

Hybrid Articles

hybrid: arts

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a new species of training provider in the creative industries

culture art youth technology partnership learning communication people service

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e-learning and NEET young people report

A case study report was recently commissioned by Becta and conducted by Don Passey, Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Educational Research, Lancaster University. The purpose of the report was to explore the potential of technology in supporting young people with NEETs status aged 16 to 18 years.

Hybrid Arts were approached because this a field we are already exploring and have experience in. The focus of the research was to consider the experiences of those who support the 16 to 18 year old population with NEET status, and whether technology could support this group, and involved discussions with staff and NEET young people about their experiences, exploring the characteristics of those who are NEET and the effect of ICT development within this group.

“Hybrid Arts are involved in the development of resources using ICT, intended for a wider audience and public beyond those in the centre itself. A web-site is being produced in the centre, by young people who are NEET for young people who are NEET. This web-site will highlight the work of young people who are NEET.”

The report will be a useful tool when demonstrating to potential partners and interested parties the work we do and illustrate how ICT engagement impacts upon the lives of disenfranchised young people.



Talent 2 Market

Produced by the LSC, *Talent 2 Market* is a review of education and training in the creative and media sector, and is a result of concerted efforts from creative and media employers, educational providers, skills and training agencies and is the first creative and media skills review of its kind. Hybrid Arts were fortunate to have a live presentation by Michael Ryan, Creative Skills Development Manager at the LSC, before the report was published - and we are pleased to share his vision with you now. It is hoped that the review will be valuable in creating a more focused and relevant skills offer in the region and the UK as a whole. It is aimed at assisting employers and providers to make the most of the aspiring, diverse and talented people of the West Midlands. According to Jonnie Turpie, Digital Media Director at Maverick Television: “In carrying out the review it has become clear that skills and competencies in the creative industries are valuable across sectors. It is also clear in our fast changing economy that skills have to be grown from an earlier and earlier age if young people are to extend themselves and gain employment. These must cross academic, vocational, enterprise and market focused skills.” The review highlights two major challenges. For providers, there is currently an oversupply of a myriad of courses, which needs to be more focused and simplified with greater attention paid to industry and enterprise skills. For employers, there is a dearth of work based and related learning opportunities. The full report can be downloaded from www.lsc.gov.uk

Leading learning and skills

indestructible update

Hybrid Arts are pleased to announce that we have received a Youth Development Grant towards running a youth club at our Indestructible Music Club. This will give young people who attend the club an opportunity to experience music production and performance. We have collaborated with Dave Jones, WCC Area Youth Work Coordinator for Warwick District, to create a hybrid partnership, whereby the funds will pay for both a Hybrid Arts music tutor to run the club, and a youth participation worker - a musician and qualified youth worker who will also attend all club sessions and help out with the delivery of an Arts Award for young participants.



pedal power!

Vanessa Oakes, artiste extraordinaire, has been doing a spot of research and has brought this interesting project to our attention - thanks Vanessa!

Social Design Network, Design 21, announced the top three winners of their worldwide *Power to the Pedal* online design competition this month, which attracted entries from 41 countries and over 200 designers. The network, which promotes better design for the greater good through its members and non-profit partners, challenged designers to create a new bicycle accessory or add-on for existing bicycles that would improve the cycling experience and promote the use of bicycles as a primary means of transportation. The third place entry and most popular, as voted by DESIGN 21 members, was *The Sound from Wind* by Joseph Kim and Jinwook Hwang from Seoul, South Korea, which creates a melody by wind passing through a ceramic-type instrument secured to the handlebars. The design uses design elements from the flute and ocarina to make a soothing analog sound, and can also be manipulated to create a melody through a variety of buttons on the sound machine.

www.design21sdn.com



Don't miss Warwickshire Arts Week - the region's fantastic annual celebration of all things visual.
5-20 July 2008

www.warwickshire.artsweek.co.uk

the art of deception

This summer sees a festival of camouflage come to Leamington and Warwick as part of a new Sez-U Theatre project, with Leamington Spa Studio Artists, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In 1940 Leamington Spa became home to the Camouflage Directorate - a government funded unit set up to research and apply camouflage for military and civilian use, bringing hundreds of artists, designers, and photographers together to form the Directorate. They were based around Spencer Yard and the Old Museum and Art Gallery, and their history has never been fully told - until now. Driven by maverick community artist Fergus Durrant, *The Art of Deception* uses theatre and visual art to celebrate and discover this unit's work, so expect a jam-packed programme of events ranging from talks, walks, theatre and interactive workshops. From 3rd of June to 27th of August. Full information is available online at www.sez-utheatre.com

second takeover day announced

Young people will be given the chance to make decisions in businesses and organisations for a day on November 7 as part of the UK's second 11 Million Takeover Day. Launched to great success last year, the day lets children have their say and sees them working alongside decision-makers. In 2007 more than 500 organisations and 5000 children took part in the event, which is run by the National Youth Agency and 11 Million. Sir Al Aynsley-Green, Children's Commissioner for England, is calling on government, local authorities, charities and schools to open their doors to young people for the occasion. He said: "This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity for organisations and individuals to show that they value and respect children and young people by letting them take over for the day." The website is great - you can create your own virtual tree house! Aimed at children and young people, it encourages visitors to choose what issues they want to have their say about, such as gun and knife crime, and get themselves heard.

