



Newsletter Spring 2017

A Note from the Chief Executive

Another three months have flown by and I'm pleased to welcome you to our Spring newsletter. The Wac Arts Weekender, which took place in March, was a great success – I am incredibly proud of all our inspiring students and young people, who demonstrated what this organisation is all about. I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome to Raidene Carter and Roberto Salvatori, who join us as Director of Artistic Programmes and Director of Finance and Commercial Operations respectively. We also wish a fond thank you and goodbye to Diploma Co-ordinator Martha Stylianou, who is stepping down this April, though I am delighted it's not really goodbye, as she will be back in May working with us on dance assessments, auditions and our Diploma end of year production.

Karen

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded £60,000 over two years from Paul Hamlyn Foundation to support core organisational development. This funding will enable Wac Arts to become more robust financially and will therefore allow us to underpin the important work we do with young people.

Wac Arts alumna storms The Globe

We were delighted that one of our Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre 2016 graduates, Kandaka Moore, is cast in Twelfth Night as part of The Globe's summer season. Tickets are out now and cost from as little as £5 – the play will run from 18 May to 5 August.



Newtion Matthews shines in Bob Marley musical

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, Wac Arts alumni Newtion Matthews was recently cast as Bunny Wailer in One Love: The Bob Marley Musical. Martha Stylianou travelled up to Birmingham to watch him perform. "It was a truly brilliant show and Newtion really did us proud," said Martha.

Wac Arts Weekender opens new doors

The Wac Arts Weekender was a four-day action packed event that happened at the end of March. We threw open our doors and welcomed the public in to showcase the innovative work we do with young people across a range of programmes. Our Diploma students showcased their diverse talents in not one but two events – the audience was riveted throughout and it left everyone looking forward to this summer's final performance!

Martha Stylianou

After ten years as part of the core team at Wac Arts Martha Stylianou will be stepping down as Course Coordinator / Head of Dance for the Diploma at the end of this month. After arriving at WAC (as it was previously known) as a student 39 years ago when the doors opened, and then returning as part of the ACE Artists Development Initiative in 1990, Martha is leaving to further develop her own practice around injury prevention which she has been building over the last 10 years and to reconnect with her first love – dance. However we are delighted this isn't really a goodbye as she's coming back to work with us in new ways.



The Voice

The production team from The Voice paid us a visit again this year to check out our talented singers ahead of the televised auditions for 2018. After our alumni Newton Matthews did so fantastically in 2015 we always look forward to the diverse range of talent we're able to showcase and this year was no different. Are you going to see any of our young people on your TV screens next year? You'll have to wait and see!

Kieran Taylor

We were very saddened to hear about the sudden passing of Wac Arts alumni Kieran Taylor earlier this month. "Kieran Taylor was not just an ex student of Wac Arts but a shining example of how much a young person can achieve no matter what level of obstacles are placed in their way," said Head of Drama Steve Medlin. "He was an inspiration to all those around him and I can honestly say that I learnt far more from spending time with him than I could ever have hoped to teach in return. He will be missed but will always remain part of us as a reminder that no matter what struggle is directly in front of you, there is always the choice to approach it with good humour and spirit."

An Interactive Extravaganza at the Wac Arts Weekender



Our disabilities groups provided some of the highlights of the Wac Arts Weekender – on Thursday they opened the event with the Interactive Extravaganza. As the Wac Arts Interactive project, a 3 year programme funded by BBC Children in Need came to a close after an incredible three years, the group premiered The Arrival of Pod, a multi-media play with a live digital orchestra, preceding a new multi-year partnership again supported by BBC Children in Need. We're really appreciative of their continued support. We were treated to an immersive performance, brilliant dance and a film screening all within an hour and a half!

An out of this world half term

Things took a decidedly out of this world turn this month with Street Beams, our UFO street dance themed project. Wac Arts Interactive and junior Wac Arts teamed up and put on an absolutely fantastic performance at the end of the week, featuring psychedelic visuals, green morph suits and lots of great music! "It was a great mix of children and young people," said one parent. "And an amazing staff team!"

Camden Council Tender

We were delighted to receive the news earlier this year that we'd been awarded the Camden Council Contract for Children and Young People with Disabilities. Wac Arts Disabilities and Inclusions team have been at the forefront of providing much needed services to children and young people with disabilities for over 25 years, and this contract will ensure the continued provision of high quality services for these young people in Camden.

The Philanthropist opens at Trafalgar Studios

Wac Arts Patron Simon Callow's new production The Philanthropist opened at Trafalgar Studios. The Philanthropist depicts a 24-hour period in the life of Philip, a nerdy but sweet lecturer at Oxford University and features Lily Cole, who last year generously supported us at the Bloomberg Charity Tradebook Day.

Dr Ann Mitchell

Many congratulations are in order for Wac Arts Patron Ann Mitchell – earlier this year she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of East London. Ann said she was honoured to receive her doctorate from such an "exceptional university".



Save the Date

Auditions and shows

Our Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre students are putting on another end of year show, based on fables from around the world. More details will be released soon but it'll take place on July 6/7/8 at the Cockpit Theatre. If you think it could be you on that stage next year, why not come to one of our Diploma auditions? Audition dates: May 28 | July 23

More info: www.WacArts.co.uk/Diploma

News from friends

Theatre Royal Stratford East - Room

Until 3 Jun

Emma Donoghue's international bestseller adapted for the stage. Ma has been held captive for seven years - her 5 year old son, Jack, has no concept of the world outside and happily exists inside Room. But for Ma it is time to escape and face their biggest challenge yet: the world outside Room. Tickets: <http://bit.ly/2jrhOWC>

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Wac Arts

Old Town Hall
213 Haverstock Hill
London NW3 4QP

Tel:
020 7692 5800

Facebook:
[/WacArts](https://www.facebook.com/WacArts)

Twitter:
[@WacArts](https://twitter.com/WacArts)

Web:
www.WacArts.co.uk

