

# Hybrid:articles

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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

## HYBRID ARTS LAUNCH NEW TRAINING SYMPOSIUMS

Hybrid Arts are launching a new series of inspiring Symposiums, at the heart of the buzzing Cultural Quarter, Leamington Spa.

### **YOUNG PEOPLE, DRUGS AND TECHNOLOGY – THE TRUE STORY.**

**Thursday 6th March 2008 9:30am – 4:30pm**

Technology, in all its many forms, rules the roost – and if you don't know how to manipulate technology yourself, then how can you truly reach young people? One of the most pertinent issues facing the young community is peer pressure surrounding drug abuse. This symposium is designed to give you the tools to get safe messages across using a language universal to young people – technology. The programme will involve a motivational session with movement specialist Maxwell Golden, a presentation of the hard facts with Tony Farquharson, drugs and alcohol guru impresario and delegates will have the opportunity to meet the Hybrid Arts Digital Natives, who will demonstrate how to manipulate technology in order to get safe messages across.

### **UNDERSTANDING HOW YOUNG PEOPLE COMMUNICATE WITH TECHNOLOGY.**

**Wednesday 27th February 2008 12:30-5.30pm**

In this exciting digital age technologies are constantly evolving and shaping the way we live and, crucially, how we communicate - and no one understands this better than young people. New media content is used as a valuable communication tool for the world's youth, integral to their daily lives as part of their social networking. This symposium is designed to break down the codes, explore new interactive media and increase understanding of how young people communicate with technology. The programme will explore forms of new media as communication tools, including a close and interactive look at popular social networking sites such as myspace, youtube, bebo and facebook, and will include a keynote speech from Michael Ryan, creative industries skills development at LSC.

Each symposium costs £125 per person, including lunch and learning tools. Booking forms can be downloaded from our website.

**[www.hybridarts.co.uk](http://www.hybridarts.co.uk)**



## NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

Hybrid:arts are very proud to announce that we were winners at the Positive Practice Awards, in the Information Sharing - Joining Health & Social Care Category, for our innovative harm reduction information for young people, produced in partnership with the Warwickshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

Hybrid:arts and the DAAT were commended for the ground breaking project, which produced a range of information products focusing on prevention and harm reduction amongst young people, including 3 DVDs on the themes of drugs, alcohol and sexual activity.

Lorna Ferguson, then lead commissioner for alcohol misuse services in Warwickshire says that "the main strength of this project is that it has cut across different age ranges and communicated with young people in their language. It has made information available that wasn't before." The Positive Practice Awards, now in their 5th year, are designed to celebrate the quality and commitment of the people who work in health and social care, with 2007's theme of 'High Flyers' flagging up innovation within the services.

We are pleased to be recognised for the pioneering work we have achieved with the DAAT and feel this is just the beginning of further positive partnerships to come.



An American academic research team is hosting a wiki on Digital Natives, "exploring the impacts of this generational demarcation between those born with these technologies and those who were not." The project will gain valuable insight into how digital natives make sense of their experiences online, and this information will assist in making recommendations to educators and legislators in a way that supports young people and harnesses the exciting possibilities their digital fluency presents. Full story next month...



## olympic corner

This month, London 2012 has launched the London 2012 Business Network, helping companies compete for London 2012 Games' business opportunities. The Network consists of three core elements:

- \*Information: on London 2012 business opportunities including policies and guidelines

- \*Events: national programme of business events run by London 2012

- \*CompeteFor: an online resource that gives access to London 2012 related business opportunities

The 'CompeteFor' service is the core of the new Network, described as a business 'dating agency' that will match companies to thousands of opportunities supplying London 2012 contractors. Up to a fifth of London 2012 supply chain opportunities are expected to go through the CompeteFor system.

[www.london2012.com/business](http://www.london2012.com/business)

Monday, 7 January 2008

## Self portrait - A new piece of art every day - Day 7

A brilliant and innovative new blog has hit the web - established local artiste and favourite of Hybrid:arts, James Vinciguerra, is providing all and sundry with a flash of brilliance every day of the week. James will be creating a new piece of art every day and putting it on his blog, viewable at <http://www.jamesvinciguerra.blogspot.com> Apparently, James finds it easier to draw with one eye closed...see image, right. "It makes the three dimensional two dimensional and I can see spatial distances better."

