hong Kong), Taiki Waititi's film *What We Do in the Shadows*, and on special projects with NZ's renowned Weta Workshop.

VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/jMaSNyFrqel>

AUDIO DEMO

[Click here](#)

Lucien Johnson has been described as "a saxophonist and composer of rare excellence and mettle." He has performed with jazz giants such as Mulatu Astatke and Alan Silva, composed for theatre and dance in New Zealand, France, India and Haiti, and toured globally with his own music ensembles and as part of iconic New Zealand bands such as the Black Seeds and Lord Echo.

Kate Hawley is a concept artist and costume designer, better known for her work with Peter Jackson and Guillermo del Toro.

She has worked as the primary wardrobe and costume designer for *Pacific Rim*, *The Hobbit*, *Suicide Squad*, *Crimson Peak* and *Edge of Tomorrow*.

Imon Starr, aka **Ahmen Mahal** has been at the vanguard of the New Zealand hip-hop and dub scene for two decades. He was the lead vocalist in Rhombus before breaking out on his own to form Olmecha Supreme, which released four celebrated albums. He has also collaborated with Fat Freddy's Drop and Hollie Smith.



THANK YOU

Thank you very much NZ Dance company
for your performance. Your dances were very unique
and extraordinary. I like your robot dance
because of the shades and the shoes, they looked
cool. I'm writing to you because I loved how you
made me laugh hard and how you made it in four
weeks if I was in it would take me 6 weeks.
I liked how confident you are. Also, how you
can do all types of dances like hiphop, jazz
and much more. I loved how your music made
me move, you are very creative in your dances.
At the end I liked how Taniora break-danced
that was so cool. I liked how you
took your time answer our questions.
I hope you come again.
You are very inspiring.

THANK YOU

I loved the Robot dance because I love Robots especially the glasse. when you finished I was so excited to watch more. Blue Ink has amazing

New Zealand Police company

moves it looks like an octopus. It made my knowledge of octopus run through my mind. The dance did a really cool break really cool and Thank you so much for showing your dance

DON BUCK School

Jordan K SF

Robot! Dance

New Zealand Dance Company ♡

Thank You Lauren!



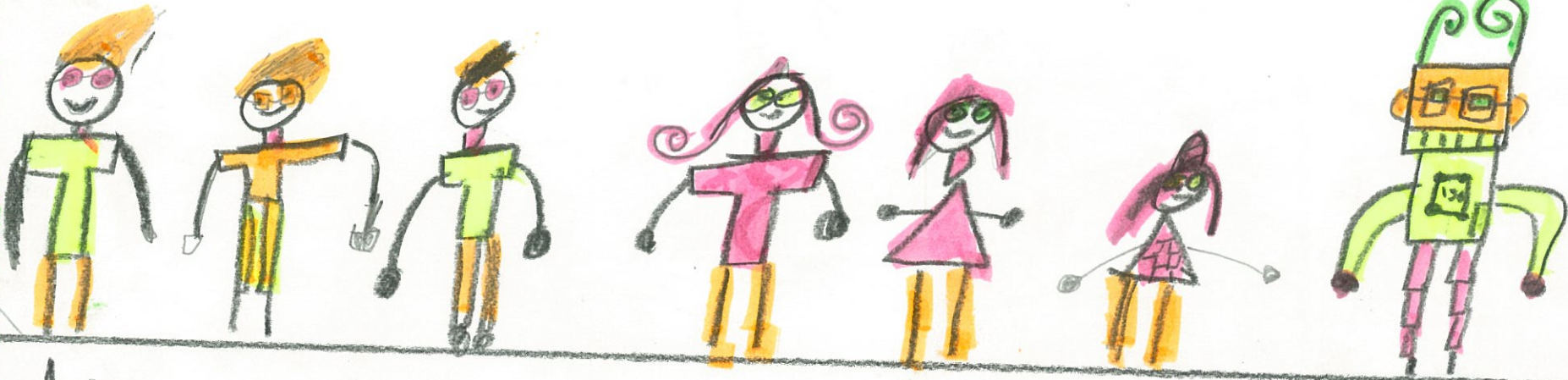
STAGE

Robot Dance!



