

Clifford
Bridge
Primary
School pupils
Brodie
Stubbs (left)
and Megan
McElliggott
rehearse
their drum
part with
Wedzerai
Zvirevo, of
World Muzik
Makers.
Picture:
**Mark
Radford**



Hands-on approach to world music

PUPILS from eight primary schools across Coventry enjoyed a taste of Africa during cultural workshops.

They took part in sessions with the acclaimed African Botanai Marimba Band, culminating in an exciting evening performance at the Belgrade Theatre.

As part of the African Arts Festival, the children were taken through a variety of activities led by World Muzik Makers, a professional company from South Africa.

These included necklace-making, drumming and poetry to raise awareness about living in a such a varied society.

The students also made their own T-shirts with a handprint design to further illustrate African diversity.

Band member Kledzi Zvirevo, said the workshops were "a different, practical way of looking at global diversity", which aimed to stimulate children's creative energies.

Children at Clifford Bridge Primary School, in Coombe Park Road, Binley, really enjoyed joining in the educational experience.

Pupil Shayna Sullivan, aged nine, said it was a "once in a lifetime" opportunity and fellow student Anil Kandola, aged nine, said: "Dancing was my favourite thing, the adrenaline is pumped into you,

By Emily Bahara

and I'm raring to go."

The workshops, which culminated in an evening performance at the Belgrade Theatre, followed events held in June which aimed to show how music and the arts are at the base of everyone's common heritage.

Coventry City councillor John Blundell, cabinet member for children learning and young people, said: "The company have worked all over the world.

"We are so pleased that they are bringing this amazing festival to Coventry."

Other schools involved in the workshops included Sacred Heart, Stoke Heath, Courthouse Green, St Thomas More and Potters Green.