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VANESSA OAKES HITS THE CUSTARD FACTORY

Talented and down to earth writer, Vanessa Oakes, is soon to launch her latest work, **The Last Things**, at the Custard Factory. The rehearsed reading, presented by The Estate, is an intriguingly dark piece, depicting a Kafkaesque world. Vanessa's writing is rooted in theatre practice, rather than in a literary tradition, giving her work a distinct dramatic voice and a unique powerful edge. This new ambitious project perfectly illustrates her original insight, and remains thought-provoking and mysterious to the end.

Vanessa is excited to be working with The Estate on this new work. She told Hybrid:articles; "The Estate provides the space and time to explore and develop my own writing practice for production."

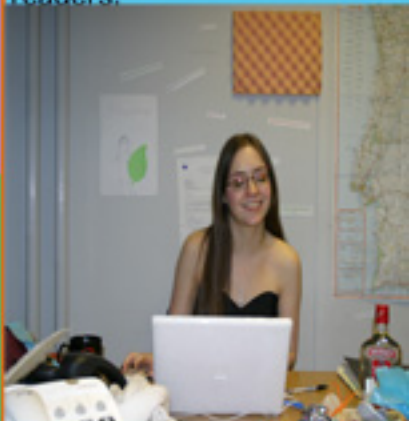
The Last Things has been received with great critical acclaim, being described as compelling: truly complex, unquestionably good, a piece with subtlety and ambiguity. Born from a brutal tough place, it is both involving and unsettling,

Make up your own mind at The Custard Factory Gallery, Digbeth, Birmingham, on Thursday 13 April, at 7.30pm. Tickets will be £5/£3 and available on the door (no latecomers admitted). For more information and/or to reserve your own ticket call The Estate now on 024 7688 7496.

Age recommendation 16+

BEHIND THE SCENES

It's time to meet the face behind the newsletter - so now you know who to send all the hate mail to! Here I am hard at work during a regular gruelling day at the office (I wear a cocktail dress to work everyday, naturally.) And, conveniently, February is my birthday month - so please send all presents to the address below...thank you, my loyal and adoring readers.



Project Part-Financed
by the European Union

Supported by the Centre for Media, Arts and Performance at Coventry University.
Idea originally commissioned for Talking Birds' Virtual Fringe Festival www.virtualfringe.info





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THE TRANSMEDIALE 06 SPECIAL

The 19th transmediale festival, held at the Berlin Art Academy, explored how art and society are changing under the influence of media and technologies. Digital culture is becoming increasingly influential in our daily lives, with digital media such as video and electronic networks being so wide-spread that it no longer seems possible for a strict definition of what constitutes media art to exist. With this in mind, the festival chose to step away from the niche of media art this year, renaming the event Festival for Art and Digital Culture. Transmediale points to the field of tension between culture and digital technologies; a battle which continues to be the driving force behind the festival.

The theme behind this year's event was REALITY ADDICTS and the way in which they subvert the technological paradigm of reality, seeking to multiply reality by means of exaggeration, rupture, distance, and ever new diversions.

According to Tim Ellis, Creative Director of Hybrid:arts who was sponsored by ACE to attend, the highlight of the trip was Club Transmediale - a mini festival for experimental music, held alongside Transmediale. Between Dance-floor, experimental and Serious Listening, CTM develops the relationship between electronic music and media art. As a forum of communication

INTERESTING FACT FOR FEBRUARY

Did you know, that the word 'yob' is of Victorian origin, meaning 'boy' spelt backwards

INTERESTING QUOTATION FOR FEB

"Phil Hope, skills minister at the DfES, said "Young People need training that carries on when they leave prison."

Hope said the Government wants to get 9 out of 10 young people to stay in education after the age of 16 by 2015. The current level is about 75%' Young People Now Magazine
So, Hybrid:arts really are ahead of their time... and some Government ministers!



between artists, visitors and producers, it brings the social dimensions of media technology to center stage. Featuring an adventurous mix of sounds from Dada-Rave and Cartoon Music to Drone Metal, Cut-up Agitation and electronic Folk-Hybrids, CTM has been described as brash, audacious, fierce, intrepid, risky, brazen and outrageous.





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INTERESTING PLACE OF THE MONTH - BERLIN

An environment of tolerance and multiculturalism combined with a surge of creativity has created an innovative and unique subculture in Berlin. Famous for its urbanity and collection of artists and trendsetters, Berlin has undergone a remarkable social, economic and cultural transformation since the fall of the Wall. With its diverse background and history, the city's design tradition and contemporary creations have influenced both national and international movements, and was appointed City of Design by UNESCO in January 06, giving Berlin international recognition. Some of the world's most influential architects, such as Daniel Libeskind and Sir Norman Foster, have left their imprints on new city landmarks such as the revolutionised parliament building and the new Jewish Museum.



Berlin has undergone a fascinating evolution of its cultural landscape: International and multiethnic diversity are now its hallmarks, forming a thriving creative scene distinguished by its unconventionality. The mix of creative people in the city keep Berlin in constant flux and make it one of the most avant-garde cities in Europe.

A number of fascinating, lesser-known districts await discovery in the eastern part of the city. In the 1970s these districts became a hang out for an unusual mix of people. Kreuzberg, for example, attracted left-wing punks, anarchists and Turkish immigrants. In the 1990s, old factory buildings were converted into lofts and new economy enterprises revived crumbling neighbourhoods. The area's self-regulating communities and thriving counterculture preserve its alternative atmosphere. These districts are now home to hip newcomers and long-term residents - a mix that spawns some tensions, but also releases remarkable creative energies. Linienstrabe and Auguststrabe are home to Berlin's most innovative art galleries, such as the famous Kunst-Werke and Galerie Christian Nagel.

www.kw-berlin.de
www.galerie-nagel.de



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM ELLIS

