



## HQ Arts Update September 2007

With the continuation of the NCH Articulation, Connexions and Barnardo's Young Families partnerships, new projects with Mencap and a service level agreement with Wakefield Young People's Service, HQ Arts have had a busy last few months.

### **NCH: ARTiculation 2006-07**

The chance to perform at London's Lost Theatre One Act Festival in February provided a different opportunity for this years' ARTiculation group. "Looked After" was one of 18 one-act plays selected for this year's event.

NCH took the opportunity to film both the preparations for and the performance itself. A DVD is currently in production.

### **Government Office, Yorkshire and the Humber**

In March GOYH commissioned a performance of Looked After for their regional seminar: Championing Children and Young People.

***"The of magic fairy dust. Rhyme & movement, power and importance of theatre to make messages challenging and clear."***

***"Excellent performances, intelligent script, funny and thoughtful"***

***"ARTiculation is a class act! They presented some important messages in an interesting and entertaining way. I was impressed by how they managed to boil down a whole host of complex issues into a presentation and end up delivering a range of positive messages."***

## **NCH ARTiculation 2007-08**

In August, the current cohort came together for the final time to provide support to their peers at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Arts Weekend. HQ Arts Associates, Jo Knowles (visual arts), Paul Warriner (drama), Chris Campbell and Michelle Scally-Clark (rap/lyrics), Kevin Paton (drumming), Phil Nelson (Streetdance), Ned Evans and Simon Kerrigan (puppets and mask) and Immedia Productions (video) supported participants to explore the theme of “Achievement”.

Following the Youth Arts Weekend, 16 young people joined Stuart Hawkes and Paul Warriner in Stratford to begin the process of developing this year’s piece, which will link in with NCH National Campaign: “Growing Strong”.

## **Connexions**

HQ Arts continued to deliver the Activity Agreement Induction Course in partnership with Wakefield Connexions. The three day course with young people aged 17 who are NEET (Not in Education, Training or Employment) has so far engaged with over 80 young people since it began in January.

## **Barnardo's**

HQ Arts relationship with Barnardo's continues to go from strength to strength. In Bradford HQ Arts were commissioned to design and deliver a one day training course for field workers and managers.

In Wakefield HQ Arts were commissioned to work with a group of young parents to create a performance for their Celebration of Achievement event in June. **Lipstick and Lullabies** focussed on the dreams and aspirations that the young mums had for themselves and their children.



Rehearsals of Lipstick and Lullabies

## **Mencap**

***Spill the Beans*** is a series of creative consultation days commissioned by Mencap's **Children and Young people's Team**. Initially taking place in four schools from across the country, *Spill the Beans* is designed to enable young people with a range of learning disabilities to use the arts to tell Mencap: what they enjoy doing and what they would like to do in the future.

HQ Arts have successfully adapted a number of visual arts and drama exercises and techniques to engage and enable a range of young people to participate.

Young people have so far *Spilled the Beans* in Exeter, Guiseley, Aylesbury and Harringey.

**Arts YAC** is a series of day long creative consultation events commissioned by Mecap's **National arts Team**. Offering young people the opportunity to participate in a choice of workshops including street dance, drama, dub poetry and mask, *Arts YAC* ran for the first time at Horncastle College in Lincolnshire during July 2007.



The consultation focussed on what arts activities young people enjoyed, what they want to do more of and what blocks and barriers they face. A report will be presented by young people to officers and councillors from Lincolnshire in November 2007.

A further *Arts YAC* will be held in Bolton in November.

**Extract from What do YouTHink, ENYAN, Youth arts consultation case studies:**

*“The day at Horncastle was a great success. It was fun, enjoyable and gave lots of very constructive feedback. We now have information to share with the local authority and others about what young people want and where. This will hopefully help to shape the inclusion of young people with a learning disability more into the arts programming in the county”.* – Kathy Benfield, Mencap, Regional Arts Development Officer (Midlands)

## **Wakefield MDC Beacon Project**

Wakefield MDC were awarded Beacon Status for their positive engagement of young people. Based on the success of “Get Creative” and “My Life”, HQ Arts has been commissioned to work in partnership with Wakefield MDC to develop and deliver a model of youth participation in two neighbouring authorities.

**Stages of Engagement** aims to involve hard to reach young people in processes that enable them to increase their self confidence and core skills and have their say on issues that affect their lives. The project will create effective platforms for their voices and encourage them to take part in other voluntary opportunities.

Stages of Engagement will run until June 2009 across North East Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire. The programme will include creative consultation sessions with statutory and voluntary youth groups, staff and artist training and the creation of performances for key events.

Wakefield MDC will work alongside the participating authorities to advise on mechanisms and strategies to ensure that young people's voices are not only heard but their views acted upon.

Work began in North East Lincolnshire in June 2007, when over 20 youth work professionals came together in Grimsby for a day long training event hosted by HQ Arts.

With their support, over 40 young people were given the chance to join the project, with 18 of them choosing to take part in the devising weekend.

**MYGY**, (My Grimsby), focussing on young people's safety will be performed in front of officers and councillors during National Youth Work Week in Scarborough. Following a very successful devising process involving 18 young people, the script is currently in production.



**Access All Areas**, North Yorkshire, will begin in January 2008 and will focus on young people's access to public buildings, public spaces and public services in Scarborough.

**What next:**

Young people from NCH's ARTiculation, will perform "Growing Strong" at a number of events this year including:

Byte Night: London, NCH fundraiser sponsored by Earnst and Young.

Children's Rights Officers Association (CROA), Manchester  
Capita's "Successful Peer Mentoring in Schools" Conference, London.

HQ Arts will deliver another Arts YAC in partnership with Mencap in November.

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has commissioned HQ Arts to deliver two events for young people at Don Valley, Sheffield and Stamford Bridge, London, in November 2007.

For further information contact HQ Arts on 01977 794254 or send an email; [info@hqarts.com](mailto:info@hqarts.com)