

ARTICLE

ISSUE NUMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 2004

M.K Arts Education Forum
Enriching Arts Education in Milton Keynes



A SENSE OF PLACE

THE MILTON KEYNES COMMUNITY PROJECT

What does Milton Keynes mean to you?

Young people from across Milton Keynes responded to this question in a variety of creative ways when working with local artists and the award winning David Glass Ensemble over a period of two months.

This first phase of The Milton Keynes Theatre and Gallery Company's Community Project 'A Sense of Place' culminated in a sharing of ideas and work created at The Milton Keynes Theatre on Sunday 11th July 2004. The intention is that these ideas will feed into the second phase which will involve many more people of all ages and backgrounds.

Pupils from Southwood Middle School worked with local artist Yaw Asiyama to devise an original piece which looked at the transformation of space.

Over three sessions the children created characters using role play and other theatrical techniques. They then examined the structure of a story and in groups the children devised ideas which were fused together. They also designed the costumes that they wore and their artwork was used as a backdrop for the performance.

In many ways this was a life changing experience for several of the children involved. 'A Sense of Place' provided an ideal opportunity and the time and space for them to collaboratively develop their own creative ideas within the context of working with professional artists. This was then magnified a hundredfold by being able to perform their piece with other groups at the theatre. To quote one pupil 'This is the best thing I have ever done!' An amazing experience for everyone involved.

Bryan Schram, Head Teacher



ARTICLE

ARTSMARK

Congratulations to the following schools for receiving awards in the most recent rounds:

ARTSMARK GOLD

Stantonbury Campus

ARTSMARK SILVER

Downs Barn First

Southwood Middle School

Two Mile Ash Middle School

ARTSMARK

Greenleys Middle School

The Artsmark is available to all schools in England and is awarded to those schools who show a commitment to the full range of arts - music, dance, drama and art and design. It is a national award scheme and is managed by Arts Council England.

For more information on the Artsmark Scheme go to www.artsmark.org.uk

STOP PRESS!

MKAEF WEBSITE
GOES LIVE
SEPTEMBER 20TH 2004.
WWW.MKWEB.CO.UK/MKAEF

LOOK HEAR!