What a creative way of starting the new year - we should all take a leaf out of this book!



## the fine art of...beatboxing

Is human beatboxing a genuine art form? British beatboxer Shlomo, 23, has been appointed artist-in-residence at the Southbank Centre. This new appointment will serve to challenge preconceptions of beatboxing and market it as a genuine art form. In the first of a series of "Music Through Unconventional Means" concerts, Shlomo collaborated with special guests at the Queen Elizabeth Hall to bring beatboxing into the mainstream. He formed the UK's first beatbox choir last year, which headlined at the International Human Beatbox Convention, as part of 2007's Southbank Centre Ether Festival. He says: "The beatboxers who make it into an art form are musicians in the first place." Beatboxing is the art of vocal percussion, producing drum beats, rhythm and musical sounds primarily using one's mouth, lips, tongue and voice. There is no limit to the sounds that can be made. With support from many young people, including those that work with Hybrid:arts, I can foresee the 'beatboxing as art' debate continuing and growing in strength.

## everything stopped

In 2006 pupils from the Pavilion Study Centre, a Pupil Referral Unit in North London, took part in an intensive 3 week dance project with Protein Dance - an organisation with a reputation for producing accessible dance that explores how we cope with the contradictions of contemporary culture. The project was commissioned by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and supported by Arts Council England, and documented on film by director Dan Williams. The result is the moving DVD "Everything Stopped", referring to what one participant felt the moment she was excluded from school. The film presents the difficult but rewarding journey with young people who, by their own admission, saw themselves as rejects, but overcame their negativity to produce a remarkable piece of work of their own making. It is through the finished dance routine, set in a classroom and with school uniforms for costumes, that the young people undergo an imaginative reclamation of school and discover a way to get everything moving again.

"Everything Stopped" presents the challenges and success of the project, which testifies to the power of the arts in addressing the needs of young people at risk.



To request a copy of the DVD please email Nick Randell Associates at [dvd@nrassociates.co.uk](mailto:dvd@nrassociates.co.uk)

# THE ANTISOCIAL PAGE!

## think tank finds Asbos encourage crime

Leading think tank, *Institute for Public Policy Research*, has called for a more supportive approach to tackling antisocial behaviour in young people. They are due to issue a report arguing that all under-18s should be assessed by children's services before being given an Asbo. It is also likely to call for a ban on issuing orders to under-12s, unless they are accompanied by a supportive parenting or family order.

The think tank believes Asbos can encourage young people to commit more serious crime, by adopting an overly negative attitude.

Paul Cavadino, chief executive of crime reduction charity Nacro, agreed with the think tank's findings.

"Asbos have a high failure rate because they are an entirely negative approach," he said. "Children are much more likely to be diverted from crime by constructive measures to tackle the causes of their misbehaviour.

On the back of this information, MPs have called for a ban on Asbo's for under 18s. Under proposed new amendments of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill, instigated by two Labour backbenchers, young people would only be given an order if they committed antisocial behaviour alongside an adult. The Criminal Justice and

Immigration Bill was debated in the House of Commons this month. Updates to follow next month.



## whatever happened to respect...?

The Conservatives have taken to satire in their latest attack on Labour's antisocial behaviour policy - the widely publicised *Respect Agenda* - by launching their own *Fallen into Dis-Respect* (get it?!) review.

The review claims the government have failed to tackle antisocial behaviour or increase respect, with David Cameron accusing Gordon Brown of "washing his hands" of the *Respect* plan, saying that the solution to problems of violence on street level is to create a "social covenant" where government and society work together to address the issue, based on a "new optimism" which will empower us to "take back our streets." All sounds very rosy doesn't it?...

According to the National Audit Office the cost to government agencies of responding to reports of antisocial behaviour in England and Wales is approximately £3.4 billion per year. *Fallen into Dis-Respect* claims that 'Respect' failed to grasp the direct link between broken homes (and lack of a father figure), educational under-achievement, emotional stability, social disengagement with crime and unacceptable behaviour.

