

Youngsters' 'flash' dance thrills crowd

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VISITORS arriving at the Wales Millennium Centre for the Sound of Music matinee show were also treated to a "flash mob" performance.

A 40-strong group of visually impaired youngsters from performing arts group Ucan were at the Cardiff Bay centre when they burst into an impromptu dance routine to Glee's Don't Stop Believin' and Lady Gaga's Born this Way.

Members of the group had travelled from all over Wales to take part in the 40-minute event, during which they also sang in English and Welsh.

Jake Sawyers, 16, from Port Talbot, who is blind in one eye with 25% vision in the other, said: "It was an absolutely amazing experience. There was a fantastic reaction from the crowd when a

couple of members started a seemingly random performance which ended with us all on the main stage."

Ucan Productions' co-founder and development manager Jane Latham said: "Everyone worked so hard practising the routine during weeks leading up to the performance and it was worth it because they were all brilliant on the day.

"I'm sure it will be something that leaves a lasting impression on both the performers and people watching."

The flash mob marked the launch of the Big Lottery Fund's Bright New Futures programme, which is making £12m available for projects across

Wales, working with young parents and young disabled people aged 14 to 25.

Projects that will be awarded funding will have to ensure that young parents and young disabled people are less isolated and better services are delivered which are tailored to meet in-

dividual needs.

John Rose, Wales director for the Big Lottery Fund, said: "This programme again underlines how we are committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need.

"It recognises that, although most young people get the support they require and have a good experience of education and work, there are some who need more support as they become adults."





The flash mob performance at the Wales Millennium Centre

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