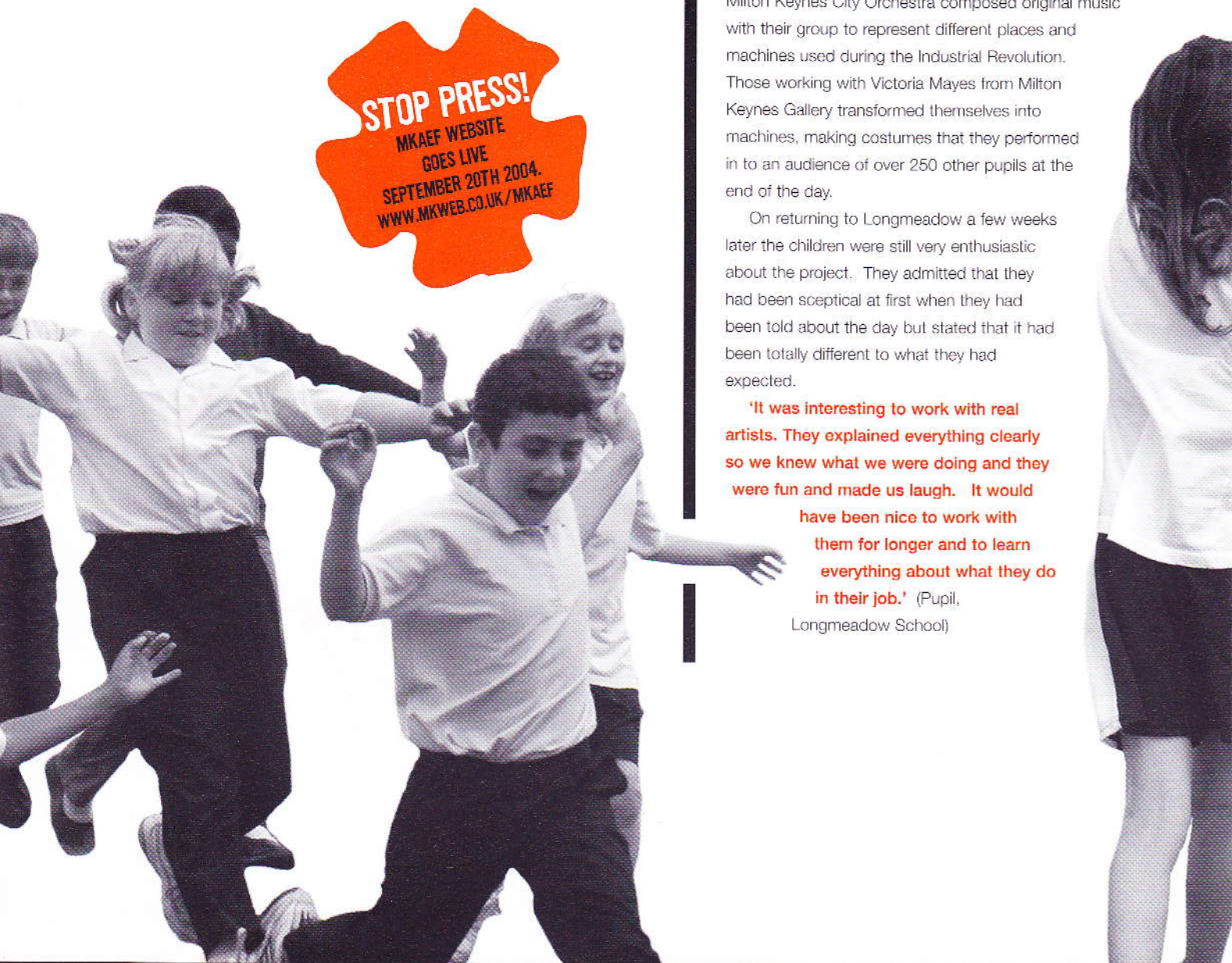
Our first collaborative project took place at Longmeadow School and was a huge success. The pupils used music, movement and visual arts to explore the theme of 'Industrialisation' over the course of a day in May.

The day started off with the whole group playing musical games. Music amateur Tim Palmer was particularly impressed with the children's ideas and enthusiasm during an exercise where they made machines using sounds from their names. Machine movement was then added to these sounds to create a number of different machines.

These ideas were used as stimuli for the rest of the day where the class were split into two groups and worked with either music or visual art. Tim and Jeremy Sampson from Milton Keynes City Orchestra composed original music with their group to represent different places and machines used during the Industrial Revolution. Those working with Victoria Mayes from Milton Keynes Gallery transformed themselves into machines, making costumes that they performed in to an audience of over 250 other pupils at the end of the day.

On returning to Longmeadow a few weeks later the children were still very enthusiastic about the project. They admitted that they had been sceptical at first when they had been told about the day but stated that it had been totally different to what they had expected.

'It was interesting to work with real artists. They explained everything clearly so we knew what we were doing and they were fun and made us laugh. It would have been nice to work with them for longer and to learn everything about what they do in their job.' (Pupil, Longmeadow School)





INSPIRE

INNOVATION, INCLUSION AND ART

Building on the successful School Sport Coordinator partnership between Leon School and Sports College and The Redway School, students from both schools took part in a two day Art workshop and innovative inclusion project producing work that was shown in the Milton Keynes Gallery as part of their Schools Art Now 4 exhibition in July. The project enabled students to develop understanding and communication skills between special and mainstream schools, utilise specialist skills and staff skills at both schools, build links between schools and practicing artists and to use the forum of MKG to raise the profile of inclusion.

The students worked with a practicing fine artist to create prints, a multi-media light show and video footage that went together to make up the work on show. Out of the ten

participating schools, the work of the Leon and Redway students was picked to appear on both the private view invite and the poster for the exhibition.

