



Newsletter

December 2014

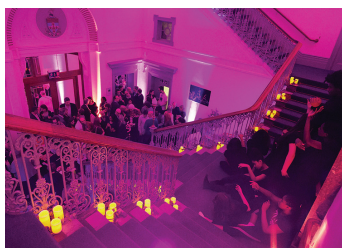
Welcome ...

... to the festive season and another wonderful New Year at Wac Arts! We are forging forward with fundraising to continue providing exciting and valuable programmes for young people. Wac Arts AIR – our artist in residence scheme – is in full swing and we have been celebrating our environment with new gardens inside and out!



Fantastic fundraising!

The culmination of our year's work in 2014, we put on a fantastic show to showcase our achievements to new and continuing supporters of Wac Arts. Representing each of our amazing projects, we held two evenings for invited guests, family and friends to display our skills and celebrate the incredible standards that our young people achieve.



All the best of our music, drama, song and dance was included with presentations and support from celebrated alumni including MOBO award winner, Ms Dynamite, and film actor, Vas

Blackwood. Performances were interspersed with films from our creative media projects, the new free school and work with young people with disabilities, all set against a soundtrack of enthusiasm and optimism; this was a show to inspire and move everyone involved.

In bringing Wac Arts to new audiences in this way, we aim to heighten our profile as an arts organisation. Already making significant inroads in new creative arts avenues, we hope to continue developing our wonderful work for at least another 35 years!

Going green ...

Something completely different at Wac Arts – we've got the gardening bug! All summer long Wonder Wac Arts members were tending their raised flower and vegetable beds, newly created outside our drama studio for the Urban Nature environmental project and supported by London Youth. As well as beautiful yellow sunflowers generating a healthy seed store for 2015, we enjoyed a bumper harvest of delicious tomatoes ... tasty snacks for everyone!



And now the winter's drawing in, we're replanting our front garden for next year and have just completed our first sensory

indoor garden for year-round horticultural experiences. A perfect fusion of new technology and nature, the new sensory garden has added a flash of colour in our light, bright atrium space. Complete with a water feature, lights and soundpost, the sensory garden is activated with App and iPad technology and creates a multisensory environment at all times of day. To mark this achievement the project received a celebratory visit from London Youth CEO, Rosie Ferguson, and Green Party national leader, Natalie Bennett.

Instrumental appeal

Wac Arts wants everyone to have the chance to play a musical instrument. We offer instrument loan and 'pay-as-you-play' schemes to make the equipment needed for practise and performance more accessible. If you have a spare guitar or instrument that's no longer being used please donate it to Wac Arts where it will open up the world of music for young people and be really appreciated.

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

Personal funding

The fundraising never stops at Wac Arts! Devoted staff are currently considering everything from the London to Brighton bike ride next June, to a swimathon and even an army assault course ... all to raise money for this amazing organisation! We have a massive annual donation target to meet so if you, or anyone you know, are planning a sponsored event, please consider doing this for Wac Arts ... see above or check our website for fundraising details.

Interactive in action!

Following on from the intriguing news coverage of the mysterious 'Killer Chair' and the dramatic antics and serious discussions of their original live transmission, Wac Arts Interactive has been back in action. This time our exciting and unconventional group was featured in a BBC *Children in Need* video.



As Wac Arts Interactive is funded by the Fun and Friendship programme, the group received a visit earlier in the year from a BBC film crew and paralympic basketball champion, Ade Adepitan. They took a good look

around and filmed the Interactive group in operation. Ade also interviewed group members who explained why projects like these are so very important in enabling young people with disabilities to make new friends and have fun. Interactive also gets the group out and about and involved in creative work with new technology. It was brilliant to see the project recognised in this way – see the film for yourself at www.WacArts.co.uk/BBCFilm.

Euro-ARCO legacy

Wac Arts is a model of creative arts training that is relevant far beyond London and the UK. Euro-ARCO was set up as part of the Leonardo, Lifelong Learning, transfer of innovation programme, funded by the European Union to transfer and adapt innovative education, training materials and methods for use across Europe.

The project involved partners from the UK, Cyprus, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands in developing key competences for young people not currently in education, employment or training (NEET). A key part of our role was in developing a pan-European training toolkit with employment and arts organisation, Rinova. Now complete, the project held its final meeting in Rome where workshops were held to ensure that the toolkit is accessible for arts and youth workers throughout Europe.

Support us while you shop

Do your online shopping through the EasyFundraising website at 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!

Arts with AIR

The visual arts are taking off in a big way at Wac Arts. Wac Arts AIR is becoming a catalyst for creativity, exploring different collaborative techniques across the visual arts, performing arts, and even involving our fantastic new sensory garden.

We are very excited that Uchenna Dance will be with us for a year-long residency with open classes every Tuesday evening. Wac Arts has also received an original painting donated by Caroline Tate (of the Tate Gallery family), which is currently displayed in our foyer and has been linked to a physical theatre performance piece. AIR also hosted 'Life on the Heath' - a retrospective exhibition of the late Ruth Leibman's work, painted while she lived in the area. For AIR happenings in 2015, please see www.WacArts.co.uk/AIR.

Showcasing new talent

Every year we showcase our third year Diploma students to the industry. As they come to the end of their three year professional and degree equivalent course, these specialist performances are an opportunity to demonstrate their skills to invited audiences of casting agents and professional representatives, as well as family and friends.

Staged at professional venues in and around Camden, this year's series begins with the singing show at The Forge in Camden – see below for details or contact the Diploma office on **020 7692 5838**.

Important dates

Senior Wac Arts Christmas Cabaret

Sun 7th Dec : at 6.00pm :

Seasonal selections of song, dance and drama

More details from Senior Wac Arts on **020 7692 5888**

Junior Wac Arts Panto Visit!

Sat 13th Dec : at 2.00pm :

'Beauty and the Beast' at Theatre Royal Stratford East

More details from Junior Wac Arts on **020 7692 5887**

Diploma Third Year Singing Showcase

Mon 16th Feb : at 1.00pm : The Forge, Camden

The first of our third year showcase events

More details from the Diploma office on **020 7692 5838**



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