



Hello...

Hello from the Old Town Hall in Belsize Park, where we have a newly decorated reception thanks to U3A – we hope you all have had a great start to this new season. We have welcomed back our Junior, Senior and Wonder Wac Arts students. We have also welcomed our new Diploma cohort; the 1st years have jumped head first into their Musical Theatre training. We cannot wait to see the work they have already created later in the year at their winter showcase and watch their journey over the next 3 years from trainee to industry ready. As a lively and creative hub, the team is happiest when the rooms, corridors and break out spaces at Wac Arts are full of people enjoying the arts.



Marketing Manager Hayley took this great photo of our new Reception area

Looking into the near future, we are gearing up for our annual fundraiser this December. We also have not one, not two but three big announcements in November. We'll be teasing you with further information on our social media channels, so make sure you're following us!



Wac Arts Photographer Marcus Hesseberg took some great snaps at our Taster Day

Summer Schools & Projects

This summer, we ran three summer schools, as well as our Wonder Wac Arts Summer Projects. We bought back our Circus School for 5 to 13-year-olds, which was so popular we ended up running it twice! Over eighty students came along and learnt new skills, including juggling, trampolining, aerial skill, gymnastics, songwriting and singing. Both weeks ended with a short performance for family and friends, and we were delighted to see so many people come and see the young people's work. We also ran WActive for 13 to 19-year-olds, where students were able to learn parkour and aerial skill, and they astounded us with their energetic performance at the end of the week.



Our photographer Marcus joined the Drama Summer School, led by Ché Walker

This year, we were excited to offer our Drama Summer School in partnership with StrongBack Productions. The week of evening sessions explored author and playwright Patricia Cumper's 'Chigger Foot Boys', and the work produced by the group was phenomenal. It included dramatic scenes, a photography exhibition and digital art. The material is now being collated by StrongBack Productions and will be used on their website and within the exhibition touring with the show in the New Year. Lastly, we ran our Wonder Wac Arts Summer Projects throughout the holidays, with themes including both North and South America, Superheroes and Travelling Storytellers. Activities included the group's infamous dance offs this time being inspired by West Side Story, making their own superhero masks and learning and communicating with sign language.

Taster Day

In September we opened our doors for our annual Taster Day. This event invites young people aged 14 to 26 to trial all our classes for free, including singing, acting, music technology, aerial skill and more. These classes then run at weekends and on weeknights until May. It's one of the highlights of our year, as the building is always packed with amazing young people. We welcomed approximately sixty new students and eighty returning students along to the day, who all dove into the activities on offer. We hope they had as much fun as we did! We also welcomed some new tutors this term, including 2008 MOBO Award Winner Allyson Brown and singer, songwriter and composer Anoushka Lucas. If you are interested in joining Senior Wac Arts, visit www.WacArts.co.uk/Senior

Wac Arts had a great time at Parallel this September

Our young people and staff took part in Parallel again for the second year. Parallel is a fully accessible fun run and family festival. Raising money for Wac Arts, our young people, volunteers and staff ran the length of 2227 London



Marketing Assistant Zoe joined the team at Parallel where visitors dove into our activities

buses! The group raised £820, which will help support the essential work Wac Arts does with young people. We also set up our 'Tech Tent', which demonstrated the innovative work of our disabilities team. Visitors on the day had the opportunity to make a stop motion video, join the Digital Orchestra by playing on banana drums, and experience life under the sea using Virtual Reality equipment and a 360-degree video created by the summer project, 'Virtual Seality'. We also had a video game, 'Derya', created by the young people, and there was fierce competition for the top spot on the leaderboard! One of our runners, Sophia, fought hard and won with a whopping four-hundred points! Information on activities like the ones we had in the tent can be found in our Wonder Pod Toolkit. Visit www.WacArts.co.uk/Pod to download this amazing resource.

If you're interested in joining us in a sponsored event or donating to Wac Arts, please visit <http://bit.ly/WAranners18> and find out more about the places available at the inaugural London Landmarks Half Marathon 2018.

Wac Arts Alumni Success

We are delighted that so many of our alumni have continued to see success both on stage and screen. Recent Diploma graduate Sophia Mackay followed her success in 'The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin' by starring in the tour of 'Dirty Dancing' as Elizabeth.

Also on stage, Shelia Atim received critical acclaim for her role in 'Girl from the North Country' at the Old Vic, which transfers to the West End later this year. She also created the music for fellow alum Che Walker's production of 'Doubt' at the Southwark Playhouse. Moving to the big screen, Daniel Kaluuya will be appearing in Marvel Studios' 'Black Panther' next year as W'Kabi, the title character's second-in-command. We cannot wait to see him wow audiences once again.

If you are Wac Arts alum, be sure to keep us up to date with your successes. We love to hear what you are up to now.

Wac Arts celebrates University of the Third Age

The mission at Wac Arts extends beyond provision for young people, with a desire to include intergenerational arts and lifelong learning within our home at the Old Town Hall. This is why we love sharing our building with University of the Third Age (U3A), as we have done since 2000. By having their own dedicated area within the Old Town Hall, they can offer around 180 classes weekly, giving their 2000 members a fantastic opportunity to enjoy creative activities, socialise and network. We are pleased to announce that Wac Arts have confirmed a twenty year lease for U3A, which secures their future within the Old Town Hall, enabling them to run their extensive programme for many years to come. U3A recently funded the first phase of our capital development, which was invested in the refurbishment of the welcome and classroom spaces within the Old Town Hall, as well as the operational infrastructure of the building. You may have already seen our new main reception area, and we look forward to turning on our new boilers very shortly. (The old ones were twenty-five years old and, rumour has it, secured second hand). We hope you'll agree that these spaces now look amazing, and we cannot thank U3A enough for this generous gift.

Save the Date

Urban Motivation Promenade Performance (29th November)

Our over-18s group, Urban Motivation, have been creating a devised musical based on the Pied Piper legend. The performance will take place on the 29th November, starting outside Thornton's Budgens. Come along to join the promenade performance around Belsize Park, and there will be a very special announcement...

Diploma Showcases (5th-7th December)

December will also see the first Diploma showcases of the year. Details will be announced shortly on our website and social media channels.



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