

Echo asks pop superstar to help dancer find fame

POP superstar Michael Jackson is being asked by the Echo to help a talented dancer in his bid for fame.

Stuart Neil, 11, of Walkford Road, Highcliffe, has already been devastated by the theft of his most treasured possession - a £1,000 computer

By Mike Goodey

which was a gift from Jackson.

Stuart's chances of a stage career are fading because he cannot afford to take up a place at one of the country's top dance schools.

His divorced mother Janet, who has three other children

and is on income support, has appealed to Dorset County Council and several charities for help. None is available.

But the Echo is appealing direct to Michael Jackson's manager in Los Angeles to see if Stuart's idol, with whom he danced at this year's Brit Awards, will support the youngster.

Stuart has been accepted by Elmhurst Ballet School, Surrey. But he was just too late to take advantage of a £9,000 government-assisted place.

"We didn't know one was available and when he went to the school he was told it was a shame he hadn't applied earlier as all the assisted places had gone," said Janet.

The blow came only three months after Stuart discovered £3,562 worth of toys and games had been stolen from his home, including Michael Jackson's gift, given to him after getting his hair covered in paint during a stage invasion by singer Jarvis Cocker, of the band Pulp, at the Brit Awards.

Stuart has performed with Anthony Newley in Scrooge at the Pavilion and in Oliver at the London Palladium.

● A 15-year-old youth who admitted the theft was sentenced to 20 hours at an attendance centre.



Stuart Neil, 11, has always dreamed of dancing



Michael Jackson showered Stuart with gifts