N. Z. Dance Company

Robot dance



New Zealand dance company

Dorbeck
Space 14

MZD

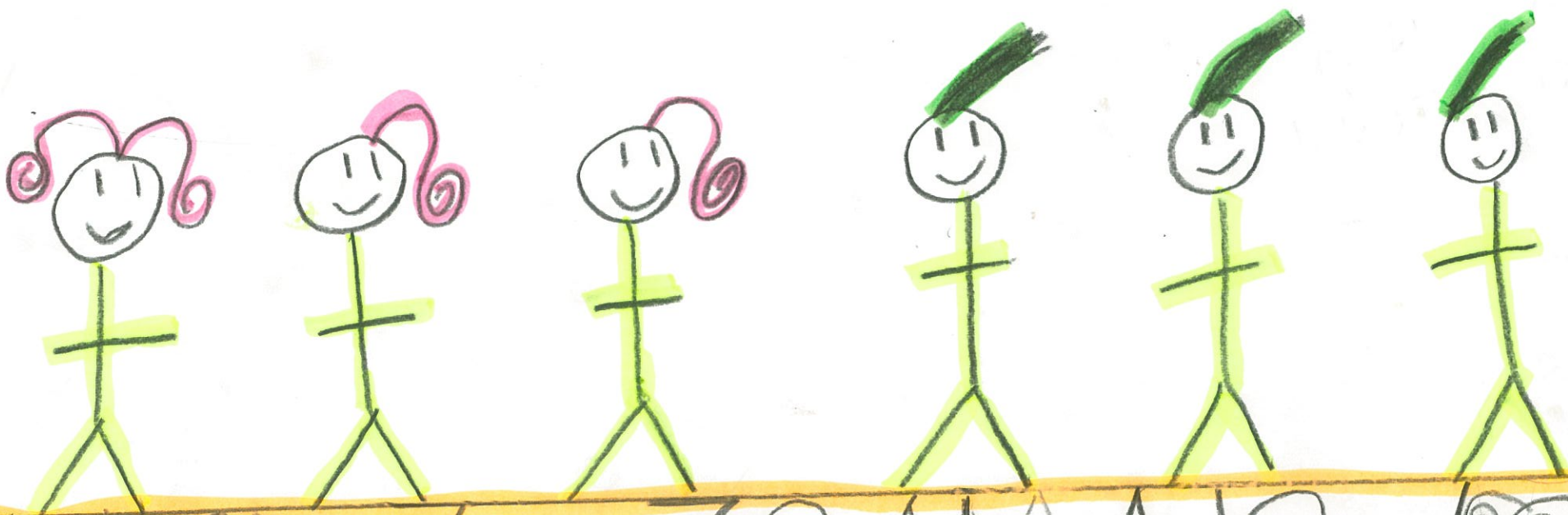
Thank you for that outstanding and breathtaking performance
I could not really see where the performers were on the
floor because everyone was kneeling.

I was really interested by the duet that turned
into a solo. I was really satisfied by the Robotic Hater, etc
dance. The pink panther, one of my favorites
because of the type of music - I listen to it
every time I'm on the computer.



THANK YOU

Robot dance. ✓ yaya. ✓



NEW ZEALAND

Don Buck School

124 Don Buck Rd

Massey, Auckland

Monday 2nd July 2018

To the New Zealand Dance Company

I had such a phenomenal time with your dance group. My favourite dance was the summer one. It was so spectacular and splendid. I appreciate your time to dance and answer some of our questions.

You had some cool costumes. Your dances were very beautiful. You did really cool flips and lifting the girls in the air. The magic one was unreal because one of the girls was really flexible.

Some of the dances that you performed for example, were really funny and they made me crack up.

Yours Sincerely

Sunshynn From Sol5

Don Buck School
124 Don Buck Road
Massey, Auckland

Monday 2nd July 2018

To the New Zealand dance group

I just want to say thank for coming to Don Buck School. We saw your creative dance. I loved the robot dance because it was so cool and creative.

Thank you again for your performance I will never forget your funny dances and faces. My favourite dance move was the Samoan dance. And I think the costumes were amazing, and the glasses were cool. It was splendid to see your creative dance group.

Your sincerely

Beige

From Space 15

NZ Zealands Dance
Company

Robot Dance



Don Buck Primary School.

