

DRAMA WORKSHOP FOR YOUNGSTERS

BAMPTON TOWN Hall, the home of the West Oxfordshire Arts Association, resounded last week to the sounds of some 25 youngsters taking part in a drama workshop.

The activities were organised by local drama student Peter Phillips and two friends from his London college.

Subsidised by the Arts Association and consequently with free admission, the week of events culminating in plays put on before parents, attracted a large number of local five to 12-year-olds.

It involved the children in some quite complicated acting, song and dance work.

Peter, whose mother Mrs. Susan Phillips lives in Bampton, has completed his first year with the Italia Conti Stage School in London.

Two fellow students from London, Adam Wright and Nicola Standewick who both live in

Birmingham came down last week to help with the workshop.

Nicola is particularly involved with voice production, Adam like Peter is mainly concerned with the acting.

Between them they channelled the tremendous enthusiasm and considerable talent the children showed into a series of plays put on before parents in the beautiful surroundings of Mrs. Phillips house in Lavender Square.

It all kept the youngsters well occupied from 10 to 12 noon and from 2 to 4 p.m. throughout the week in the middle of the long summer holidays.

Peter, Adam and Nicola offered their services

to Bampton free. They hope that working with children will help their drama courses and Peter sees this as his bit towards the community.

Mrs. Phillips provided accommodation for all three whilst they were in Bampton.

It could well be that the local area will see quite a lot more of Peter Phillips and his Grown Up Kids Theatre Company in the coming years.

The company of drama students that have performed before audiences at Oxford, Chipping Norton and Bampton are considering whether to turn professional and form a fully fledged travelling theatre once drama school is over.



GETTING to grips with his students last week is Peter Phillips (19), No. 1 Theatre student from the Italia Conti Stage School in London, helping out at the Children's Workshop, Bampton. Luella Keeble (5) (left) and Candy Westman (6).



The budding actors form a machine

Just dying to act

It was summer holiday curtain-call for youngsters at Bampton last week.

The annual children's theatre workshop was under way and out came the costumes and greasepaint.

About 20 children, aged from five to 14, were learning a few tricks of the stage under the guidance of local drama student Peter Phillips.

This year Peter, who lives at Lavender Square,

Bampton, brought in two professional theatre-workers, Adam Wright and Nicola Standerwick, to give the youngsters experience of stage make-up and costumes, as well as acting, movement and singing.

The workshop ran from Monday to Friday at the Bampton Arts Centre. On Friday the children put on their own improvised production for parents and friends.



Playing dead . . .

(Pictures: Rob Cousins)