



Spring

Digital

Newsletter

2009

Opening remarks...

Greetings to all our readers and supporters - welcome to the new look TVA Newsletter. For reasons of economy and environment we are going to be 'electronic only' for the next few editions - in the future we will review this, and we know from ongoing feedback that our paper newsletter has previously been much enjoyed and appreciated for its information, updates and good looks!

TVA would like to thank Proportion Marketing for all their excellent work with our newsletter over the past few years, and we're delighted by and appreciative of the help they are continuing to give us with the new electronic-only version.

As I'm writing this it is not actually snowing, but clouds are dark above us; surely to goodness by the time it is being read we will be in better weather. The heavy skies and sudden unpleasant flurries of hail and snow have very much echoed the cold grip of the credit crunch, and I know most of you will also be dealing with the challenges of fund raising and budget management - art in a very cold climate indeed.

As many of you will know, TVA has faced and survived many challenges in 2008, and I can't pretend that it has been an easy time, but we have come through and now we look to the future with a renewed positive approach.

Once again I thank the Board for all their support and hard work, and I would also particularly like to thank our partners in the boroughs of the Tees Valley, and in Arts Council England North East, for time spent and trouble taken on our behalf.



Rowena Sommerville
Acting Director, TVA



Programme Notes

Each of the TVA Officers will have written about their activities elsewhere in this e-newsletter, so I will just pick out a couple of highlights from our ceaseless activity....

Joe has begun delivering environmental learning through the arts in schools - as per his lovely leaflets - and has received feedback including 'it was a lot better than enythink else we would of did' which says it all really. Headteachers, eh!

Jane has continued to devise brilliant projects and write brilliant applications, all for very little reward, but she is not down-hearted. She has designed a number of off the shelf creative activities for Gifted and Talented students which are to be included in the offer for these young people across the region.

Tim has stARTed the stART project, working in partnership with ONE Cultural Volunteering Programme and Middlesbrough Connexions - find images on page 10 - well done all!

Adrian Moule has continued to deliver various works for us and is also pursuing an MA in 'future arts' - hmmm - he is certainly coming up with lots of stimulating and individual ideas, as always.

Re dates for your diary - our big news is that thanks to the Northern Rock Foundation, Arts Council Grants for the Arts, Middlesbrough Council and all our other supporters and partners, we are delighted to be able to bring you WorldFest 09 - oh yes!

Programme Notes

Programme Notes

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Having funding confirmed early has meant we have been able to book acts ahead of time, and we are thrilled to tell you that the WorldFest Gala Night (Sat 23rd May 09, Middlesbrough Town Hall) will feature legends of reggae Aswad and Horace Andy with Dub Asante. We're hoping to have a late night extension till 2am, and are in negotiations with Frankie Paul - dancehall lovers' rock - for this. Please visit www.worldfest.co.uk for regular updates and info on ticketing etc (thanks to Proportion Marketing there as well).

Both Maurice Dezou (WorldFest Programme Director) and I feel a real buzz about this year's WorldFest, and the festival seems to be really starting to work as we had originally hoped, with other organisations co-branding and co-promoting their own events as part of a wider Tees Valley 'world culture' initiative.

We will have the Nuit d'Afrique at Arc Stockton (Friday May 22nd) as before, and for example, Arc will also promote other appropriate events around the same time of year. By the way, we are intending to start both the Friday and Saturday night events with a bang - or indeed several - as we plan that the first 100 people at both events will be given a drum, and Maurice and his colleague Alphonse (of the Beta Simon band) will conduct a brief drumming master-class/ tattoo/ salute. Wakey wa-a-a-key!

We're hoping for a varied programme of events at the end of May with an exciting mix of local and intercontinental programming(!) and possibly a young band 'competition' to select some performers for the youth event.

Start practising those moves now.



Rowena Sommerville
Acting Director, TVA

Programme Notes



Education

Project News

Exotic multi-coloured birds perch on branches in the hall of St Benedict's Catholic VA Primary School in Redcar...thanks to textile artist Serena Partridge and gifted and talented pupils from the school. Serena worked with pupils to design and make their own fantasy birds using felt - the pupils used the entire process, from layering the wool to soaping and rolling it. The results are spectacular, and everyone here at TVA now wants one!

Unlikely as it seems, the face of British Horror, Leslie Simpson has once again, been exploring aspects of the KS3 Science Curriculum through drama. Year 8 students at St Hild's enjoyed 6 sessions with Les, and one student put it better than I ever could;

LES WAS UTTERLEY AWESOME AND MADE ME THINK IN DIFFERENT WAYS, I THOUGHT I COULD NOT THINK!

We've also been approached by the Regional Co-ordinator for the Gifted and Talented programme for the North East, and are delighted that all 14 of the activities we put forward as proposals are to be included in the regional offer brochure - thanks to all involved and we look forward to being busy with these over the next year.



Education

Funding

We're awaiting funding decisions from:

The BIG Lottery Young People's Fund 2, to run youth theatres for young parents, engaging teenage mums and dads (and young parents to-be). Attending one of the creative consultation sessions run by Bob Beagrie and Andy Willoughby was perhaps one of my strangest work experiences yet! As a 30-something DINKY, it felt rather odd writing poems about what my baby's names would be, what being a mother is, and what my experience of childbirth was! However, it was a wonderful session, demonstrating how effective this project would be if we are successful. Roll-on July, when we get the decision!

Wallace and Gromit's Children's Foundation for a cracking music project (sorry, couldn't resist!) working with pupils from Westwood School in Middlesbrough.

The Hospital of God at Greatham for a 3 year project working with members of Advance in Hartlepool - a support group for people with ADHD/ ADD and associated addictions.

Sadly, we weren't successful in getting Wellcome Trust or Esmée Fairbairn funding for various Science/ Arts projects; we'll keep trying though - we don't let go of things that work that easily!