The workshop was a great success and the students were a credit to their schools, working together and learning new ways of communicating and signing. It is hoped that this project will continue in future years.

Vanessa Stanley, Deputy Head
- Teaching, Learning and Specialiam.

Do you have an inspirational arts project that you would like to tell us about? Please send articles to sue.watts@stantonbury.org.uk

STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The start of a new academic year means that we have an exciting new programme of CPD opportunities for you. Over the past year we have experienced some difficulties with places being booked and then people dropping out at very short notice. This has resulted in us not being able to offer the places to those on the waiting lists. Due to the demand for our workshops we have introduced a returnable booking fee this year of £10 per place.

The appropriate amount will be returned to you at the end of each term as long as you attend the workshop or give 3 working days notice of cancellation. You can however allow the Forum to retain your deposit as a donation to our work.

AUTUMN TERM

Simple Printmaking	7th October	4 - 5.30
Making Pop-up cards	14th October	4 - 6.00
Working with a small ensemble	4th November	4 - 5.30
Sketchbooks, acrylics and mono printing	11th November	4 - 5.30

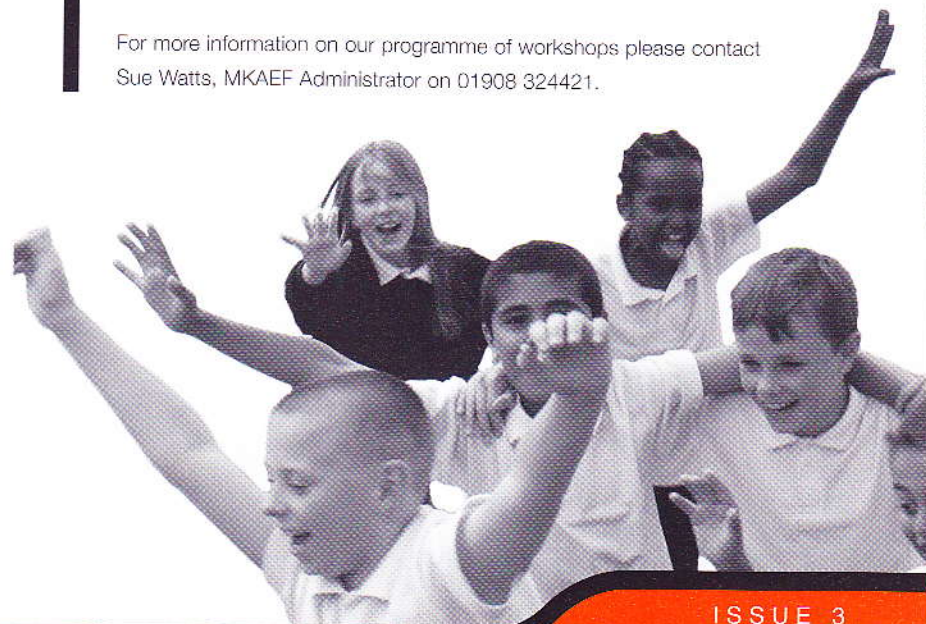
SPRING TERM

Art Therapy	13th January	4 - 6.00
Bringing Poetry to life	27th January	4 - 5.30
3D Abstract Art	24th February	4 - 5.30
Dalroze eurythmics	To Be Confirmed	

SUMMER TERM

Creative Dance	25th April	4 - 5.30
Felt making and Embroidery	11th May	4 - 5.30
Drama as a teaching tool	19th May	4 - 5.30
Lino printing	16th June	4 - 5.30

For more information on our programme of workshops please contact Sue Watts, MKAEF Administrator on 01908 324421.





OUR AIMS:

- To advocate and promote the importance of the arts in the lives and learning of young people.
- Provide access to high quality arts experiences for young people of school age in Milton Keynes.
- Ensure widest possible access across all the different cultural and socio-economic groups.
- Foster sustainable links with arts organisations and practitioners
- Work in partnership with Schools, the Local Education Authority, and the formal education sector, and engage with regional and national arts agencies.
- Provide a supportive infrastructure to enable schools to initiate their own arts activities.

