

# ARTICLE

M.K Arts Education Forum  
Enriching Arts Education in Milton Keynes  
01908 324421

## ARTS DIARY

### 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.



### MILTON KEYNES THEATRE IN COLLABORATION WITH CATALYST THEATRE ARTS, MILTON KEYNES GALLERY AND MILTON KEYNES CITY ORCHESTRA.

#### CREATE!

Create! is a two day workshop which will give you a taste of storytelling, music making, drama, movement and craft activities. We have been filming behind the scenes at the Milton Keynes Gallery, which is going to be our starting point to create our own short piece based on what happens there when the exhibitions are changed over. What happens to the paintings and where do they go? You decide!

Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28 July. 9 – 11yrs  
Wednesday 3rd and Thursday- 4 August. 12 – 15yrs  
10.30-3 pm. £26

### CATALYST THEATRE ARTS IN COLLABORATION WITH MILTON KEYNES THEATRE

#### DANCE THEATRE

How can movement and drama tell a story? Make your own short performance working with a dancer and theatre director.

10.30 – 3 pm. Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 July. 9- 11 yrs.  
10.30 – 3 pm. Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 August. 12- 15 yrs.  
No dance experience required. Suitable clothing and footwear is a must!  
£26.

#### TINY TALES

A fun and creative hour for tots and parents, brought to us by Catalyst Theatre Arts, using stories, music, movement and imaginative play in the garden room of the theatre. Different activities each week.

10-11am or 1.30-2.30. Friday 29 July and Friday 5 August  
3-4 year olds accompanied by their parents.  
£5 per child. Places limited so book early.

Other workshops and events can be found in our brochure. All workshops can be booked through the box office on 01908 60 60 90.

Supported by



#### Contact MKAEF:

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### MILTON KEYNES GALLERY

900 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA  
Admission Free | Open Tues-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 11.00  
Closed Mondays and for exhibition changeovers  
Tel: 01908 676900 www.mk-g.org

### FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION

#### FOLK ARCHIVE

#### CONTEMPORARY POPULAR ART FROM THE UK PRODUCED BY ALAN KANE AND JEREMY DELLER

2 AUG – 18 SEP 05

Artists Alan Kane and 2004 Turner Prize winner Jeremy Deller present a selection of works from their contemporary Folk Archive. Kane and Deller's ongoing research has explored and documented both traditional and contemporary forms of popular creativity, that brings works from one of public display to the more traditional presentation of art in a gallery. From gurning to graffiti, and tapestry to sculptures made from vegetables, Folk Archive is testament to the enduring compulsion for people to find creative forms of community and individual expression. The variety of their collection is reflected in MK G's exhibition, which will present video, drawings, paintings along with objects including 'Snowdrop', a working, life size mechanical elephant.

Parents/guardians can collect a free children's activity based on the exhibition from the front desk at any time.

#### THE SATURDAY ART TROLLEY EVERY SATURDAY | 11.00 – 13.00 | FREE

There is no need to book, just drop in on any Saturday between 11.00 and 13.00 and create artwork based on the current exhibition. Our friendly staff will make you and your children feel most welcome. Suitable for accompanied children ages 4-12. (Closed during exhibition changeovers)

### HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

#### MK G ARTFACTORY COME AND GET CREATIVE THIS SUMMER!

Milton Keynes Gallery is providing a series of exciting workshops during the school holidays. Led by professional artists with lots of knowledge to share, the sessions are suitable for a variety of abilities and open to ages 2 to 102! For more information about MK G ArtFactory or any of the above events, please ring the MK G Education Team on 01908 558305 during office hours.

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## SCHOOL ART NOW 05 SECRET POSTCARD EXHIBITION

On Friday 17th June the 5th School Art Now exhibition opened. We were delighted that Boyd and Evans were there to mark the occasion and that so many schools came along too.

The Exhibition is showing in 9 venues around the city and we hope that people will visit every one. The postcards are exhibited in secret without the artists name on display.

These will be revealed on July 1st.

The work shows a great deal of enthusiasm and many of the postcards are very original in style. The fun part is guessing the age of the child or if you are an artist with work on display finding it!

Special thanks to John Lewis, MK Theatre, MK Gallery, MK Library, Xscape, Ottakars, Christ the Cornerstone, Midsummer Place Police Station and the Nationwide



# ARTICLE

## FROM THE CHAIR

Here comes Summer!

Doesn't time fly? – It hardly seems possible that it was four months ago when the last edition of Article was published. Currently, as you can see from the news items in this edition of Article, there is a wealth of activity underway across the full Arts spectrum.

Cornelius and Jones are touring schools with 'The Snow Queen'. The opening, by local artists Boyd and Evans, of the Secret Postcard Exhibition in CMK was a huge success! Dance Close-Up has taken place and others are planned. We also have a report from the recent Creativity conference organised by MK Council.

Operabox, the practical music theatre project aimed at young people aged 10-14 is presently taking place and allows participants to take part in practical music theatre activity, enabling them to work with and alongside professional musicians.

Now to the future - We are currently planning and preparing the following forum arts education activities for the autumn term and beyond.

In September Crazy Kat Theatre Company will be working with key stage 1 children from six schools in a residency at Stantonbury Campus Theatre.