124 Don Buck Road.

Massy Auckland.

Tuesday 3rd July 2018

To New Zealand Dance Company.

On the 28th of June I had the best day of my life because I watched the best dance group ever.

I really enjoyed how you made it look like as though it was real. You made it funny for the Don Buck Primary School children.

My favourite dance was the robot dance it was magnificent and showed some creativity.

I really wish we could watch your incredible dance again you are the best New Zealand dance group that I have ever seen. Thank you, you are the best dance

Don Buck school
124 Don Buck rd
Massey Auckland

Tuesday 3th July 2018

To the New Zealand dance company.

Thank you for performing at Don Buck school it was so funny and incredible. When we heard that you were coming our whole class brought there money.

My favourite dance was the robot dance. The glasses and costumes were funny. We were happy that we were the first ones to see that robot dance we happy you shared your dance with us.

Your sincerely

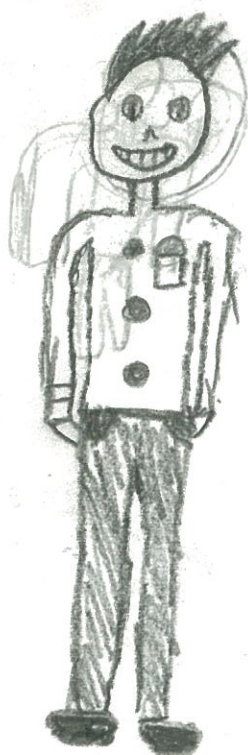
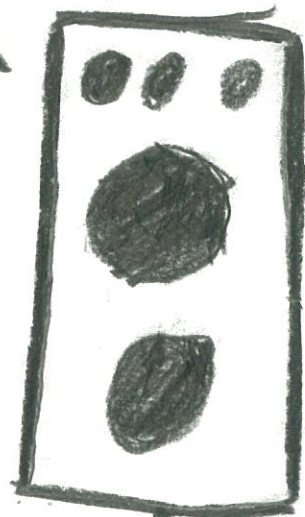
James

Space 15

Space 15

NEW ZEALAND

DANCE



Don Buck school
124 Don Buck road
massey, Auckland

Monday 2nd July 2018

To: New Zealand dance company

I won't ever forget you and your performances, because it was so entertaining and creative. I wish you could come and perform for us every day.

When I saw your dances it looked unbelievable, magical, magnificent and so good that I was speechless. I was inspired by all the movements that I'm going to try make my own song and dance.

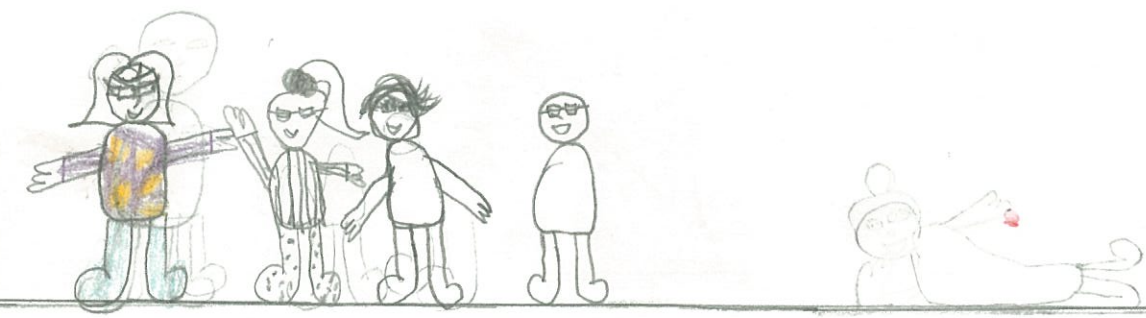
I love to dance and when I grow up I'm going to work for the New Zealand dance company. My favourite dance was the robot dance.

Yours sincerely
Zaryah
From space 15

Honu
dance
New Zealand dance company



blue ink
island dance



Don Buck School
124 Don Buck road.
Massey, Auckland

Monday 2nd July 2018

To: New Zealand Dance Company

I want to say thank you for presenting your five different dances. I was so amazed when I saw lots of creative movements it was spectacular.

