

# spotlight

on Children & the Arts

Summer Edition 2010

## POETRYQUEST FESTIVAL

By Hannah Hodgson



From 7th-9th July Children & the Arts celebrated the end of PoetryQuest with a fun and undeniably creative festival. Hannah Hodgson was interning at Children & the Arts during the PoetryQuest festival.

PoetryQuest was well under way when I arrived with 16 schools in Wakefield, Nottingham, Birmingham and Merthyr Tydfil, each working with a local arts venue. I was excited to learn I'd be working on a festival that involved not only poetry and visual art but tipis. All of the 1000 children involved had not only worked with a professional poet to create their own epic poetry, but had worked with a professional artist to decorate a tipi creating a classroom poetry space. All 32 of these tipis were to be exhibited at the festival!

It was truly amazing to see the festival set up in Kensington Gardens, London, after all the efforts of the Children & the Arts team. It looked quite surreal. Children arrived, buzzing with excitement about finding their tipi. In fact many of the teachers were equally excited! Each day started with children reciting the poetry they had created before hearing a special guest, such as Children & the Arts' Ambassador Adrian Lester, read a poem. We were lucky to be joined by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall who read her favourite childhood poem. Workshops followed, where the children could create poems, puppets and pictures within large Native American tipis. Their energy was infectious!

Combined with the glorious sun, the vibrant colours of the tipis bounced far into the distance creating quite a stir with onlookers, many of whom returned in the evening to explore the children's art work.

I feel PoetryQuest was able to achieve much more than it set out to. Not only did it allow children the space to get lost in their imaginations, create visual art and epic poetry, it provided memories they will cherish forever, whilst also appealing to adults. It allowed them a moment of escapism to remind them why these creative experiences are so important. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of PoetryQuest and wouldn't have wished the last week of my internship to be any other way.



## Another year of The Great Art Quest!

We are delighted to announce that GAM (UK) Limited have confirmed sponsorship of The Great Art Quest for a third year, allowing Children & the Arts to take this exciting project to four more galleries and 16 more schools. The Saatchi Gallery (London), Oriol Davies Gallery (Powys), Ormeau Baths Gallery (Belfast) and Tate Liverpool will all take part in the project, each working with four local primary schools.



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The Great Art Quest offers children the opportunity to engage with their local art gallery where works of art are brought to life by storytellers and artists. The children involved in this year's Great Art Quest will be working towards an exhibition of their own work to be held in the local galleries early next year. Phil Turner from GAM said:

**GAM has a long association with the visual arts and it makes us very proud to see that legacy continue with The Great Art Quest. We are really excited to be sponsors for a third year.**



## MusicQuest Competition Winners Announced!

The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts is delighted to announce that Mountbatten Primary School in Hull is the National winner of the 2009/10 MusicQuest competition.

Mountbatten Primary School will receive £10,000 worth of instruments, courtesy of Yamaha Music UK. Their winning piece will also be orchestrated and performed live at the Classic FM Live Concert on 30th September 2010. The winning class will attend the concert.

The five regional winners are: Withernsea Junior School in Kingston upon Hull, Coppice Primary School in Derby, Cwm Glas Primary School in Swansea, Rowdown Primary School in Croydon and Crowhurst CofE Primary School in Hastings. Each receives £1,000 worth of Yamaha instruments.

Children & the Arts would like to congratulate all the winners and thank everyone who took part.

## New Start Partners for 2010/11

The arts organisations joining our Start programme for 2010/2011 are: Belfast Exposed Photography; Burnley Youth Theatre; London Mozart Players; Mantle Arts, Leicestershire; Rambert Dance Company, working in London; Ruthin Craft Centre; The Junction, Cambridge; and Theatre by the Lake, Cumbria. This means that for the coming academic year we will be working with 37 arts organisations across the UK, giving access to the arts for over 15,000 young people who, without the work carried out by Start, would not otherwise have the opportunity.

**They are quite a challenging class, but they are always all totally involved in the Start workshops.**

Teacher, Woodpark Primary School, South Lanarkshire

## CHILDREN & THE ARTS' TEACHER ADVISORY GROUPS

The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts has set up three Teacher Advisory Groups from across the UK to help our charity focus on the best ways to fulfil our aims and plan our strategy for the future. The groups are made up of teachers with experience in Primary, Secondary and Special Educational Needs teaching, signing up for a three year cycle. The groups meet once a year in London and then are available to be contacted a few times a year to give advice when we are reviewing our current programmes, putting together new ones and planning for the future.

The first Teacher Advisory Group day was held in May and was a great success. We are grateful to all the teachers who have been involved so far. We are still looking for a few more teachers to join the groups, so if you are interested in helping us in this way please **contact us**.

## Support the Children & Arts Running Team!

On 10th October 2010 a team of 10 runners, including Children & the Arts' Ambassador Tim Minchin, will be taking part in The Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon. Each of the runners has pledged to raise £400 for Children & the Arts. Please support the team by **sponsoring them**.

## Save the Date

Children & the Arts' fabulous Carol Concert will be held on 9th December 2010. Tickets will go on sale in October. Don't miss your chance to attend this special event at St James' Church, Piccadilly. Celebrity performers to be confirmed.

## START AT THE NUFFIELD

The Nuffield has been working with Bassett Green Primary School for three years through Start. Despite the fact the theatre is less than half a mile away from the school, most of the children had never visited before.

**Our children wouldn't normally go to the theatre; lots of the younger ones wouldn't even know what a theatre is. Now they can say they've been there and they know it's just down the road.**

Teaching Assistant

Set in the middle of the Flowers Estate in Southampton, the pupils, their families and school staff deal daily with the challenges that arise from severe economic and social deprivation.

The team at Nuffield Theatre worked with the school to design different workshops for each year group linking to the theatre performances the pupils watched. These included the younger children creating collage characters from Alice in Wonderland for a display in the Nuffield's foyer whilst the older children took part in a session with the set designer.

Trips to theatres, galleries or museums, do not feature in the home lives of the vast majority of the children at Bassett Green Primary School. Engaging with the arts is not a high priority in their community for many valid reasons. For them, engaging with culture is not an issue of accessibility but of confidence and opportunity, both of which Start has provided for them.

Children & the Arts would like to thank the Eranda Foundation for their support of Start's theatre focused projects.



©The Nuffield

## Tamara Drewe Premiere

Remember to **sign up** for tickets for the UK premiere of Tamara Drewe, which is being held in aid of Children & the Arts!