



Wac Arts

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35 years of Wac Arts!



Fantastic fundraisers



Christmas at Wac Arts!

empowering young
people to change
their world

December 2013 Newsletter

Welcome ...

... to the festive season at Wac Arts!

Traditionally a time to look forward to the New Year whilst also remembering times past, this year sees a very special festive season at Wac Arts. We are celebrating an incredible 35 years of pioneering performing arts training at the same time as looking forward to opening our alternative free school for the future.

New free school

Exciting times as Wac Arts finalises preparations to start recruiting the first cohort of students for our new free school. Aiming to recruit around thirty young people next September, as one of only 16 alternative free schools in the UK, this will further establish Wac Arts as a centre of excellence for alternative education in the creative arts.

Now in the official 'pre-opening' phase, the school will draw on fifteen years' experience re-engaging vulnerable young people. Building on this work, we will be targeting those who are failing to thrive in mainstream education to encourage and support them into further education, training and employment.

Fantastic fundraisers

Wac Arts inspires some amazing people to do fantastic things. Despite never having cycled or owned a bicycle until a week before her epic journey, Lula Mebrahtu cycled an incredible 400 miles from Edinburgh to London to raise money for Wac Arts! A massive challenge, cycling through the elements, camping in the rain, woken by rabbits and surviving on crackers, she finally arrived back in London ten long hard days later. Thank you Lula - we really appreciate your achievement.

Save Junior and Senior Wac Arts

The new Kickstarter campaign to save the original Wac Arts programmes is happening NOW. We need to raise £15,000 urgently. Please watch the video online and donate whatever you can www.WacArts.co.uk/KickStarter.

35th Birthday Party celebrations!

Way back in 1978, Senior Wac Arts first opened its doors to students one Sunday afternoon in Kentish Town. An amazing 35 years later, Wac Arts has moved to Belsize Park, and is now open seven days a week, providing unparalleled performing arts training to young people.



Our reach extends across Europe and yet Wac Arts remains true to its roots. We continue to provide affordable, accessible and inclusive arts activities for young people who might not otherwise be able to benefit from the uplifting and empowering role it can play.

We are celebrating with birthday cake and a unique performance on **Sun 8th December**. It's sure to be a night to remember, and especially valued in these days of arts funding cuts. Among our many special qualities, longevity is something that sets us apart from the mainstream. Join us to celebrate the determination of Wac Arts to continue to provide for all our young people! Tickets are available from Wac Arts on **020 7692 5800**.

December movies

Screenings this month include French film, *The Intouchables* on 3rd December and Russian film, *Elena* on 17th December.

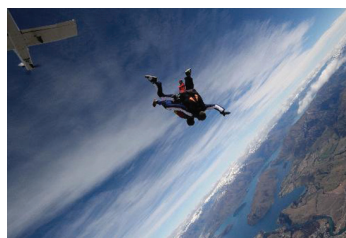
On Tuesdays at 7.00pm, tickets are £5.00 on the door, cash bar with wine and beer available at £3.00. For more information please email us on hfs@WacArts.co.uk and for film details and trailers please check WacArts.co.uk/Film.



Dick Whittington



Rehearsals in the Main Hall



Fundraising for Wac Arts

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 Martin and Wac Arts' JustGiving fundraising pages by visiting www.justgiving.com/Martin-Webb1 or www.WacArts.co.uk/KickStarter.

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.

Festive family panto!

Junior Wac Arts is getting excited – it's nearly time for our annual panto trip! We are seeing *Dick Whittington* at the Theatre Royal Stratford East on 14th December.

The outing is always a sell out and everyone enjoys the silly songs and shouting, 'it's behind you!' This year it's Dick's rags to riches adventure where he's been told the streets of Stratford are paved with Olympic gold! He and his faithful cat have a magical journey ... all good fun and getting us completely in the mood for Christmas!

Martin's magnificent skydive

Inspired by his daughter, Martin Webb will finally achieve his ambition to skydive in the new year, raising money for Wac Arts all the way! 'In awe of what she achieves', Martin was moved by Niamh's work, using drama to motivate disadvantaged youngsters and those with learning difficulties and severe disabilities.

Also working as a television and stage actress, like many Wac Arts tutors, Niamh uses latest industry practice to bring her work to life. The results are amazing to see. Undaunted by rescheduling due to bad weather and high winds, all money raised by Martin's skydive goes directly to help our projects continue as public funding declines. To add your donation please visit Martin's Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/Martin-Webb1.

House of Lords

As well as appearing on Radio 1 to promote BBC Children in Need, Wac Arts Wonder Web, funded by the 'Fun and Friendship' fund, was asked to present at their House of Lords event.



To an audience of Lords, MPs, sports stars and Sir Terry Wogan, Haden and Zoe from Wonder Web explained the important work of the project. Its inclusive multi-media web based work with young people with various disabilities is crucial to avoid marginalising future generations of disabled young people.

Rehearsals in progress

We are often fortunate to have West End shows and professional companies rehearsing with us in our main hall and studio spaces. They bring dancers, actors, musicians and a range of artistes and professionals to the building, inspiring our students to replicate their success.

Last month, *Singin' in the Rain* was with us in advance of its UK-wide tour and we also have *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* in development at the building. Special rehearsal performances can offer our students a privileged 'backstage' insight. Companies have also run master classes and other special sessions when possible, giving our students great opportunities to pick up professional tips and to see how a career in the creative industries can work in practice.

Wac Arts Backers update!

Wac Arts now has more than 80 Backers committed to supporting us on a regular basis with contributions from £25 per year and upwards. If you'd like to join the fantastic Wac Arts extended family in this way, please check <http://www.wacarts.co.uk/support-us/donate>

Dalston Benefits come of age!

After celebrating their 1st birthday in style, the Dalston Revolution is now preparing for its next outing. An eclectic mix of varied entertainment awaits. Check our website for details - all are always welcome at the Dalston Victoria, 451 Queensbridge Road, London E8 3AS.

Important dates

35th Birthday Party and Show!

Sun 8th Dec : at 7.00pm :

Current students and select alumni perform

Diploma End of Term shows

Fri 13th Dec : at 1.30pm :

First and second year sharing performance

Fri 13th Dec : at 7.00pm :

Third year sharing performance

Senior Christmas Cabaret

Sun 15th Dec : at 6.00pm :

Christmas selection of song, dance and drama

For more information please contact the Wac Arts office on 020 7692 5800.