Your performance made me speechless. My Most favourite dance was Contemporary because you used your whole body to create different patterns. The robot dance was funny and the choergraphing was magnificent. I hope we get to see you again.

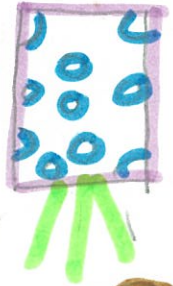
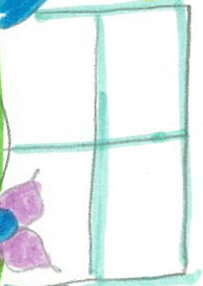
Yours Sincerely

Terehia
from space 15

New

Zealand

Dance



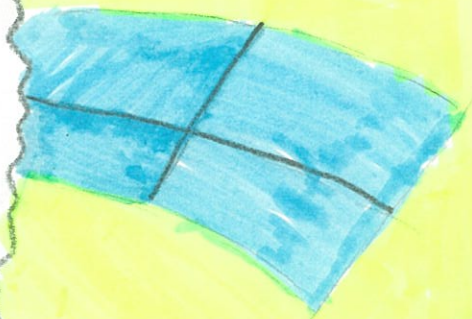
Company

Contemporary



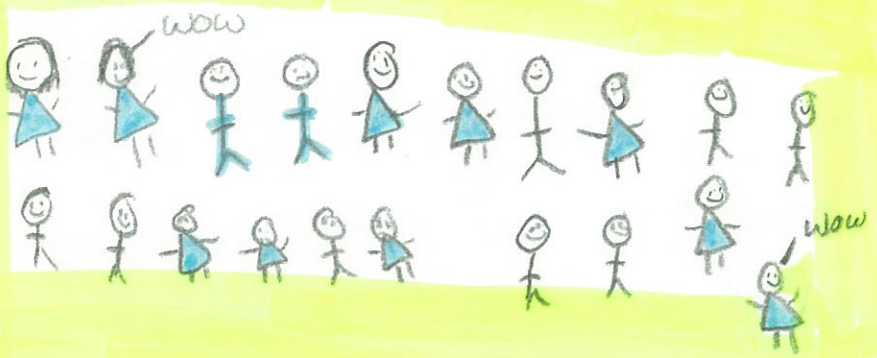
New Zealand

Dance Company



Dance Company

Dance Company



Dance

Don buck school
124 Don buck Road

Massey, Auckland

To the New Zealand Dance Company

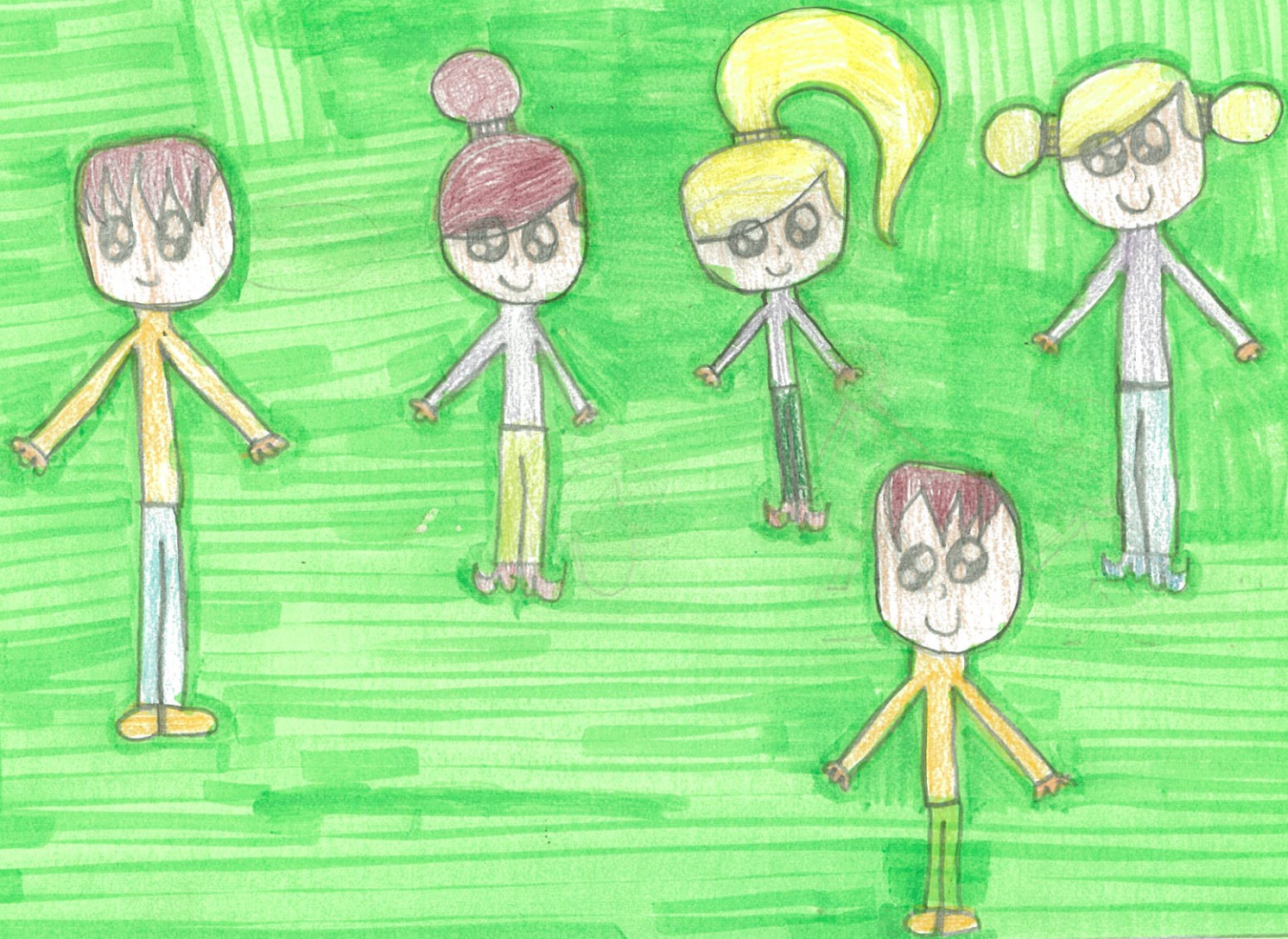
Thank you for performing for us. It
Was faboulous and creative move ments

My favourite ^{dance} was the robot and the
blue ink the robot dance was funny
and you showed your blue ink was
creatively in your performing

