



# Newsletter

## September 2014



## Welcome ...

... to the autumn term at Wac Arts! It's been another fantastic summer with circus schools, activity holidays and a super sell out residency at the Edinburgh Festival! Energised afresh, our Diploma and weekend classes kick off the new academic year, and the brand new Wac Arts College free school opens for the very first time.

## Wac Arts College opens

Exciting times for the first new students at Wac Arts College. This group of 14-19 year olds are beginning a new journey, turning their lives around with our brand new arts and media curriculum.

Set to revolutionise creative arts education, the free school builds on thirty years' experience at Wac Arts putting the pleasure back into learning with the arts. A creative curriculum means enjoyable education – a revolutionary idea if you've been alienated from or excluded by 'traditional' and 'mainstream' statutory education. Wac Arts College students will benefit from arts training that unlocks individual talents and helps develop transferable skills for employability in the future.

Gaining meaningful accreditation and qualifications in the process, everyone's working together to ensure that our first students have a great first year with us, learn new skills and rediscover their talents through the arts. Watch this space for updates through the year!

## Camille does it again!

After her skydiving success for Wac Arts last year, dynamo Camille's fundraising again! This time she 'Raced for Life', running 5kms with a target of £500 for her two favourite charities – Wac Arts and Cancer Research. Check her fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/Camille-Curtis-y-Van-Dyke1](http://www.justgiving.com/Camille-Curtis-y-Van-Dyke1) if you'd like to support Camille and Wac Arts!



## Taster Day!

A great event for talented 14-30s, Sunday 14th September is Taster Day at Wac Arts. A chance to try out performing arts and media classes, find out more and audition to join. For all our evening, weekend and Diploma

programmes with classes in a range of performing and creative arts, find out more at [www.WacArts.co.uk](http://www.WacArts.co.uk).

## Edinburgh Escapades!

Our second week-long Edinburgh residency was another fab success. *'Journeys Beyond'* shows exactly what can be achieved by performers who match highly skilled training with a real love of performance which emanates from their every look and move. - a 4 star review from *Edinburgh Spotlight!*

*Journeys Beyond* is a devised piece featuring stories from around the world. Performed by current and ex Senior and Diploma students, Wac Arts also partnered with Eclipse Theatre Company to create an inspiring production for the festival week. The show includes original songs, dance and music, blended with physical theatre to produce a powerful theatrical experience. Following a series of London previews at the Arcola Tent in July, the process itself has been a brilliant and rewarding journey for the students. Edinburgh has been a great focus for their work and the fantastic critical reception, an exciting culmination.

## In the building this autumn

A busy autumn ahead for Wac Arts Events with several productions using our halls. Direct from Broadway, a triumphant North American tour and set to be London's hottest show, *Memphis* is currently in rehearsal with us starring Beverley Knight. We also have the new Bill Kenwright production of *Blood Brothers* starring singing sensations, Marti Pellow and Maureen Nolan!

## Please support Wac Arts!

You can become a Wac Arts Backer through personal fundraising. Whether running a marathon, jumping out of a plane, or baking a tasty cake, you can support Wac Arts as you go! We have produced a handy fundraising toolkit that includes advice, suggestions and lots of useful information. The toolkit is available on our website at [www.WacArts.co.uk/Fundraiser](http://www.WacArts.co.uk/Fundraiser)

## Wac Arts Backers events

A new reason to sign up as a Silver or Gold Wac Arts Backer – a great Christmas evening of celebration! At the beginning of December we will hold our first Silver Gold drinks reception to thank our amazing Backers. Silver Backers raise £250 and Gold Backers donate £5,000 or more annually to Wac Arts and we are eternally grateful for their support. We are also constantly amazed at the challenges our fundraisers set themselves; from skydiving to mountaineering, the possibilities are endless.

If you'd like to become a Backer or organise a fundraising challenge and raise money for Wac Arts, see the info box on this page or call Hayley Butler on **020 7692 5807**.

## A rose for Louise Pennington-Leigh



On October 19th, we will be holding a rose planting ceremony to commemorate the life and support of Louise Pennington-Leigh who sadly died in May this year. Until her mobility declined two years ago, Louise spent her time ensuring that the gardens at the Old Town Hall were always at their best. An expert on Victorian gardens, when the builders took over the restoration of the Town Hall in 1998, Louise rescued all the valuable plants. She

looked after them until they could be returned to the Town Hall for the Royal reopening in 2000. Her voluntary contribution was valued at £100,000 by the Heritage Lottery, releasing £300,000 of Lottery match funding.

Louise also became an important member of the pastoral care team at the Town Hall for ten years, supporting our young people with conversation, advice and a love for the building and its planted environment. We all miss her presence at the Town Hall and hope that planting a Victorian rose in her memory will be a tribute that she would have approved of wholeheartedly.

## The main event

Watch this space for reports from our amazing winter fundraising extravaganza! We are holding a very special evening in October with a gala performance by all our projects. Backed up with new fundraising fliers and complementing our Backers individual giving scheme, the evening marks the beginning of a new funding era at Wac Arts.

## Support us while you shop

Do your online shopping through the EasyFundraising website at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/WacArts](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/WacArts)

## Text donate

You can also text a donation direct to Wac Arts. Just text **ARTS35 £10** (or your other amount) to **70070** and make a difference today!

## Wac Arts goes Interactive

Our new project for 12-18s is now up and running for young people with mild to moderate disabilities wanting to learn new media and assistive technology skills, have fun and make new friends. Its CiFi Think Tank came up with loads of ideas for the running of this exciting three-year programme. The Interactive group recently made their first live Wac Arts TV transmission with an innovative and unconventional show - lots of fun and very exciting!

## New works at Wac Arts AIR

Wac Arts AIR is new for Wac Arts. Artists in Residence exhibit in various forms throughout the year, bringing the visual arts into the Wac Arts mix. All summer we have featured artist Peter Anderson and writer, Che Walker, bringing their very different perspectives to inspire us all.

For the autumn, we are celebrating artist and Central Saint Martins MA graduate, Cherelle Sappleton with her solo exhibition, *Other*. Exploring the body as her central subject, Cherelle's current focus is on collage. Her inspiration as a dramatist results in surreal images featuring uncannily awkward limbs and garments. The body is distorted, reconfigured and reassembled into absurd, insect-like and grotesque beings. See them for yourself in our Atrium space. Viewings are on Thursday evenings 6.30-8.30pm until November. There is a private view 18th September at 6.30-8.30pm, a chance to see the exhibition and meet the artist. See [www.WacArts.co.uk/Other](http://www.WacArts.co.uk/Other) for more details.

## Important dates

### Wac Arts Taster Day

**Sun 14th Sept** : from 9.15am :  
*Taster sessions and auditions*

### Junior Wac Arts Panto Visit!

**Sat 13th Dec** : at 2pm :  
*'Beauty and the Beast' at Theatre Royal Stratford East*

### Diploma End of Term Shows

**Fri 5th Dec** :  
at 2.30pm : *first and second years share their work*  
at 7.35pm : *third year drama production*

Please contact the Wac Arts Diploma office for details on **020 7692 5838**.



Old Town Hall  
213 Haverstock Hill  
London NW3 4QP

Tel:  
020 7692 5800

Facebook:  
/WacArts

Twitter:  
@WacArts

Web:  
[www.WacArts.co.uk](http://www.WacArts.co.uk)

