

**Charity Dinner – Kids Company**



**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**All aboard for an evening with the Kids Company and £80,000 raised...**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, over 50 clients and friends were welcomed by Berenberg Bank onto the HQS Wellington on the Thames for the opportunity to gain an insight into and become acquainted with the Kids Company. Guests were met by the tunes of jazz pianist George Moore and enjoyed champagne and canapés before going through to the boat's charming Court Room for a four-course dinner. Special guest Jeremy Paxman began proceedings with an entertaining speech about perception and how first impressions are often false, leading on to how children and young people are often misperceived.



Dinner was then served with musical entertainment provided throughout the evening by the Kids Company. First in the spotlight was the St. Peter's School gospel choir, where 11 twelve year olds performed two songs accompanied by music. This was followed a little later by soul singer Jessie Nunes, who having grown up with the Kids Company, sang one of her own songs about her life experiences. Our compere for the evening, Berenberg's Andy McNally, then introduced Dawn Howley, another Kids Company member, who gave a moving speech on how the Kids Company helped her through a difficult childhood.

As guests were finishing off desserts, Camila Batmanghelidjh, the founder of the Kids Company, reminded us of the main aim of the evening, which was to raise at least £30,000 to keep the Kids Company's Boys' Home running for a year. Kids Company at present rents a house in North London for homeless girls. These young girls have often fled from home due to abuse or neglect and they have suffered terrible emotional trauma leading them to feel abandoned by loved ones. The Kids Company girls' house sleeps 5 young people and costs £ 2,500 a month to run. Currently, the only alternative Kids Company can offer distressed and vulnerable boys is emergency housing in hostels at £30 a night. This solution is neither a suitable nor a safe environment for these underprivileged and neglected children.



The evening was a resounding success where £80,000 was raised, allowing the Kids Company to open a Boys' Home and fund this for over two years. BerenbergKids would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came to the Dinner to support this worthy cause and for all donations which were greatly received. Particular thanks must also go to Jeremy Paxman for his time and to all members of the Kids Company who contributed to the evening.

**Berenberg Participants:**

Manuel Bally, Oliver Collin, Nolan Craig, Graeme Davies, Hamish Edsell, Ben Hutton, Andrew McNally, Natalie Meech, Catherine Ogden, Hendrik Riehmer, Toby Woods