I really liked your costumes it was
impresive and faboulous

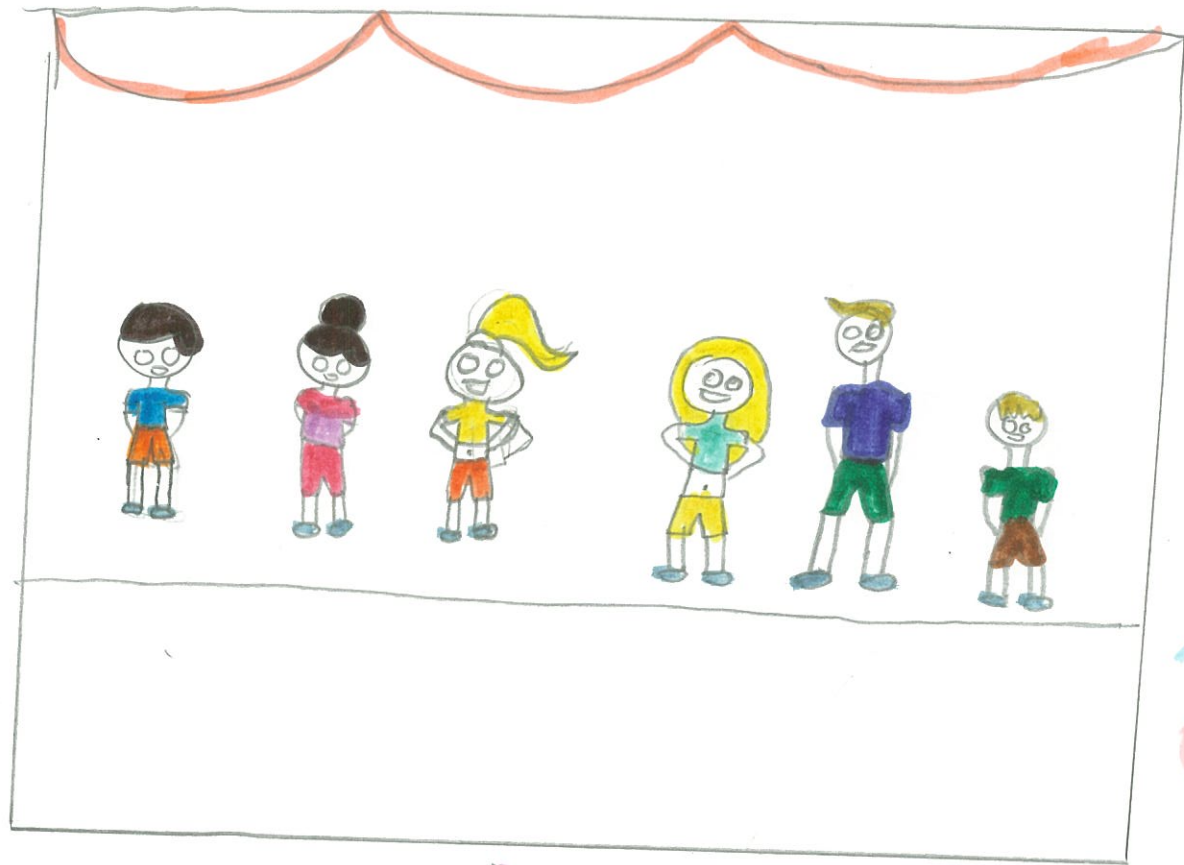
your sincerely
Sara Spacell 15

New Zealand Dancers @



Company

NZ Dance Company



Monday 2nd July 2018 3/6/18

Don Buck School

124 Don Buck road

Massey Auckland

Tuesday 3rd July 2018

To the New Zealand Dance Company

Thank you for coming to our school and doing a magnificent performance for our middles and senior students. I would like to say thank you again for taking your time and doing this performance for us.

I like your dances because they were outstanding and they were speechless. Thank you again for doing the dance and I liked the robot costumes and the glasses were amazing.

I liked the robot dance and I also liked the blue ink dance. My favourite dance was the blue ink but I also liked the robot dance.

