

NW CREATIVE PROGRAMMER

CULTURAL OLYMPIAD UPDATE DECEMBER 2010

1. NW News

26 projects in the North West have been awarded the Inspire Mark. Up and coming is Visible Dance – a workshop and performance project for people with learning difficulties. Led by Trafford Council and collaboration with Touchdown Dance, this dance project runs from September – June 2011, culminating as part of Trafford's 4 Weeks of Culture Programme and Sale Festival 2011.

Inspire Programme:

- Are you planning to deliver cultural events in 2011 and 2012?
- Are these events inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games?
- Would you like them to be part of the UK's Cultural Olympiad?

To ensure your project is recognized as part of the London 2012 Cultural Programme, please contact Debbi Lander to discuss your project and its eligibility for the Inspire Mark.

Debbi.Lander@artscouncil.org.uk

As well as cultural projects, Inspire marks are also awarded for sport, education, sustainability, volunteering and business projects. For these Inspire marks email Sarah Case-Upton, Sarah.Case-Upton@nwda.co.uk

Major regional programmes in development for 2012 include:

Preston Guild 2012 – this 'once in every 20 years' celebration and festival in Preston will, in 2012, take the theme of 'All back to Ours' providing a context to mark the end of the 2012 Games in the North West, and a place for 2012 inspired projects and participants to gather and celebrate. For more information on Preston Guild 2012 please contact Stella Hall, Director of Preston Guild:

S.Hall@preston.gov.uk

WE PLAY Expo – a series of special national projects commissioned as part of WE PLAY – the North West's unique contribution to the build up and legacy of the London 2012 games funded by Legacy Trust UK – will come together in an Expo in 2012 and link Lakes Alive, Abandon Normal Devices Festival and Blaze work into a celebration for the region as part of the Preston Guild 2012. The expo programme will also see Blaze linking up with young people from across the region in collaboration with Youth Music/GMAZ to deliver a Youth led festival for the London 2012 Games. For more information on WE PLAY Expo, contact Debbi Lander, Creative Programmer for North West for London 2012 and Programme Director of WE PLAY Expo.

Media 2012 – The North West is leading on a proposal for the London 2012 Games, and as part of the WE PLAY Expo to assemble the social media people of the world and to create an open media environment, where culture, sport and local stories can be told across international zones. The proposal aspires to create an Underground Media Zone, which will link the United Kingdom in physical and virtual space. The first public launch of the proposal was co funded by a collaboration between the Cultural Olympiad (North West, South West and Scotland) and Abandon Normal Devices Festival and took place on October 4 and the event hosted as part of the Abandon Normal Devices (<http://www.andfestival.org.uk>) festival of digital culture in Manchester, an 'inspired by 2012' event, based in the Northwest of England. For more details and to read the proposal, and join in as a hub partner, please visit <http://www.andymiah.net/2010/07/17/media-blueprint-for-london-2012/>.

Digital Collaborations - The Creative Programmer in the North West has formed a collaboration with Malcolm Levy of Revised Projects who was the curator of CODE for Vancouver 2010, and Creative Programmer in the South West, Richard Crowe, to develop a series of digital artworks around the theme of connecting networks locally and globally. These commissions for the London 2012 Festival and WE PLAY Expo; will position the North West as a cultural leader in creative digital innovation, and connect the North West to UK and the world for London 2012 and the Games Time. For more information, contact Debbi.Lander@artscouncil.org.uk

Cheshire & Warrington are working together to be involved in and celebrate the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games, aspiring to ignite people's imagination, to develop a strong cultural legacy and to encourage local people to be involved in the Olympic experience - to ensure it truly is Everyone's 2012. The cultural organisations within Cheshire and Warrington have set up a collective which is a positive step towards collaborative work, and the proposed 2012 programme will focus on dance and develop a world class programme of three signature events which connect three landmark locations in Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington. For more information contact: Gemma Weedon (gweedon@warrington.gov.uk)

2. Current Opportunities and News

London 2012 Festival - first commissions announced.

Cate Blanchett, Toni Morrison, Olafur Eliasson, David Hockney, Mike Leigh, Jude Law and Damon Albarn, Rufus Norris & Jamie Hewlett head the line-up of artists featured in the first group of commissions and special projects for the London 2012 Festival. The finale of the Cultural Olympiad; the London 2012 Festival will be a 12-week UK-wide cultural celebration! Opening Midsummer's Day 21 June 2012 and running until the last day of the London 2012 Paralympic Games on 9 September 2012, the Festival will provide an outstanding summer of arts and creativity in the UK. For more information visit <http://www.london2012.com/news/2010/12/leading-international-artists-head-up-first-commissions-.php>

The North West will host events from music to opera and outdoor performance, street arts, new cinema and digital culture. Included in the announcement was a tour by music collective **Afrika Express** and an innovative new opera with Damon Albarn, Rufus Norris and Jamie Hewlett co-commissioned with the Manchester International Festival. Anthony McCall's **Projected Column** and **Lakes Alive** and **Abandon Normal Devices** special projects are among the events which will also take place in the North West as part of the finale of the Cultural Olympiad in 2012. The North West will also welcome the Big Dance inviting the public to get active with dance events in locations across the North West.

