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## REVIEW

# All human life was there

**Growing Up: Swish of The Curtain,  
Tregonwell Hall, BIC**

GROWING UP, Swish of the Curtain's 2002 showcase proved quite an epic!

Last year some 300 pupils took to the Winter Gardens stage but, with that venue now closed and the school having opened two new branches in Winton and Christchurch, they faced the seemingly impossible task of giving each and every one of their 550 pupils an opportunity to perform in the much smaller Tregonwell Hall.

Children as young as two right up to 18-year-olds on the threshold of drama schools and professional careers performed pieces that illustrated human life at all stages of emotional development.

There were beautifully choreographed dance routines, joyful singing and the very accomplished solo saxophonist Jonathan Howell.

While pre-school children enthusiastically recited funny poems about frogs, bees and spiders, in the junior classes there were adaptations of the books of popular children's author Roald Dahl.

Alongside escapist pieces like these were comical ones, such as a Blind Date spoof.

In total contrast there were also deep and thought-provoking sections, including pieces on disability, broken homes and the very powerful Baby Love about the devastation of stillbirth, which was just one of the 27 first prize winners for the school in the speech and drama section of the recent Bournemouth Festival.

Hilary Porter