www.11million.org.uk



youths to experience more culture

Youth cultural experience pilots are being launched in September to offer young people five hours of cultural experiences a week. The *Find Your Talent* scheme, which came about on the back of the government's announcement that it wanted all young people to have the right to experience five hours of arts and culture a week, will be trialled in Bolton, Shepway District, Tyneside, Hampshire, Leeds, Leicester, Merseyside, North Somerset, Telford and Wrekin and Tower Hamlets. Each area will pilot different ways to offer young people experiences in and out of school, such as learning about and practising new media and digital art, learning a musical instrument or getting hands-on experience in TV. Local authorities will be expected to work in partnership with schools and arts organisations so creative workers can come into schools as well as children getting experiences outside the classroom. Culture Secretary Andy Burnham said: "All children have creative talents and we want to ensure that they have the opportunity to develop them....Find Your Talent is a truly exciting initiative that could open minds and change young lives. Enjoying and exploring culture and the arts is not a luxury, or an add-on, for young people. It matters in its own right, and can be a way of developing essential life skills like communication and creativity, and contribute to personal development and self-esteem. Too many young people still leave school without ever really finding out what they could be good at: the things that could be the basis of a fulfilling life. These pilots will kick off the long process of putting that right. Their importance cannot be overstated."

The 'Find Your Talent' project will be implemented by a new body, the Youth Culture Trust, which will also oversee the Creative Partnerships scheme, which allows children and young people in schools to work with creative professionals such as artists, writers and actors, working with more than 2,000 schools each year. The Trust will receive £110m over three years (from the Arts Council's CSR settlement), as well as £25m to pilot 'Find Your Talent'. Andy Burnham and Ed Balls also announced a further £13m over three years for the joint DCMS/DCSF 'strategic commissioning' programme, an initiative that funds educational work with museums and galleries around the country. The DCSF also announced details of SHINE, a week-long schools festival to celebrate the talent in everybody. The festival will run from 30 June to 4 July and the Department is inviting all schools to participate and highlight the talents of all children.



youth workers behind on social networking

According to the Youth Work and Social Networking report carried out by young people's engagement consultancy Practical Participation, two-thirds of youth workers do not feel confident in supporting young people using social networking sites. The study uncovered a lack of understanding of social networking sites, such as Facebook and Bebo, and found that the internet as a whole was holding youth workers back. Only 35% of youth workers felt equipped to help young people to make the most of the opportunities offered by online social networking. The report, funded by the National Youth Agency, said the problem may be down to accessibility, as only 29% had access to social networking sites when they worked with young people. The report also cited confusion as to the exact risks posed by online social networks, and a lack of detailed awareness of the opportunities offered. It noted that workers could not clearly identify how existing professional practice and policies would apply to online social networks, and that youth services would appreciate guidance on developing policies or guidance on online social networking.



knife crime article

In a recent edition of *The Observer*, actor and writer Lennie James - due to play a police officer in the upcoming TV version of a play about teenage violence, *Fallout*, as part of Channel 4's season on gun and knife crime - wrote an open letter to young people who carry knives.

In the letter, James takes the knife carrier through the psychological consequences of carrying a knife. "Whatever it seems like, whatever you've read, whatever you tell yourself about protection being your reason, statistics show the life you take will be that of an unarmed person. That is what the knife will do for you. It will make you escalate a situation to where it is needed. It will give you a misguided sense of confidence. It will make you the aggressor. That knife will make you use it. It will bring you nothing worth having. There is no respect there."

But James also calls for adults to stand up and accept responsibility, expressing his shame at being a member of a society guilty of ignorance. He sounds exasperated at a police service hooked on punishment rather than prevention, and at social services and policy makers who have abdicated responsibility. "We should be ashamed. I am. You have shamed us into a desperate need to do something about ourselves. We have collectively failed you and we should take all the blame that is ours for that...but so should you."

Whilst I see the value in such an impassioned, direct and candid approach, I cannot help but think that it is being directed in the wrong place. Because lets face it, as James admits himself in the introduction to the letter, "I don't know how many of them (knife-carriers) might be *Observer* readers." I think the answer is, very few. I would argue that young people would be more obliged to take stock of the words of someone in a position they can relate to. Many young people are doing some inspiring anti knife crime work, including Hybrid Arts's very own Young Agents, who have recently premiered a music video on this subject, *One Way Path*.

The government are making a number of steps of address the escalating problem of teen-on-teen knife crime. It is illegal to sell a knife or any item with a blade or point to a person under the age of 18. In February, the Violent Crime Action Plan was published - a three-year strategy to tackle gun and knife crime including a £20m investment for interventions and information sharing between police and communities. Earlier this month, a Downing Street summit resulted in the prosecution age for carrying a knife being lowered from 18 to 16.

www.youtube.com/hybridfilms

www.guardian.co.uk/crime

is this the future..? *2

Last month we brought you Scenario One in the Siemens/TNF Infratest study '**Horizons 2020: A thought-provoking look at the future**', published as part of the Beyond Current Horizons programme. Last week we saw how future education places an emphasis on professional skills, creativity and communication, with a smoother transition from school to the work environment.

Scenario 2: Speed, networks and risk

The second scenario focuses upon a more flexible and responsive society, bringing both increased risks and opportunities. "Movement between social strata is easier here: however, this mobility exposes individuals to the risk of moving into the side of the digital divide that has no access to the communication technologies or social capital required to maintain and contribute to the networks that are vital in supporting modern personal and professional lives. For those that live in this fast-paced world of constant change, the need for social networks that are as flexible as the individual has led to the erosion of traditional ideas of family and friends." In such an environment, the gap between public learning institutions, with their lack of funding and frequent violence, and private ones is increasing. "A private education is a prerequisite for employment, with its interdisciplinary degree courses and international locations. On-the-job training and internships are commonplace, and virtual education programmes allow learners to juggle different locations to fit these into their lives. Specialist knowledge is less useful now than the ability to learn through practice: consequently, degree programme finish faster, and there is a decline in post-graduate degrees."

Next month, the *UN Millennium Project*.



Beyond
Current
Horizons

technology, children, schools and families