Cultural Olympiad – first two years – documentation produced to mark two years into the Cultural Olympiad. This document puts together a selection of case studies from across the UK with an introduction by Dr Beatriz Garcia, a specialist in large scale Cultural and Sporting events (University of Liverpool/Impacts 08). You can read or download the full document here [The Cultural Olympiad – UK-wide picture](#).

Somewhereto is a nationwide project which aims to help 16-25s find spaces to do the things they really love, by connecting them with people who have access to free space in areas all across the UK. The project began in 2009 with a 12-month pilot in Birmingham, Crewe and London. Anybody 16 to 25 can set up a campaign for a space. The project does not have funds to give away but the somewhereto team can supply individuals or groups with contacts and links to people, support on the technical side like health and safety, and find the best way to ask for what you need.

In the New Year Livity, which runs the project will be recruiting individuals or organizations to deliver the programme in the North West. To find out more information please visit the website <http://somewhereto.com/> or www.livity.co.uk or contact Kate Harwood the project manager on 020 7326 5979 or kate.harwood@livity.co.uk

Film Nation: Shorts regional and national winners announced.

London 2012 made a commitment to inspire young people and as part of this remit, the Cultural Olympiad is officially recognising the film makers of the future through the Film Nation: Shorts programme. The first Film Nation:Shorts Awards were announced in December and competition will run each year until 2012 - Submissions for the 2011 competition are now open. Visit www.filmnation.org.uk for more information

Tate Movie Project is an animated film made by and for children across the UK. The project is led by Tate in collaboration with Aardman Animations, BBC and Fallon, the creative agency that originated the concept. Over 50 Galleries and Museum workshops are now following the Movie Truck tour which began in October and runs until March 2011. The website is now live <http://tatemovie.co.uk/>. Children can upload their ideas as well as voting on those already on the site.

Youth Music Voices is a major new project providing 14-19 year olds with the opportunity to join in and celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games through singing. Across the region and the rest of the UK, young people have already auditioned to join Youth Music's national singing team. One hundred and fifty young people from the broadest cultural mix across the UK will be working together as the Youth Music Voices Ensemble. 2010 saw a regional launch event in Norwich and a regional selection event at the Junction in Cambridge in November. On Sunday 30 January there will be an event in London. Booking is now open. To find out more details please visit <http://www.youthmusic.org.uk/musicispower/What-We-Do/Encourage-Talent-Potential/Youth-Music-Voices/Launch-Events/1630.html>

People's Record Website which collects individuals stories and responses to the impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and forms part of the Stories of the World programme led by Museums, Libraries and Archive Council is now live and can be found at www.peoplesrecord.org.uk

Big Dance – London's Legacy Trust UK funded programme aspires to make the whole nation part of the Big Dance in 2012. Save the dates: 7 – 15th July 2012 if you want to take part. More information on this project can be found at: www.bigdance2012.com.

2011 Open Weekend - 22nd – 24th July 2011 - Be part of Open Weekend and join hundreds of organisations from across the UK in celebrating the countdown to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Open Weekend in 2011 celebrates One Year to Go – so put the date in your diary and make sure your part of it. For further information visit: <http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/open-weekend>

3. WE PLAY News

WE PLAY – the North West's unique contribution to the build up and legacy of the London 2012 Games. Current news and 2011 events and regional opportunities listed below:

ABANDON NORMAL DEVICES

Marxism Today @ BFI Southbank

4th February 2011 to 4th April 2011

Phil Collins' impressively moving marxism today is on tour at the BFI Southbank from February. Phil Collins' work in film, video and photography often provides a platform for the overlooked or the disenfranchised. Shining a light on what is generally perceived as the losing side in the political and social upheavals of the past two decades, *marxism today* is an ongoing project that began by following the fortunes of Marxist-Leninist teachers in the former Communist East Germany.

Marxism today is co-commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, Cornerhouse, Abandon Normal Devices, Berliner Künstlerprogramm/DAAD, and Berlin Biennale. Produced by Shady Lane Productions

<http://www.andfestival.org.uk/event/marxism-today-bfi-southbank>

Gleaners @ London Short Film Festival

4th October 2010 to 13th January 2011

Cinema meets live music at this hybrid event mixing found footage with electric results. Experimental filmmakers Jenna Collins and Sam Meech present two new kaleidoscopic short films, made during their Gleaners residencies in the North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University with live soundtracks from cutting edge North West musicians.

