



Newsletter Winter 2017

Hello again from the Old Town Hall...

We have had some big news over the last few months, announcing new Patrons, Becoming Thornton's Budgens Charity of the year and our students have been working hard to produce many great performances. They are now enjoying a well earned rest before classes kick off again in January. Read on to find out more about what we've been up to recently at Wac Arts.

New Patrons join Wac Arts



In November, we were proud to announce our two new patrons; actor Martina Laird and director Jonathan Butterell. Martina has been previously involved with Wac Arts as a Drama Tutor and performing at the 4th annual fundraiser. Martina is passionate about the young people fulfilling their potential through performing arts. Jonathan began his journey with Wac Arts after attending several performances and led a master class for the full time Diploma students. Jonathan was inspired by the approach and ethos of the arts organisation and of course the young people who attend. We are excited to be working with Martina and Jonathan who support our mission of empowering young people to change their world through the arts.

Wac Arts Dares to Dream

December 3rd was our 4th annual fundraiser, Dare to Dream. The night showcased the joy and confidence that the arts bring to young people. The show was curated by Artistic Director of the Tricycle, Indhu Rubasingham, who along with her creative team produced a show that warmed the hearts of everyone in the theatre. We saw young people from Wac Arts past and present perform with passion and share their aspirations and dreams.



Patrons Simon Callow, Martina Laird Danny Sapani and Owen Teale performed alongside the young people from across all of Wac Arts programmes. The alumni who could not make the evening due to work commitments here and abroad sent messages of luck for the performers and of their experiences of Wac Arts helping them to achieve their dreams.

"Wac Arts expanded my view of the world"
OT Fagbenle, Star of The Handmaid's Tale

We thank everyone who made the night possible and those who made a gift. All donations received go directly to our young people to make a donation to Wac Arts go to www.WacArts.co.uk/SupportUs

We are Thorntons Budgens Charity of the Year



For the first time Thornton Budgens has created a yearlong partnership with a charity, announcing Wac Arts as their Charity of the Year. The relationship between the organisations has blossomed over time with Thornton Budgens owner Andrew Thornton being an advocate for Wac Arts' place in the community. You can now find out more about us in store and make a donation to Wac Arts at the tills using the heart barcode. To celebrate the announcement, we held a launch event on November 29th. Helping us celebrate in style, our Over-18s group, Urban Motivation, performed a show entitled '2069', entirely devised by the group themselves. They retold the story of the Pied Piper through drama, song and dance, and after a big, celebratory dance number with compulsory audience participation! We cannot wait to continue the celebration throughout the year – there will be community January Jogs, starting January 13th in preparation for the London Landmarks Half Marathon, a Valentine's Song Night, Busk-a-thons, pop up performances and lots more throughout the year. Keep an eye on Wac Arts website and social or in-store for what will be coming up in the New Year. A huge thank you to Andrew Thornton and the team at Thorntons Budgens.

Gibsa Bah receives the Stage Scholarship

For the second year, we have partnered with The Stage to provide a scholarship place for one of our Diploma students. This is awarded to a first-year student who has displayed exceptional commitment to and ability on the course within the first term.

We are delighted to announce that this year the scholarship was awarded to Gibsa Bah.



Since joining us in September, Gibsa has impressed us with his performing abilities and has shown true dedication to the course, travelling from his home in Birmingham each week to attend. After seeing his progress in just a couple of months, we cannot wait to watch his journey through his 3 years training. In addition to funding his training for a year, Gibsa was also invited to attend a celebratory photo shoot and The Stage awards, getting to meet other industry professionals and begin to build contacts. Gibsa said "I have loved my first term here and want to work hard to be the best performer I can by the time I graduate".

Our Full-time Students WOW!



At the end of their first term of the year, our fantastic Diploma students have shown off their skills through performance. The third year students took Dennis Kelly's 'DNA' to the Courtyard Theatre, where their opening night performance sold out and had fantastic reviews. The first and second years performed in house, showcasing their work based on their themes for the term, Classical and Folk. Our first years were full of confidence and raw talent and we cannot wait to see what they go on to do next term. Check out the photo gallery of photos on Wac Arts' Facebook.

Andrew Lloyd Webber
Foundation choose Wac Arts!



**Andrew
Lloyd
Webber
Foundation**

Wac Arts are delighted to be receiving £30,000 in funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. The funding, spread over the next three years, will enable us to continue to provide top level training on our Diploma and Senior Wac Arts programmes.

Following on from last December's Centre Stage report, priority was given to organisations, such as Wac Arts, that 'champion diversity and break down barriers'. We offer arts programmes that respond to young people's interests and feedback, and we work with artist/tutors and art forms that reflect our diverse community. The grant not only allows us to continue our work, but recognises Wac Arts as an organisation working to bring diverse talent into the arts.



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