ARTS DIARY

Activities from now until September.



MKCO -MUSIC FOR LIFE

In addition to its regular concert work, Milton Keynes City Orchestra (MKCO) is closely engaged in musical education within schools and colleges in the area. Members of the orchestra also work in the wider community, enabling people of all ages to participate and enjoy music-making through creative projects. Most recently this work has included working with students from Holne Chase Combined School, Sir Thomas Aquinas School, Cold Harbour C of E Combined School, Hanslope Combined School and Southwood School in a music composition project based on Peter and the Wolf and the football composition Game!; young musicians from Milton Keynes Music Service rehearsing and performing with and alongside MKCO musicians in a performance at Milton Keynes Theatre; and musicians participating in the recent Look Hear! project co-ordinated by MKAEF.

Milton Keynes City Orchestra Birthday weekend

1.15pm Friday 28 January 2005

As part of its 30th birthday celebrations, MKCO will be performing Seaside Postcards by Jonathan Dove. Schools attending the performance will be invited to participate, joining in singing these Seaside Postcards.

Tickets are available direct from MKCO on 01908 558311 or from Milton Keynes Theatre Box Office, telephone 01908 60 60 90. £10, Groups and schools £5.

Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts

This year the festival have introduced new classes in the speech and drama section designed specifically for those who work with groups of young people (schools and youth groups). It is a fantastic opportunity for your pupils to create and develop their own performance work and to share and celebrate their achievements.

Closing date for entries is 11th December 2004

For a copy of the syllabus or more information please contact Mrs M Judd on 01327 358318

Contact MKAEF:

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Printed & Designed by Emille Publications. Tel: 01604 629797

Milton Keynes Theatre

Bad Girls

Thur 21 - Sun 24 Oct

Thu 7pm, Fri 10.30am, & 1.30pm

Sat 2.30pm & 7pm

Sun 2.30pm

Award-winning children's author Jacqueline Wilson (The Story of Tracey Beaker, The Suitcase Kid) and adapter / director Vicky Ireland are teaming up again to create the first stage version of Bad Girls.

Mandy has been picked on at school for as long as she can remember. That's why she is delighted when cheeky, full-of-fun Tanya picks her as a friend. Mum isn't happy - she thinks Tanya is a bad girl and a bad influence. Mandy's sure Tanya can only get her out of trouble not into it... but can she?

Tickets adults £14 - £10.50, children £10.50 - £9.50)
Group of 20+ £8 per person.

Interactive Masters

Stanislavski Thu 11 Nov

Brecht Thu 18 Nov

Artaud Thu 25 Nov

10am - 1pm or 2 - 5pm

Participatory workshops exploring the theories of these masters of theatre, in relation to performance. Led by practitioners from the Theatre Museum, London including materials from their video archive. 16yrs+. £5 per person per session.

Comedy 4 Kids

Sat 16 Oct 1.30pm

James Campbell is probably the only stand-up comedian for children in the universe. A unique blend of stories, improvisation and extremely silly songs, guaranteed to keep kids, and their parents in stitches.

Suitable for ages 5+. All tickets £8.

An introduction to opera

For young people, led by Glyndebourne on Tour.

Comprising of physical, vocal and listening exercises and in-depth discussion.

3 Nov La boheme

4 Nov Pelleas et Melisande

5 Nov The Magic Flute

£10 including evening show.

Information and booking for schools, only from Tessa Chisholm, GoT on 01273 812321.

Revision Days - in the school holidays

Mon 25 Oct 14 - 16yrs

Tue 26 Oct 16yrs+

10.30am - 3.30pm

Practical drama sessions for GCSE and A-level students to support their revision in the build up to exams. £10 per person.

Tickets for all events and activities are available from Milton Keynes Theatre Box Office, telephone 01908 60 60 90, unless otherwise stated. Places are limited and events often sell out, so advance booking is recommended.

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