



Wac Arts

Press Release 10/2015

**Wac Arts wins big alongside Hollywood Stars Kirsten Scott Thomas and Tom Hardy
Wac Arts awarded with Philanthropic Award by the Hospital Club Foundation**

Since 1978, Wac Arts has been supporting young people from 5-26 through performing arts and media, with a focus on innovation and a drive for excellence in training. Wac Arts believes that every individual has a talent and can go on to achieve their potential in life. Wac Arts supports over 1000 young people each year, of whom 78% are BAME and 20% have special educational needs and disabilities. Our programmes are either free or very low cost to our students and are available through weekend and evening programmes, holiday and respite packages, an accredited full time Diploma course and our new free school which teaches an arts curriculum to young people aged 14-19 and is the first of its kind in the country.

This month Wac Arts won with the 'Philanthropic Award' at the h. Club 100 awards for 2015. The Philanthropic Award gives Wac Arts the privilege of using the private members club, The Hospital Club for its events for a year. The Hospital Club Foundation introduced the Philanthropic Award to recognise and acknowledge a UK creative charity that makes an outstanding contribution in supporting youth employment and education projects in the creative industry.

Wac Arts awarded with Philanthropic Award by the Hospital Club Foundation

With Amanda Berry OBE (CEO BAFTAS), Neil Mendoza (Chairman of The Landmark Trust and Children of the Arts) and Sir Peter Bazalgette (Chair Arts Council England and Royal Television Society) judging the Philanthropic award. Neil Mendoza stated to the award ceremonies rapturous audience ***"My own charity was in this category and we still unanimously agreed the winner was Wac Arts so that's saying something!"***

The h. Club is The Hospital Club's annual search for the most innovative and inspirational people working across the creative industries over the last 12 months. The list of h. club 2015 award winners included the names of some of the most talented people in the creative industry, such as designers; Henry Holland and Victoria Beckham, actors; Idris Elba, Kirsten Scott Thomas, Tom Hardy and Gollum himself, Andy Serkis. DJ's Lauren Lavern and Rob Da Bank, spoken word artist Kate Tempest and X Factor contestant and rising star singer, Ella Henderson.

Hosted by Margherita Taylor, the award function was a star-studded event and witnessed the presence of acclaimed names of the creative industry. The judging panel was supported by the expertise of an outstanding group of judges, including Stuart Murphy (Director, SKY Entertainment Channels), Damian Hornor (Brand Development Director, Hachette), Alistair Smith (Editor, The Stage), and many more talented names from Art and Design, Film, Gaming, and Music industry.

To check out a glimpse of the h. Club Awards ceremony, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4YyJUdCi4M>.

Notes to Editors:

Wac Arts:

Wac Arts is a centre of excellence for young people who need it most; a place where diverse talent, often from challenging backgrounds, can be safely nurtured through the highest quality arts education. Wac Arts believes that the arts should be a right and not a privilege and that learning the arts can give young people invaluable tools for life; it can build confidence, improve self-esteem and help overcome great difficulties.

Quite simply, Wac Arts is the leading the way in producing the future generation of diverse talent in this country and in doing so empowering young people to change their world.

www.wacarts.co.uk

About The Hospital Club

The Hospital Club is a unique private members club in the heart of Covent Garden, offering the creative industries the environment and facilities it needs to create, connect and collaborate. Founded by Paul Allen and Dave Stewart in 2004, the club serves as the hub of creativity – full of people, ideas, music and life. For more information, please visit <http://www.thehospitalclub.com>.

About h. Club Foundation

The h. Club Foundation was founded with a vision to develop, support and inspire emerging creative talent and local young people, helping them to realise their potential within the creative industries. The foundation aims at nurturing and supporting emerging creative talent, and providing creative/arts charities and social enterprises with pro bono access to The Hospital Club's facilities in support of the Foundation's overarching aims and objectives. To know more about the h. Club Foundation, click <http://www.thehospitalclub.com/about/foundation>.