



Wac Arts

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Junior Wac Arts



Amy Winehouse Foundation



Marathon Fundraiser

empowering young
people to change
their world



March 2014 Newsletter

Welcome ...
... to springtime at Wac Arts!

Bounding ahead with new ideas and activities for 2014, it's been a busy winter with 35th birthday celebrations and a Kickstarter fundraising campaign. Holiday projects are now being planned and preparations continue for the Wac Arts College free school opening this summer. Please see our website and Facebook page for all the latest details!

Amy Winehouse Foundation steps in

Following its generous support to keep our weekend music and singing classes going, the foundation has chosen four Wac Arts students to be part of the 'Amy's Yard' artist development programme.

One Senior and three Diploma Wac Arts students will be based at Amy's own studio for an eight week-long opportunity of a lifetime! Our students will be based in the professional studio where Amy recorded her albums. They will work with her songwriters, producers and engineers. Talent will be nurtured as they increase their skills, confidence and self esteem.

With our long history of jazz based music tuition, everyone at Wac Arts is delighted to have this support from the Amy Winehouse Foundation. And for our students to also be chosen as part of 'Amy's Yard' is a dream come true!

Marathon fundraiser

On April 6th one of our tutors will be running a marathon 26 miles for Wac Arts! Indra Ove is taking part in the Brighton Marathon to raise money to help keep our projects open. Having been part of the work we do with vulnerable children and young people, and those at risk or excluded from school, she knows the difference the arts can make in giving London youngsters a bigger and better future.

Now training hard and hoping to raise a massive £2,000, we hope everyone will support Indra - please see over for her JustGiving details.

Wac Arts College begins ...



Under its new name, Wac Arts College, the pre-opening phase for the Wac Arts free school is well under way. Our first consultation evening was held at the end of January and there will be a second in March. These evenings are a chance for parents, carers, prospective students and all those with an interest, to find out more about the college.

The Chair of the Board, John Bolt, and Celia Greenwood, CEO of Wac Arts, were there to introduce the college. There were films by current Wac Arts students to give a flavour of what can be achieved within a creative curriculum. Based on 15 years' experience of re-engaging disillusioned young people, Wac Arts College has developed a holistic approach where students are actively supported into further education, training and employment.

The Q&A session answered specific and detailed issues raised and the evening concluded with a full tour of the building, facilities and learning environment the college provides. The next consultation evening will be held at 6pm on Fri 21st March at Wac Arts, Old Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill, NW3 2QP. Everyone is welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

Spring movies!

Screenings this month include *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* starring Humphrey Bogart on 11th March and *Casque D'Or* starring Simone Signoret on 25th March.

On Tuesdays with a 7.00pm start, tickets are £5.00 on the door. For more information, please email filmsocietyhampstead@gmail.com.



Birthday Party



Wac Arts Interactive



Martin's March Skydive

Please support Wac Arts!

To join Wac Arts Backers or support the latest fundraising activities please visit our JustGiving page via the 'Support Us' section on our website.

Friends and supporters can donate to Indra's marathon and Martin's skydive JustGiving fundraising pages by visiting www.justgiving.com/teams/IndraMarathon or www.justgiving.com/Martin-Webb1.

You can also text a donation direct to Wac Arts weekend programmes using our unique code and the amount (eg £5) : **WWAC78 £5**. Please send the text to **70070**.

However you choose to donate and whatever the amount you give, you can be sure it will be very much appreciated and put straight to work at Wac Arts. Thank you.

Holiday fun!

This spring we had fantastic holiday projects running over the February half term. They included the revolutionary inclusive animation project, 'I only eat yellow!' for 12-18 year olds. Focusing on the sense of smell, young people create stories, characters and scripts and make their own film! Artrobotics also introduced 9-14 year olds to the joys of aerials, street dance and gymnastics!

Big plans are afoot for the Easter holiday project for 9-14 year olds from 7th-11th April! There is also a half term project from 27th-30th May so please check our website and Facebook page for details.

BBC funding for Wac Arts Interactive

The enormous impact of our Wonder Web project persuaded the BBC Children in Need, Fun and Friendship fund to award grant funding for the second phase of this fantastic programme; Wac Arts Interactive.

All the young people involved in the forerunning Wonder Web project - also funded by Children in Need - benefited socially. The majority who turned 18 also progressed academically, moving on into higher education or employment.

And now Wac Arts Interactive has begun! A three-year project, it aims to work with 12-18 year olds from across the UK with mild and moderate disabilities. They will work with radio, television, animation, app development and even 3D printing. Often at risk of isolation, these young people will use technology to develop communication and independence skills whilst making friends and having fun!

Martin's March skydive

After not one but three postponements due to ongoing bad weather, Martin's skydive has been rescheduled for this March! All money raised goes directly to help our projects continue as public funding declines. To add your donation please visit Martin's JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/Martin-Webb1.

Alumni success!

For all celebrity watchers – you may have seen ex ARCO student, Dappy voted runner up in the recent Celebrity Big Brother House! We will be asking him in to talk to students about his amazing experience!

Birthday party

Our 35th birthday party was brilliant. Wonderful student performances, cake and inspirational talks from alumni, including a video from Oscar nominee, Marianne Jean-Baptiste, and a personal appearance from Ms Dynamite as guest of honour!

European visit

A delegation of four left Wac Arts for Malaga recently to attend a two-day development project with our European partners. As part of our commitment to remain at the forefront in arts development, Wac Arts works with a range of partner organisations. Our partnerships allow us to offer a wide range of opportunities to students, beyond the facilities at Wac Arts.

The European partnership focuses on Euro-Arco Key Competences for young people - a training programme based on an original concept from Wac Arts. Within the European Union, Leonardo da Vinci, Transfer of Innovation fund, this work is centred around inclusion for those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs). With partners including youth arts organisations from Cyprus, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and UK, Wac Arts really is 'empowering young people to change their world'.

Important dates

Diploma 3rd Year Showcases

Fri 14th March : at 1.15pm : *Drama* at Etcetera Theatre, 265 Camden High St.

Fri 28th March : at 7.00pm : *Dance* at Old Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill
Contact the Wac Arts Diploma office for details on 020 7692 5838

Wac Arts College Consultation Evening

Fri 21st March : at 6.00pm : *Everyone welcome*
at Old Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill

Junior Wac Arts

Sat 5th April : *Open classes for friends and family for the end of term*

Senior Wac Arts

Sun 6th April : from 6.00pm : *Presentation Night*

Both at Old Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill
For more information, please contact the Wac Arts office on 020 7692 5888.