"Governments' rigid, centralised, bureaucratic command and control structure has failed to empower communities to address local problems...Radical reform should be backed up by a commitment to promote social enterprise, to re-invigorate local democracy and to create strong civic leadership."

"Rather than yet another cosmetic exercise we need a fundamental change of thinking. We need to address the broken society rather than a broken government."

In summary, it seems like yet another ridiculous exchange of words - but worth a read if you're in the mood for a tragic-comedy...!

[www.conservatives.com](http://www.conservatives.com)

...time for young people to emerge from the hoodie and give themselves the positive image they deserve

## conquering technology 'demons'...

"When it comes to technology, if Christmas is a time for giving, then New Year is a time for giving up." This somewhat defeatist attitude, summed up in a Youth Work Now article by Michael Bracey, leader of youth support services for Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, encapsulates the problem facing the youth service - when it comes to technology, they just haven't got it.

Although recognising the urgent need for youth work to modernise and progress into the digital age, the backwards way of thinking perfectly illustrated here is holding the service back shamefully. In fact, young people themselves - the digital natives - are putting them to shame. On the subject of gadgetry and the like, Bracey says:

"It's enough to make you reach for the off button. But before you do, consider this. Apparently, a staggering 37% of 10 year olds are now playing computer games for three hours or more a day, according to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study. And if that's what they're doing now, imagine what they will be like when they are 18. Let's just say they won't be scheduling in meetings using a pencil." ...Well, if they are having difficulty mastering something as basic as a computer or phone diary, then no wonder there are issues with the youth service embracing digital age as a whole!

"Like it or not, technology is rapidly changing our world. Last year, the Office for National Statistics reported that nearly 15 million households in the UK (61%) had internet access, an increase of just over four million households since 2002...Check out YouTube and do a search for "youth work". Apart from an entertaining clip of Tom Wylie, former chief executive of the NYA, in a hoodie and a great film from Liverpool Youth Service, it's not great. And it's even worse over on MySpace. These sites should be bursting with content showcasing young people's achievements." Rather than likening the spread of technology amongst young people and families to that of the Ebola virus, it's time for the youth service to accept that this is not a new movement, but rather an age in full swing, and realise that young people are already showcasing their work online—maybe it's not tagged under "youth work" as the very term itself has become associated with a stuffy backwardness light years away from real 'youth.'

Bracey asks: "But where are we? Ready to take non-formal education forward into the digital age? Prepared to use all this new technology to empower young people? In a word, no. We're to be found somewhere at the back."

Yes, and this will continue to be the case until attitudes are brought up to date. In reality, the rest of the world IS ready to use technology in an educational setting. In fact, Hybrid Arts and others already are - take a look at our Young Agents' page on YouTube, for example. Youth service - where have you been?!

[www.youtube.com/hybridfilms](http://www.youtube.com/hybridfilms)

## home internet access to become school requirement

In an interview with The Guardian Jim Knight, Schools Minister, indicated that all school age children will soon be required to have internet access at home as a supplement to their in-school studies, with the expectation placed on parents to provide IT in the same way as they are currently expected to supply school uniforms and stationary. The government is in discussions with leading IT companies, such as Microsoft, BT, and Sky, to see what support it can offer to families that do not have internet access.

Universal internet access is fast becoming a government priority, alongside plans to supply parents with online updates about their child's progress at school - an idea which Hybrid Arts have piloted through their online student portfolio log-in system, to great success.

The proposals to give all young learners access to IT, known as *Home Access*, has been driven by Knight, along with the set-up of a Home Access taskforce including representatives from the IT industry and the third sector. The plans have come about after concerns that over a million children in England do not have access to IT - making it harder for children from disadvantaged families to do well in education, widening the gap between rich and poor. Under the proposals, families who qualify for certain benefits could also be offered financial help to by equipment. The government is also keen that technology should be backed by training and educational support - which would be essential if such plans were to work realistically, in a world where not all families are computer literate or able to afford efficient IT support at home. Speaking at the Bett technology show, Knight said: "The so-called digital divide cannot be allowed to create and reinforce social and academic divisions."