



Wac Arts

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WacArts



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Wac Arts Backers



The Intouchables at the Film Club



Marianne Jean-Baptiste

empowering young
people to change
their world

September 2013 Newsletter

Welcome ...

... to all that's happening at Wac Arts!

The new academic year begins with exciting news, developing a new Wac Arts Free School for 2014. Our Wac Arts Backers scheme is up and running now that individual giving becomes necessarily more crucial to our future. Hampstead Film Society announces its autumn film schedule and we have just completed a fantastic summer of activities for young people ranging from outdoor activity holidays and Circus School to our first residency at the celebrated Edinburgh Festival in August.

New Free School



Wac Arts has been announced as one of only 16 Alternative Free Schools in the UK. The Department of Education approved our application in recognition of more than 15 years re-engaging young people through creative activities. Of 300 applications, 102 were approved and only 16 were for alternative provision.

This means that Wac Arts will become a centre of excellence in the sector, delivering pioneering performing arts and media provision to young people who are failing to thrive in mainstream education. Providing bespoke educational opportunities for 14-19 year olds over the next five years, the school will be based at the Wac Arts centre in Belsize Park and will benefit both Camden residents and those from neighbouring boroughs. Young people will be encouraged and supported into further education, training and employment.

Oscar nominee supports Wac Arts!

Listen to Marianne Jean-Baptiste, famous alumni, Oscar nominee and active supporter talk about Wac Arts. View the video at www.WacArts.co.uk/Marianne.

Wac Arts Backers

In response to potentially catastrophic cuts in public arts funding, we have launched a new individual giving scheme with an ambitious target to raise £100,000 by the end of October. We now need to ask all our supporters and anyone who has benefited from the unique Wac Arts' blend of arts and media activities, to consider giving whatever you can to secure our work for future generations. Any donation, no matter how small, will help us survive. You can join Wac Arts Backers as Bronze, Silver or Gold Backers with £25, £250 and £5,000+ investments or, alternatively, donate any amount to the fund!

Wac Arts Backers represents the positive influence of a new focus on individual giving both to sustain a vibrant community and maintain this important cultural institution for the future. We desperately need to raise this money to continue our work – please sign up to support us however small your donation – we have a mountain to climb but can reach it if we all help out! Please see over for details.

New Films for September

Our popular Tuesday night film club resumes on 24th September. New members are always welcomed with a diverse range of world cinema, forgotten classics and documentaries. Itself a well used local community service, Hampstead Film Society has raised £1,000s for Wac Arts' work with young people.

The season begins with Canadian film, *Monsieur Lazhar*. On October 8th it is *The Master*, followed by the Israeli, *5 Broken Cameras* on 22nd October. The renowned 1962 movie, *To Kill a Mockingbird* shows on November 5th, followed by French films, *Amour* on November 19th and *The Intouchables* on 3rd December. The series concludes on 17th December with the Russian film, *Elena*.

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.



Oasis Residential



Edinburgh Festival



Avon Tyrell Residential

Please support Wac Arts!

To join Wac Arts Backers or support the latest fundraising activities please visit our JustGiving page at www.WacArts.co.uk/Donate or visit our website.

Friends and supporters can donate to Camille and Martha's JustGiving fundraising pages by visiting www.justgiving.com/Camille-Curtis-y-Van-Dyke or www.justgiving.com/Martha-Stylianou

You can also text a £5 donation direct to Wac Arts via Camille's skydive fundraising page by texting the unique code: **SKYC73 £5 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.

Martha's Helvellyn hike



In developing our Backers individual giving scheme (see over) we are also supporting individuals in achieving their often extraordinary personal goals. Fundraising for a favourite charity can often be the extra motivation for exploring personal boundaries and achieving great heights. This summer Camille Curtis-y-Van-Dyke did literally that as she completed a long held ambition to skydive! She also raised over £1,000 sponsorship for Wac Arts!

Another celebrated fundraiser is Martha Stylianou. Her ambition to ascend the summit of Britain's third highest mountain, the Lake District's Helvellyn Ridge, was also achieved this summer. A full 950m above sea level, this was something she had always wanted to do and galvanized her family to join in the challenge. They took the steepest route and made it the top in an amazing four and a half hours! Biting winds made for a scary vantage point but all agreed they felt on top of the world – a truly exhilarating and unforgettable achievement!

Summer themes

Our outdoor activity Oasis residential projects in the countryside ran throughout the summer for young people with special educational needs and disabilities, with on-site Wonder Wac Arts activities. We also ran our much-loved Circus School for younger children, culminating in a circus to remember!

For older young people with music on their mind, there was a fantastic opportunity for guitar lovers, from complete novices to proficient players, to learn new acoustic guitar skills and form a guitar big band. The Musicus/Wac Arts Guitar School practiced, recorded and performed their work in a free, week-long course creating a distinct audible sound!

Edinburgh Festival success

Talented Wac Arts students and graduates performed to rave reviews at the prestigious Edinburgh Festival. With full houses every night, *The British Theatre Guide* said, 'This committed cast give strong, confident performances that are a delight to watch in a witty and engrossing play'; '... a compelling, original perspective on exile, conflict and learning what it means to be home' said *Broadway Baby.com*.

The play, *A Concrete Jungle Full of Wild Cars* by Mariama Ives-Moiba, won the Trinity International Playwriting Competition. The production was directed by Che Walker, a Wac Arts alumni and award-winning playwright.

The Amen Corner

Last month one of our most internationally awarded alumni returned to the London stage from her home in Los Angeles. Oscar, BAFTA and Golden Globe nominee, Marianne Jean-Baptiste appeared in *The Amen Corner* at the National Theatre with Cecilia Noble, making not one but two Wac Arts alumni in this celebrated production!

Both actresses received glowing reviews, the play described as 'A little piece of heaven ... wonderfully acted' in the *Daily Telegraph*.

Next Dalston Revolution

Don't forget to check out more Wac Arts students, alumni and supporters at the next Dalston Revolution gig! Latest details on our website and all are always welcome at the Dalston Victoria with all proceeds to Wac Arts!

Important dates

Senior Wac Arts Taster Day

Sun 15th Sept : From 9.30am :
Taster sessions and auditions

Wac Arts 35th Birthday Gala

Sun 8th Dec : at 7.00pm :
Celebrating with song, dance and drama

Diploma End of Term Show

Fri 13th Dec : at 7.00pm :
Second and third year sharing

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