Commissioned by AND Festival, Gleaners is a filmmaker-in-residence scheme at the North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University, curated by Kate Taylor

<http://www.andfestival.org.uk/event/gleaners-london-short-film-festival>

Open opportunities

Re-wire: Liverpool 2011. Call for Papers! Following the success of Media Art History 05 Re:fresh in Banff, Media Art History 07 Re:place in Berlin and Media Art History 09 Re:live in Melbourne - The Fourth International Conference on the Histories of Media Art, Science and Technology comes to the UK and will take place during the Abandon Normal Devices festival in Liverpool between 28th September - 1st October 2011. Rewire 11 will ignite key debates within the distributed network of media histories, which takes into account questions surrounding documentation, methodologies, materiality and agency. Rewire will also importantly illuminate the British contribution to media art by looking at our industrial heritage and history of computing technologies. If you feel inspired and would like to submit you can get more information on the the papers and themes from <http://www.mediaarthistory.org/rewire/index.html>

Dates

AND Festival 2011 will take place in Liverpool from 28thth September to 2nd October. The focus will be around the subject of belief and enhancement. Already we are bringing partners on board currently they include Liverpool partners Bluecoat, the Unity and the Blackie and regional partners The Storey and Chester Zoo.

BLAZE

News

Lancashire Sports Awards

Sporting stars from across the county were recognised at the Lancashire Sports Awards 2010, on Friday, November 26. The glittering ceremony staged at the Paradise Rooms, Blackpool Pleasure Beach was hosted by Sky Sports news presenter and rugby league reporter, Angela Powers. Young people from Blaze presented a short video about the project and met with Dave Moorcroft from LOCOG. The video can be viewed at www.blazeonline.org.uk

The Blaze Youth Board take the lead

Young people from the Blaze youth board met with the Blaze stakeholders as part of a visioning workshop in Tuesday 7th December. The young people explained the things they most valued about Blaze to the stakeholders and developed their own vision statement for the project. The 4 things the young people said they most valued about Blaze were that the project offers opportunities for leadership, provides a respectful working environment, is fun to do and is inspirational with the potential to change young peoples lives.

Future Creative Young Leaders

Blaze is developing a new programme strand in partnership with Creative Lancashire and Youth Music for 2011 and 2012. Future Creative Leaders will give young people from Lancashire, Manchester and Liverpool the opportunity to take part in an intensive training programme that will equip them with skills as creative programmers and result in a youth festival as part of Preston Guild and the WE PLAY expo in 2012. The young people will come together for the first time over February half term at Preston North End Football Club.

Blaze Bloggers

The Blaze digital platform is all set to burst into life this spring with 2 weeks of social media workshops being planned for April. The workshops will take place across Lancashire and Blackpool and equip young people with writing, photography, video and interviewing skills. The Blaze Blog will be an opportunity for young people to record, debate and share cultural and sporting themes with each other and a wider audience.

Open opportunities

Expressions of interest in Co Producing with Blaze

The Blaze project board are seeking expressions of interest from arts and cultural organisations interested in co producing and delivering the Blaze creative programme for 2011 and 2012. We are looking for Lancashire based arts and cultural organisations who can bring resource, creative energy and ideas to developing Blaze and ensuring more young people in the region can benefit from the opportunity to get involved in this exciting cultural programme.

Successful co-producers will need to demonstrate that they are:

- Lancashire based (including Blackpool and Blackburn)
- Have financial security for 2011/12
- Are committed to the youth led principles of the programme
- Have a strong track record of producing creative work and/or working with young people
- Can widen participation through engaging diverse groups of young people or working with young people who don't usually have access to the arts.
- Can deliver excellence through creative innovation and/or generate new ideas

Please send your application and any supporting material by Tuesday 25th January. The full brief is available to read at www.blazeonline.org.uk.

Dates

The Big Game 2011 - 23rd to 24th July

Blaze welcomes back New York artist Tom Russotti who will be working with the Blaze young producers and local artists to create the most inventive event in the sporting calendar. Last year saw teams from across Lancashire compete in a series of new sports that included Fling Shot, Domestic Dash, Laundry Badminton, Space Race and Flying Saucer. Part of the London 2012 Open Weekend.

Blaze Culture Jam 2011 - 27th to 29th August

Sport meets art in an inspirational 3 days of performances and workshops across Lancashire and Blackpool over the August bank holiday weekend. This event will culminate in the opportunity to bring your bike and join Blaze as part of Ride the Lights in Blackpool.

Watch out for the Boom Bike (dates tbc)

Make some noise with Blaze this summer as the Boom Bike hits the streets of Lancashire and Blackpool, with opportunities to take part in music making workshops and impromptu performances. Designed by Dan Fox with young people from Blackpool, the Boom Bike is a mobile outdoor sound system built onto a bike and powered by pedal and solar energy.

