

Press Release

7th September 2016



- **Wac Arts reveals new Patron – Owen Teale**
- **Game of Thrones star supports London performing arts charity**
- **Owen Teale launches new giving campaign – The Supporting Cast**



Wac Arts is delighted to announce that actor Owen Teale has become their newest patron. Joining a diverse group of actors and performers including Simon Callow and Niomi Daley (Ms. Dynamite), Ann Mitchell and Danny Sapani. Owen is a fantastic addition to a talented cohort, all of whom are passionate about supporting performing arts and media education for children and young people who need it most.

From his television debut in *The Mimosa Boys* in 1984, numerous other stage and screen roles have followed, including a Tony Award win for his performance in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Most recently TV phenomenon *Game of Thrones* brought him recognition with a global audience as Ser Alliser Thorne. In a recent interview with Times Education Supplement Owen said, "Nobody around me had any experience of acting as a profession, only a sense of famous people and stars. I'm now involved in Wac Arts, an organisation supporting young people who often come from challenging backgrounds like mine."

Currently starring in Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land* with fellow actors Sir Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart, Owen has been a supporter and advocate for Wac Arts since attending an industry event in 2015. Last year Bloomberg welcomed him to the trading floor for their annual charity day, and acting as an ambassador for Wac Arts he was a huge hit, bringing the Game of Thrones spirit to the day. Wac Arts CEO Celia Greenwood said, "I am thrilled that Owen Teale has agreed to become our new patron. Not only does he bring specialist expertise which he will share with our students and he's already demonstrated his commitment and passion to continue our vital work." Owen has already put the Wac Arts winter fundraiser in his diary, where he'll be performing with fellow patron Simon Callow and a host of other famous friends.

Notes to Editors:

About Wac Arts:

Wac Arts is a centre of excellence in the performing arts for young people who need it most. It is a charity where young people, often from challenging backgrounds, and with diverse talents can be safely nurtured through the highest quality arts education. At Wac Arts we believe 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 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

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