



Newsletter

September 2015

Welcome ...

... to our September 2015 Newsletter. Our summer has been vibrant and lively, packed with many activities and lots of exciting news that we can't wait to share with you.

Jack Petchey Foundation Award

We could have not had a better start of August, The Jack Petchey Foundation created a special one off Jack Petchey Crystal Award following the celebration of their 15th Anniversary. As part of this celebration Wac Arts has been awarded a gift of £1,500 in consideration of its admirable work with young people. Jack Petchey Foundation has been committed to Wac Arts since its establishment in 1999, helping our students to engage in projects that would benefit their peers. We are extremely grateful to have been chosen for their special award and we hope we will continue to work together for the future of many deserving young people.

Inspirational Innovators



Wac Arts Alumna Ms Dynamite gave a beautiful and touching interview in the Economist magazine; Intelligent Life about her inspiring innovator and role model Wac Arts CEO, Celia Greenwood. In her interview, Ms Dynamite says: "Take someone classed as off the rails or hopeless to Celia, and she will find a way in; she'll help them see and bring out the

best in themselves". You can find the complete story here: www.WacArts.co.uk/Inspirational

Wonder Wac Arts and Wac Arts Interactive

Wonder Wac Arts took a trip to Essex Outdoors in Danbury this summer and tried a variety of outdoors activities, canoeing, quad biking and even climbing. Everyone was able to try each activity as the centre is fully inclusive and full of fun! Our Interactive group went to Edinburgh as part of the BBC Children in Need, Fun and Friendship programme. During their trip they trained staff and young people at The Yard in how to use inclusive communication technology. Our student ambassadors are helping to roll out this training so that everyone can benefit from this innovative technology.

Dalston Revolution

Che Walker's Dalston Revolution was back for the first time since 2014 on August 23rd, with a night of music, theatre and poetry featuring outstanding artists such as the jazz musician and Wac Arts Alumnus Alex Garnett, Wac Arts Drama tutor Ann Mitchell and even a new supporter of Wac Arts, Actor Simon Callow! During the night, Simon Callow, CBE and Ann Mitchell performed Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. An excerpt of Che Walker's thought-provoking play was performed by Che and soap stars, Maddy Hill and Martina Laird. Alex Garnett not only played the Saxophone with the amazing band made up of Wac Arts Alumni but also sang and got everyone tapping their toes and dancing in their seats!

We would like to thank all the fantastic artists who participated in the Revolution event and thrilled us with their talent! With their help, we were able to raise **£1300 which will pay for five students to attend our weekend programmes for a year!** Due to its success Che will be hosting another Revolution event on Monday, September 21st at Theatre Royal Stratford East. With another star studded cast including Wac Arts Alumnus and Jazz phenomenon Julian Joseph! Get your tickets here: www.WacArts.co.uk/Dalston

Please support Wac Arts!

You can become a Wac Arts Backer through personal fundraising and signing up to our membership scheme! A fundraising toolkit and all information to sign up is on our website at www.WacArts.co.uk/SupportUs. Become a Wac Arts Backer today and help us keep running integral and exciting programmes for young people.

Taster Day 2015

Taster Day was on the 13th of September and it was a great opportunity for students to sample the performing arts and media classes that are on offer to 14-26 years old on Sundays at Senior Wac Arts. Free classes were offered in drama, music, jazz dance, singing, aerial, afro fusion dance, physical theatre, film and music technology at all levels taught by professionals in the industry. The term starts on the 27th of September and is at the low price of approx £2.50 per class!

BARE Exhibition



Wac Arts is proud to announce that Hampstead artist Gabrielle Guz is the next artist-in-residence, displaying her beautiful work in the Old Town Hall. BARE is an exhibition of her unique pottery and life drawing, her pottery created in an unusual style called "naked raku", and her drawings emphasising the qualities of light and movement of

a pose. Starting with a Private View on September 10th and continuing until early November, BARE is open to the public free of charge every Thursday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Find out more about the exhibition and the artist at www.WacArts.co.uk/BARE

Summer at Wac Arts means Summer School!

Our students have been extremely inspiring and energetic over the summer! Junior Wac Arts have learnt to fly with our expert aerials tutor at Circus School. At Active Summer School they have been learning twist and control on the Trampoline, developing further gymnastic skills in Parkour and have been learning how to safely handle a sword in Fencing. Our Senior Wac Arts students have been creating some fierce dance routines in the styles of Afro Fusion with professional company, Uchenna Dance. We have also had students partaking in intensive workshops with industry professionals sharing their skills and nurturing our young stars. After a great summer we are already looking forward to 2016.

Wac Arts says goodbye to Melanie Ancliff

Our Deputy Operations Manager is leaving Wac Arts after over 30 years of service. Our CEO Celia Greenwood says: "Mel has worked at Wac Arts for more than 30 years. Much loved by young people and colleagues alike, she is an inspiring professional who brings the highest standards to all aspects of youth work. At her leaving party students and staff from all those years returned to pay tribute to her. We will of course miss Mel, but her contribution in nurturing younger colleagues and embedding quality into all aspects of our work, ensures her legacy will continue for many years. Mel has trained hundreds of youth workers who have moved onto youth organisations all over Europe. Here at Wac Arts we will do our very best to ensure we maintain her high standards even though she is not here to remind us!" We wish Mel all the best and hope she enjoys the next chapter of her life in sunny France.



Wac Arts College gets GCSE results!

Well done to the students at Wac Arts College who got their GCSE results! We're very proud of the amazing achievement of these students we saw some great grades including C's in English and Maths! This month we celebrate our second year of opening for 60 students who will be starting down their new path at Wac Arts!

Dates for your diary

Revolution : 21st Sept at Stratfield East

Performances by Wac Arts alumni; Julian Joseph, Sheila Atim, Alex Garnett and many more! Get your tickets at www.eventbrite.co.uk £10 with all proceeds going to Wac Arts.

Senior Wac Arts : Sunday 29th : 12-12.30pm at Hampstead Christmas Fair

Senior Wac Arts open the main stage. Free of charge.

Our friend's at Siobhan Davies Dance present:

Darkened Room: What Do You See?

Young people aged between 14 and 21 years are invited to work with choreographer Freddie Opoku-Addaie to create a new dance work. Apply by 21 Sep: bit.ly/1hnnSuk

Remember: If you did not make the Taster Day but want to join Senior Wac Arts on a Sunday then email Senior@WacArts.co.uk for more information or go to www.WacArts.co.uk/Senior to download an application and see the timetable.



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