



Newsletter

Autumn 2016

Welcome ...

... Summer has flown by in a blur here at Wac Arts HQ – from Circus School to a visit from BBC's Bargain Hunt it's been a bumper few months! As the leaves turn gold we're busy digging out our hats and scarves and we thought we'd look back and reflect on what's been going on the last few months!

Wac Arts Continues Its Mission

After an incredible 38 years at the helm, WAC founder Celia Greenwood stepped down from her role as CEO. New Chief Executive Karen Napier, who trained as a dancer and has gone on to build and lead innovative teams at Southbank Centre and Swarovski Foundation, will continue her legacy. Liz Cleaver, Chair of the Board of Trustees said "We thank Celia for her years of dedication to Wac Arts. Our mission to SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE will remain as strong as ever under new Chief Executive Karen Napier, who has a life-long passion and professional experience in the arts, cultural and education sectors."

Summer School Success

Did you have a slow summer? Wac Arts HQ was busier than ever with an amazing five summer holiday programmes for young people to choose from. We met the next generation of superstar DJs at our Beat Academy, where young people had the opportunity to create cutting edge mixes in our music studio. Junior Wac Arts students spent the week clowning about in circus school, hitting new heights in the trampolining classes – whilst outside the Wac Arts Active group were putting Spiderman to shame perfecting their parkour! Our disability programmes were overrun by zombies in the TV Apocalypse week, an interactive media project using our green screen technology and some pretty gory makeup! There was also Inclu-Techno, a music themed week where we made music instruments out of everything from bananas to bits of tinfoil!

New Patron Owen Teale

We were delighted to announce Owen Teale as a new Wac Arts Patron this September. Owen is a Tony Award winning actor, with a vast amount of notable roles on stage and screen. Most recently he played Ser Alliser Thorne on global TV phenomenon Game of Thrones and is currently starring in the Harold Pinter play No Man's Land with Sir Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart. Of Wac Arts, Owen said: "Wac Arts, is an organisation supporting young people who often come from challenging backgrounds like mine."

Act For Change

WAC founder Celia Greenwood recently sat on a panel for Act for Change, chaired by Baroness Shami Chakrabarti, which discussed issues of diversity within performing arts training and the industry – Wac Arts was held up as a best practise institute! "Since 2003 on Wac Arts Professional Training we've had more BAME students than white British. It can be done" Celia Greenwood Join the debate #AFCDebate16 @actforchangehq



New Kids On The Block

Mid way through September we welcomed a new intake of first year Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre students to the Wac Arts family. Joining our second and third years, they've jumped straight into an autumn term full of aerials, puppetry, physical theatre, jazz dance and ballet. Despite this packed schedule they've still managed to squeeze in a trip to the Donmar Warehouse to watch the acclaimed Shakespeare Trilogy. Head of Drama Steve Medlin said, "It was fantastic to be able to take our first year Diploma students to the Donmar Warehouse – after taking part in a workshop supplied by the educational team they then watched Phyllida Lloyd's fantastic Shakespeare Trilogy – which boasts three Wac Arts alumni [Shelia Atim, Zainab Hasan and Martina Laird] in the cast. It's great to be able to show our new students the fantastic roles our students go on to get."

Taster Day @ Senior Wac Arts

Every September we host a full day of classes that are completely free to attend. Senior Wac Arts classes continue throughout the year and cost an incredible £2.50 per session!! Recently one of our Senior students, Anais Lone, was selected as the first winner of the Wac-LAMDA bursary. Anais has always impressed with her dedication and talent. This exciting bursary means that Anais spent two weeks this summer on LAMDA's short course Introduction to Professional Musical Theatre. Thanks to LAMDA for facilitating such a wonderful experience!

Join Our Supporting Cast

We're delighted to announce our new membership scheme, Supporting Cast. The Supporting Cast is Wac Arts new philanthropic giving scheme, and will allow our fantastic community to support our innovative work with children and young people. Fronted by our new patron Owen Teale, Supporting Cast members will receive exclusive invites to Wac Arts showcases, priority booking for concerts and fundraisers and quarterly newsletters as thanks for being a vital part of our vibrant community. You can join for as little as £5 a month and every penny will go towards the continued provision of performing arts and media programmes to the children and young people who need them most.

BBC Children in Need Visits

We were delighted when BBC's Bargain Hunt paid us a visit in October! The crew was filming a segment to go out as part of a Children in Need Celebrity Special, and spent the evening hanging out with some of our young people, filming the workshops we put on as part of our Disability programmes. The crew spoke to some of our students and tutors – it was a great opportunity to tell everyone about the fantastic work we put on here, and everybody's looking forward to seeing themselves on TV! The programme will go out at 12.15 on Children in Need day, Friday 18th November.

Ms Dynamite Paves The Way with MOBO Honour

MOBO award winner and acclaimed British R&B artist Niomi Daley (Ms Dynamite) was honoured with MOBO's 'Paving the Way' award, celebrated with a ceremony unveiling a commemorative paving stone outside Wac Arts. This award seeks to recognise individuals who have had substantial impacts on the UK music scene, inspiring a new generation of young people into careers in music. Televised by ITV2, Ms Dynamite gave a stirring acceptance speech that was followed by the performance of a medley of her greatest hits by a group of current students.

Parallel Event at Olympic Park

Our disabilities team took part in Parallel in September – the world's first fully inclusive push/run. Eight Wonder Wac Arts students and staff ran a combined 50k between them, setting some admirable speeds! In the afternoon we had a stall in the family festival area, showcasing the inclusive technology we use on a daily basis. Visitors queued up to try stop-motion animation and do their best weatherman impressions on our green screen. As ever, our musical bananas were a huge hit, proving that it doesn't need to be a musical instrument to make noise, and everybody loved getting involved in our raucously noisy iPad orchestra.

Coming Up...

Wac Arts Annual Fundraiser

Simon Callow presents 'The Seven Ages of Man' with famous friends, to raise funds for Wac Arts on 4th December. A night of sparkling surprises, sumptuous treats and sensational performances from talent in the industry. Tickets are available soon! Check the website for details: www.wacarts.co.uk/7ages

Our Friends

Grown Up by Gameshow and Emily Lim

Camden People's Theatre
27-29 October 2016

We meet five young performers on a mission to understand the world around them. They speak the words of adults from Camden, who answered the children's questions in interviews. As the adults' stories emerge, at turns moving, surprising and hilarious, the children begin to discover and question the world we have created for them and ask us to consider – is it really good enough? Book tickets here: www.cpttheatre.co.uk

Support us at www.WacArts.co.uk/Support



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