Requests to take part in DanceXchange have already outstripped the number of available places. We are busy in negotiations with artists to pair up choreographers with schools, to enable rehearsals to begin as soon as possible in preparation for our MK Theatre performance in January 2006.

English Pocket Opera will be working in collaboration with Milton Keynes City Orchestra to create a practical, opera based residency, based on The Magic Flute, working with young people in and around Milton Keynes during the spring / summer of 2006. This project will take the form of an eight week residency, with sessions taking place in schools and similar, culminating in a week of performances and transfer to Milton Keynes Theatre.

We are currently looking for more opportunities to support innovative arts activities for children in Milton Keynes schools. If you have an idea that needs our help and support to turn it into a practical reality we will be only too happy to hear from you!

Trevor Harris (Chair MKAEF)

## DANCE WORKSHOP

Paul Kitson is a professional dancer based in London with a growing reputation through his work in Milton Keynes schools. He has worked extensively with both Stantonbury Campus and Summerfield School but on the 18th April he turned his attention to a group of local teachers.

Jane Coles and Jemma Underwood from Greenleys Middle School share their experience.

We thought that we were going on a run-of-the-mill dance course but we were in for a shock!

The course aimed to show us a variety of dance styles and ideas that we could use with our class or as part of a dance workshop. After an intensive warm up to music, which included press ups, stretches and dance moves. After that we were more than ready to get started.

The main session was a mixture of practical routines and advice on how to include all children in dance lessons.

It was a really useful afternoon from which we gained lots of ideas and aching muscles for the rest of the week.



## DANCE CLOSE-UP

After having had the pleasure of attending the first Dance Close-Up, I can well and truly say that dance in Milton Keynes is alive and kicking! The performance held at Hanslope School on Tuesday 7th June demonstrated the magnificent wealth of talent we have amongst our pupils and teachers.

The performance began with a very colourful and vibrant ribbon dance from Hanslope. This set the audience up to watch a packed show of various styles of dance. St Mary Magdalene school performed a dynamic and exciting jazz free style piece called "Bubbling" and a very graceful Asian dance. Lively and energetic Disco dancing from Bushfield school got all the audience tapping their feet. Move over John Travolta – we have our own Greased Lightning!

Bradwell Village school brought us more graceful and expressive Asian dance and a vigorous aerobic warm up. The hosts, Hanslope school performed "Kids in America," another vibrant and exciting piece. The pupils from Bradwell Village donned various articles of headgear for their "Silly Dance" and ended the show with yet another lively dance entitled "Tipsy."

A fabulous experience for all concerned. A big thank you to all the teachers from the four schools for their superb choreography, and a special big thank you to David Jones from Hanslope school who organised the performance.

We can look forward to more "Dance Close-Up" performances in the near future. Watch this space!

Sue Upton



## STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

### DRAMA WORKSHOP

A mixed group of teacher, head teachers and advisors recently attended a 'Using Drama as a teaching Tool' workshop as part of the MKAEF arts training programme.

The session was led by Matthew Perris who is a drama teacher at Stantonbury, as well as the programme manager of the young apprenticeship scheme in cultural and creative studies. After 'warming us up' with a series of activities that were designed to immediately engage children-'Zip, Zap and Bop' being one that has applications for staff Christmas parties! -, we looked at a variety of drama tools that could be applied across the curriculum. We had particular fun performing group representations of famous British Landmarks that we could show to alien visitors.

The introduction of 'teacher in role' was a tool that would ensure that all children could interact with the dramatic process. The 'Major' (alias Matthew) was a stickler for detail and fended the questions from the tabloid newspapers with aplomb!

It was an interesting session that gave an insight into how drama could be used across the curriculum. It was a useful introduction to further drama workshops the school has planned.

## HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE

### PROMOTING CREATIVITY

Promoting Creativity was this years' two day Headteachers' Conference, with Sir Ken Robinson, Senior Adviser to the President of the J. Getty Institute, Los Angeles, as a keynote speaker on the first day. In a really challenging, but constantly witty and amusing presentation, Ken explored the concept of 'creativity' and how schools and society have the power to enable everybody to become more creative. He set up a series of workshops based on his presentation, and encouraged a good deal of vigorous discussion.

At the end of the day all were entertained by the Milton Keynes Jazz Experience, one of the senior ensembles of the MK Music Service.

The second day was led by Phil Whitehead, Senior Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University. Phil looked at current ideas about creativity, and aligned his talk with live projects that had taken place on campus. The second part of the day was designed to engage the headteachers in creative projects and experiences of their own by taking part in various workshops.

Everybody enjoyed participating in this session, and the 'Showcase' presentations of what had been created were conducted with intense spirit and pride.

Many headteachers returned to their schools fired and enthused in their own pursuit and encouragement of creative ideas, as the conference organisers had planned!

Geoff Dean

School Improvement Adviser, Creative Arts

## CORNELIUS AND JONES PUPPET THEATRE

July sees the arrival of Cornelius and Jones as they tour a number of small schools with their Puppet Theatre production of The Snow Queen. Especially devised for children aged 4-11 the show features original music and songs composed by Andrew Dodge. Accompanying the show is a professionally led puppet and mask-making workshop and a teachers' resource pack including a CD, sheet music and notes to enable schools to put on their own shows! Other small schools within the area have been invited to take along a class to each performance to enable as many children as possible to see this wonderful production.