Your sincerely

Risha

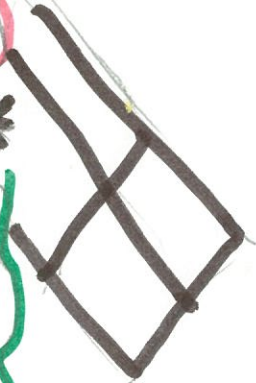
From

SP 15

New Zealand

Dance Company

High Hikes



Carl

Katy

tall guy
break dancing guy

Brianah

chrisy

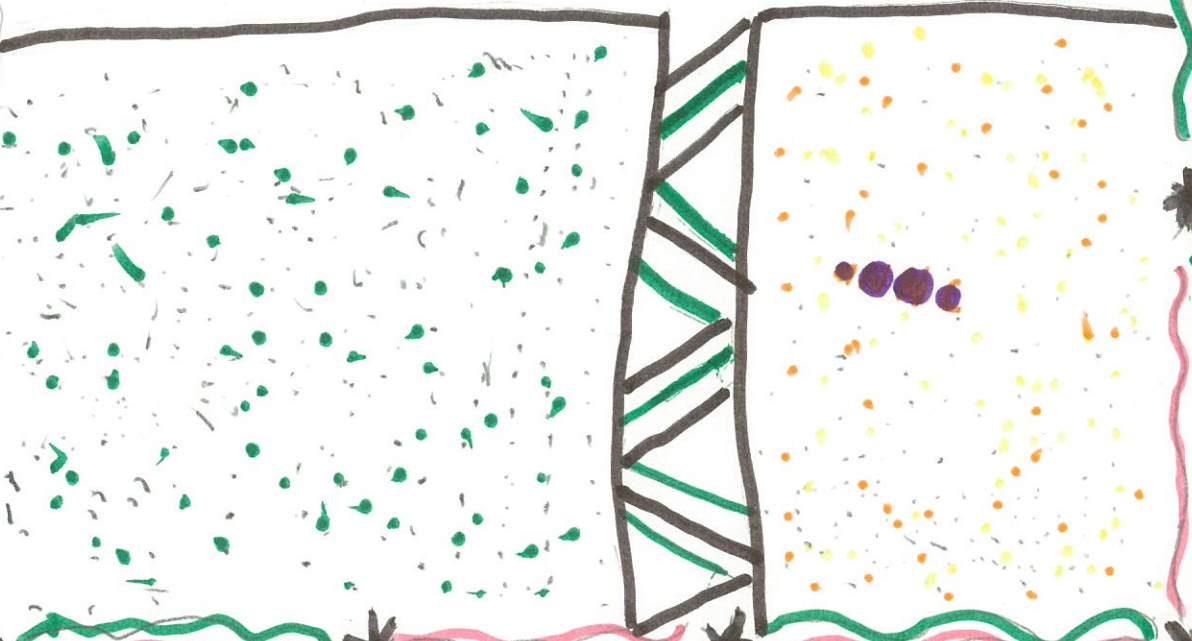
Ray

Skills

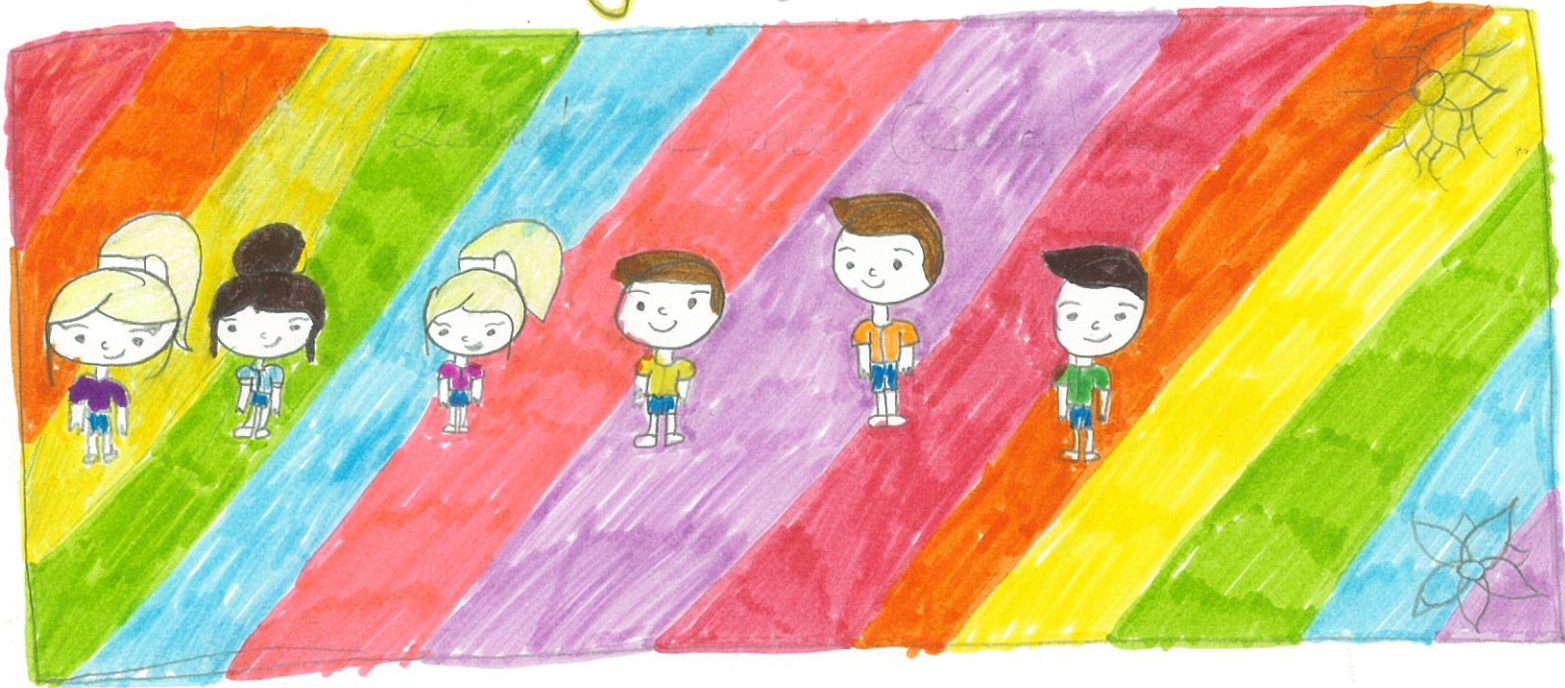
talking

Boom Boom

Contemporary



The Amazing



New Zealand Dance Company

Don buck Primary school

124 don buck road

Massey, Auckland

Tuesday 2nd July 2018

To NZdc

I loved your creative twirling dance. It was spectacle and great. My favorite dance was the break dance. It was cool. Thanks a lot for showing us your dance. You were cool.