Hunter and Hunted (dates tbc)

Get active, get creative, get hunting, with the release of the all new version of the Hunter and Hunted iPhone app. Developed by young producers from the Dukes with games designers Mobile Pie.

LAKES ALIVE

News

'Remarkable' Lakes Alive is good for the public and the economy in Cumbria' The 2010 Lakes Alive street arts events in Cumbria were a huge hit with local people and visitors as well as generating an estimated £3 million of extra spending in the county, according to an independent report. The report by the ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) at Manchester University looked at the social, cultural and economic impact of the events. The report says 'the programme makes a very substantial net contribution to the Cumbrian economy'. The £3 million boost in spending was two and a half times the cost of putting on the events, which the report's authors describe as 'a remarkable rate of return on investment, far greater than anything found in most regular financial markets'.

About 75,000 people attended Lakes Alive events across the county and the report suggests that this included an extra 10,000 visitors the events had helped to bring into the county. CRESC surveyed audiences at the events and found that people were overwhelmingly positive, with particular praise for the fun, community spirit and family friendliness of the events. Andrew Miles from CRESC said: "The evidence shows that Lakes Alive brings benefits in many different ways. As well as bringing significant amounts of money into local communities, it is inclusive, challenging and fun. It breaks down barriers and changes the way people think about places. In a period economic downturn it lifts people's spirits and generates a sense of well-being."

The report has attracted excellent coverage for Lakes Alive and London 2012 in local media including:

News and Star: Lakes are alive with free shows

<http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/opinion/our-view/lakes-are-alive-with-free-shows-1.796088?referrerPath=opinion/>

News and Star: Lakes Alive arts events brought £3 million into Cumbria - report

<http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/bringing-lakes-alive-brought-county-3m-1.796018?referrerPath=news>

The Westmorland Gazette: 'Lakes Alive combated recession' report

<http://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/8768579.LakesAlivecombatedrecessionreport/>

The Lake District Messenger: Lakes Alive street arts events generate £3 million extra spending in Cumbria

<http://www.thelakedistrictmessenger.com/business/03-01-11/lakes-alive-street-arts-events-generate-3-million-extra-spending-cumbria>

Dates

23 February 2011

'Herbert's Dream' in Keswick - A free public processional event by French company Quidams. Set to music, the show features mysterious figures draped in white who beckon you to join them for an evening procession in search of light. Produced in partnership with Theatre-by-the-Lake in Keswick and the Brewery Arts Centre in Kendal to celebrate the "birth" of the Local Enterprise Partnership in Cumbria and ensure arts and culture is at the heart of their plans and thinking.

3 - 21 May 2011

Vagabonding Tour - Two showmen journey around Cumbria, stopping along the way to perform for visitors and local residents. Beginning on historic Piel Island, the journey will take place over three weeks travelling between visitor attractions and isolated, rural communities - 69 miles, 18 days, 25 performances in 25 locations. This specially-created show will feature songs and stories devised from local heritage and folklore. It will travel with a small cart that doubles as a puppet booth and carries with it a collection of puppets, props routines and instruments.

A larger audience will also be able to follow the journey via an interactive web site and local media partners. The journey will be documented via the web site, which will be maintained and updated by the performers daily, and include video, photos and songs from the tour.

The project is inspired by the journeys of puppeteer Walter Wilkinson who famously, during the 1920s and 1930s, toured his "Peep Show" throughout the British Isles, setting up show wherever he could find an audience. He wrote a series of travelogues based on his experiences as he travelled the country on foot with his puppet booth.

15 - 17 July 2011

Zircus Plus, Barrow-in-Furness, further development of UK's only international outdoor circus festival with international showcase.

23 July 2011

One-year-to-go spectacle for mass audience in Whitehaven Harbour – symbolic and beautiful!

30 August 2011

Lakes Alive Maryport – aerial spectacle and mass "participation" event

28 August - 4 September 2011

Mintfest International Summer School for Street Arts extended to 9 days as a result of 2009 evaluation

1 - 4 September 2011

Mintfest, Kendal

To keep up to date with WE PLAY follow on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit www.nwbeinspired.com/weplay

4. General News and 2012 Opportunities

Young Roots – Funding of up to £25,000 is available for heritage based projects for young people under the Heritage Lottery Funds Young Roots programme. The Creative Programmer in the North West seeks to encourage applications to this fund to support our regional theme of Routes and Trails which has a focus on making cultural connections between historical and contemporary culture and linking young people to the heritage, landscape and cultural assets of the North West. For more information contact Heritage Lottery Fund.

Government Statement on Legacy – On the 20th December the coalition government published a statement on their Legacy plans for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. ‘The Games also offer a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase the best of the UK’s culture, creativity, industry and innovation’. Please click on the link to access the full document http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7673.aspx

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