



Tough critics: Roseworth Primary students Darius Hussein, left, Annalise Kearing and Dylan Comery. Picture: Mogens Joliansen

Young critics turn focus to Festival

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Students from an eastern suburbs primary school have cast a critical eye over the Perth International Arts Festival as part of a project that grants them official judge status.

Roseworth Primary School Year 5 students have been enjoying VIP status and blogging about various dance, theatre and live performances that will culminate in a "children's choice" awards ceremony later this week.

The project is part of a worldwide initiative through Toronto-based art research company Mammalian



Diving Reflex to integrate young audience members with performers and challenge youngsters to convey their reactions and ideas about art.

PIAF artistic director Shelagh Magadza said the children had fitted in "brilliantly" with audience members and were honest critics with each performance.

"They're pretty tough but they're also pretty fair. Like any person they have things that they like and don't like," she said. "But it's also really interesting to see what things they particularly observe that we as adults might not have noticed."

Roseworth principal Geoff Metcalf said the difference in the young students' attitudes, interest in learning and attendance had been significant.

"They are seeing a completely different world to the one they live in. The festival is such a magnificent way to see what actually happens in the real world," he said.