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Frame Jane

Actress in focus at school film club

by Pat Greenwood

SHE'S famous for Little Voice, and the dizzy PA from Ab Fab.

And Plumstead Manor FilmClub loved her.

Actress Jane Horrocks took time out from her new 'Annie Get Your Gun' show at the Young Vic, Waterloo, to do a special Q & A session at the girls' school in Old Mill Road.

It was a blockbuster of a day for the regulars of an after-school club which is part of a free network of thousands of government-backed school-clubs nationwide. The club sets out to get young people aged 11 to 14 switched on to cinema.

Plumstead Manor's current FilmClub leader is Katherine Brickley, who teaches English and Media at the 1,800-pupil school and sixth form college.

She attended one of FilmClub's training days for teachers, and then she helped to establish the club which runs on Tuesday afternoons.

She told GT: "We can watch a film and then have a short discussion about it. Then just before the summer holidays, we got an email saying FilmClub would offer us a 'Close Encounter' with Jane Horrocks.

"Students have done some research about her - and some of them are especially interested because Jane played Lady Macbeth and they've



SETTING THE SCENE: young film fans get to know the popular British actress

been studying it for GCSE." Jane Horrocks told GT: "I've worked in Greenwich. In fact, I did 'The Scottish Play' - as we call it - here in 1995."

The mum-of-two, whose own parents helped her with her original college-applications back home in Lancashire, said: "The students asked very good questions, very intelligent questions."

Jane's advice to Plumstead Manor FilmClub included:

- GET a proper foundation

for your craft and go to drama school if you want to go on the stage

- WATCH a film over and over again to appreciate all the 'clever shots' and the 'tricks'.

Wunmi, aged 13, from Charlton, said: "She told us to get some real experience - rather than just 'jumping for it' on something like X-Factor."

Delisha, 12, from Plumstead added: "She told us you should never give up. She certainly

inspired me!"

Rosie, aged 14, from Plumstead said: "It was interesting that she played Lady Macbeth. We've just finished it in GCSE English."

- SCHOOLS can find out more by visiting www.filmclub.org

The project started as a pilot scheme and then got government-backing last year. The aim is to have 7,000 clubs running by March 2011.

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