I loved all your dances. Thanks a lot. Your dances were beyond imagination. And I liked all your movements.

Your sincerely admirer
from SPaccl5

Don Buck School
124 Don Buck Road
Massey, Auckland

Monday 2nd July 2018

To the NZ Dance group

Thank you for showing us your amazing performance. I loved the haka dance because it reminds me of my country Samoa. I really loved the costumes. I thought it is outstanding. And the glasses were amazing.

I will never forget the dance like Blue ink, haka dance, 3 women/men haka, and Robot also Break dancing. I think you are creative dance in the world.

Thank you again we all miss all your funny dances and faces. My favourite dance move is the 3 women/men haka. And it was splendid to see your NZ Dance company/group.

Sincerely Lauren
from SP 15.

Don Buck School
121, Don Buck Road
Massey, Auckland

Monday 3rd July 2018

To the New Zealand Dance Group

I will never forget this day because you always make me laugh and I enjoyed it. It was the best dance in my life I would never miss this day.

My favourite dance was: the robot one and the last one it was the best one out of all of them I love it I wish I can dance like you.

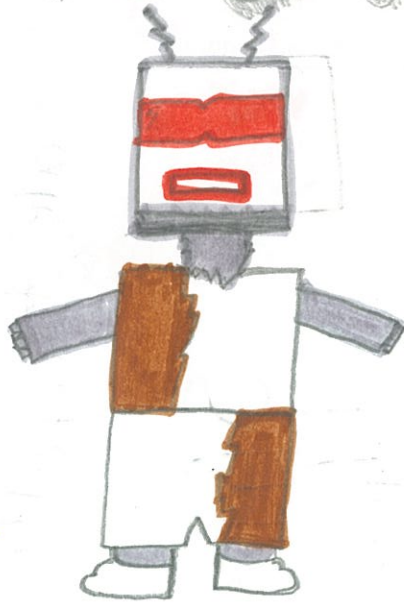
Your performance was the best performance in the school I wish you could come back to dance again in Don Buck primary school.

Your sincerely
Memia Tiaua
From Sp 15.

BLUE INK



FUNKY ROBOT



SP 14

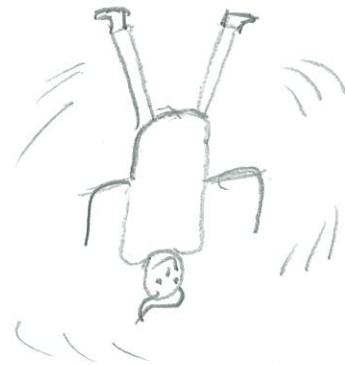
KALEIDOSCOPE

Dear New Zealand Dance Company,

I just want to thank you all for coming to Don Buck Primary School to perform for us. I enjoyed all your dances, but, mostly the robotic outer-space life-form dance, because I liked the choreography. I found it very interesting and intense. I really enjoyed the Kaleidoscope. The reason for that is because, I liked the way it kind of tells a story. I found it very satisfying. I loved how Taniora did the break-dancing. It was very active, exhilarating and joyful. I just want to THANK YOU one last time.

THANK YOU!!!

Yours sincerely,
Jordan Wharekawa
Space 14
Don Buck Primary





Dear New Zealand dance company thank you for coming to our school, there were 5 dances you showed us. One was nature, Blueink, Robot dance i can't remember the rest but it was magnificent watching you. You people practise along time. My favourite dance is the Robot dance, Break dancing, Blueink it was outstanding. I loved does 3 dances because the robot had great sounds effects. The Break dancing because the movement was so unique. The last one was blueink, the movement was like a octopus. Kake te.

Your sincerely



SPACE 14