Jane Gray
Education Officer





Heritage

The start of the New Year has proven to be an extremely busy and action packed time for me. I have run three Environmental Learning Through The Arts workshops, had the IMPACT drama project start, run three visual art workshops in a primary school to gain images for a poster design, and submitted an application for an interesting environmental project with SureStart.

Oakdene Primary School in Billingham contacted me on receiving the new Environmental Learning Through The Arts leaflet about creating some bespoke visual art sessions for a year 6 class who were studying the animals of the Amazon rainforest. The aim was to enthuse the children in the topic to enhance their learning and understanding of the Amazon and the challenges it faces from deforestation and global warming through designing and creating their own batik of chosen rainforest animals. The class are a highly talented bunch, and adapted extremely quickly to the new and challenging techniques of batik work. The results are fantastic, and the children did all the work themselves - designing the image, applying the hot wax and painting it in

fabric dyes. A number of other schools have also been in contact and booked workshops, and so the next few months will be fairly busy on that front as well.

The 6th of January saw the start of the IMPACT drama project, where Cathie Sprague, a drama specialist, is working with a group of service users from Cumberland Resource Centre. She is running two workshops a week for the next 6 months with the aim of improving and developing the participants' performing skills, as well as exploring and relaying messages that are important to them. She is building a fantastic rapport with the group, and has been introducing different forms of drama such as a whole host of physical theatre, statues, masks and word games and singing to give the group an insight in to what it is like to be professional actors. In addition to developing a larger performance, Cathie will also be helping the group develop vignettes (small sketches/scenes) that will portray what it is like when adults with learning difficulties use medical services, which will also assist in training GPs with working with this client group.

Heritage

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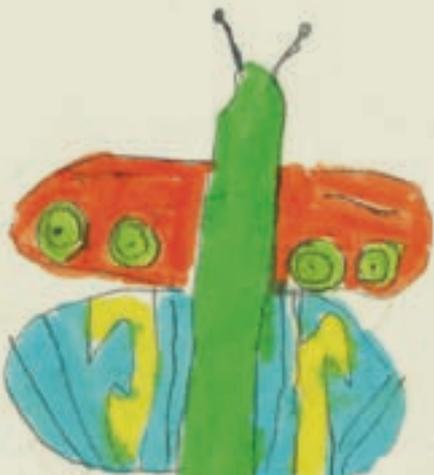
I have also been approached by the Environment Agency about designing a poster for a photographic competition they are running. It was decided that it would be really nice to use drawings and images produced by primary school children as the main part of the poster. Therefore I ran three workshops in Abingdon Primary school where the children created fantastic images of local urban and rural wildlife. The poster should be hitting the streets soon, so keep your eyes peeled for it.

The next few months are looking extremely busy with a diverse range of projects and activities lined up. In addition to more environmental learning workshops in schools, the Impact drama project, the Coastal Arc project and the usual foray of developing projects and writing and submitting grant applications, I will also be undertaking some visual arts workshops with young people of Skelton for the Churches Conservation Trust. The CCT wishes to carry out creative consultation with young people of Skelton to inform an intended bid to HLF Young Roots for a project with Skelton All Saints' Old Church to be delivered later in 2009/10 (if the bid is successful).

There are also some significant dates coming up; a decision being made by the eaga Community Fund on an interesting environmental project with SureStart (end of February); HLF deciding on whether to fund our Green TV project on Friday 13th March (I am trying not to be superstitious, and hoping that lightning does not strike twice on the same spot - Friday 13th was the date the initial unsuccessful decision was delivered!), and on a personal note, the 10th of March sees me in post for 1 year - and what a fun year it has been!!



Joe Dunne
Heritage & Environment Officer





Projects

Art Attack for Youngsters

Adrian Moule helped paint the scene for youngsters when they visited a local development site in Middlesbrough.

Around 20 children from Newport Primary School in the town had a special art lesson when they visited Adrian, who is sprucing up Erimus Housing's building site on St Paul's Road.

Adrian approached Middlesbrough's largest landlord after he spotted the large white hoardings around the site. Rather than leaving the boards blank, Erimus Housing agreed to let Adrian smarten up the hoardings - by painting scenes of Tees Valley heritage, local landmarks and wildlife.

As well as learning more about the murals, the pupils also learned about health and safety on and around construction sites from Dunelm Property Services, the company building the new properties for Erimus Housing.

Chris Smith, Managing Director of Erimus Housing, said: "We are pleased to be working with Adrian, who will contribute to an improved street scene while vital works are taking place.

"We hope this will make a difference to the local community and visitors and hope the youngsters from the school benefited from their visit to the site."

Rowena Sommerville, Acting Director of Tees Valley Arts, said: "This is a great idea and we hope it may be possible to expand activities in the future."

Adrian added: "I am hoping this is the beginning of a project that could be extremely beneficial to a wide range of people; it means school and businesses becoming more involved with local communities."



Projects

The stART Project has stARTed!

The stART project commenced at the end of January and young people have spent their time making collages that depict their interests in all sorts of things from music and fashion to cars and sports, creating some very exciting work where hip-hop icons clash with floral designs, x-ray aliens and tattoo art.

The young people have also been working with artist Adrian Moule exploring patterns and textures in Middlesbrough town centre, these photographic excursions have yielded some superb results. I am looking forward to seeing this lively project develop.

stART is funded through ONE Cultural Volunteering Programme and Connexions Middlesbrough - good partnership working!



Tim Coyte
Projects Officer



Tees Valley Arts can work with you to plan and set up a programme of creative activities, find a suitable artist, help to frame a budget and secure funding, and then manage the project, both artistically and administratively. If you have an idea you would like to discuss, please contact us:



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