

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

the invisible drop outs

The media have gone barmy about NEETS this month in response to figures being cited from all over the shop referring to some 100,000 reported 'missing' children who have fallen off the radar and are no longer attending school. An article in the Observer this month highlighted the growing trend of teenage 'drop outs'. Tens of thousands of school pupils disappear from the school rolls each year - the truants, the excluded and the bullied amongst others. These alarming figures have come to light in the wake of the Wasted Education paper, an eye-opening report from the Conservative think take Bow Group due to be published later this month.

- Last year 15,000 children in their GCSE year were missing from school registers
- Nearly 6,000 of them who were 14 in 2005 had 'disappeared' within a year
- When it came to exams, more than 70,000 pupils who should have been taking them did not turn up
- Twenty thousand pupils did not sit GCSE Maths and 26,700 missed out on English

Chris Skidmore, co-author of the report, blamed a 'relentless focus upon academic curriculum' for failing to meet the needs of these 'lost' children.

It is exactly this situation in which the existence of Hybrid:arts, and organisations like us, are justified. We believe it is crucial to catch young people before they fall, and utilising a creative approach to education allows us to do this successfully. In their recent newsletter, Futurelab summarised the problem perfectly:

"It seems that the broad, relatively simple answer is that public policy is so closely focused on schools that these 100,000 young people exist in peripheral vision. Is it Every Child Matters In School, rather than Every Child Matters?" There are a range of varied and rich e-learning services designed to educate children out of school, but their potential is just not being reached.



olympic corner

The 'new vision' for the Games has been revealed. The colourful design is very fresh, young and flexible, reflecting a world where young people respond to a 'dynamic brand that works with new technology and across traditional and new media networks'. The new London 2012 film, 'Everyone's 2012' was screened alongside the brand launch, highlighting how the Games are already capturing the imagination of people around the country, inspiring them to make positive changes in their lives on the road to 2012. The film was released simultaneously on the internet to thousands of bloggers who signed up to a blog-based online 'tease' campaign.



celebrating the brave and innovative

An inspiring multimedia youth project in the Thames Gateway area is aiming to present the first ever young people's "manifesto for urban development and regeneration" to the Government. Led by Creative Partnerships Thames Gateway, the Billboard Project enables 11 to 16 year olds to become community reporters, filmmakers and researchers. Young people are creating a range of materials focusing on the theme of regeneration in the area, including plans they would like to see implemented in the future. The group have customised a shipping container, called the Billboard Lab, which has been transformed into a fully functioning film studio and is used to tour schools around the region, spreading the word. It is hoped that this idea will be rolled out on a national scale.

www.billboardproject.co.uk/project/thames_gateway_forum_0

hybrid:faces

Here's a window into the world of Hybrid:arts and the people who make it all happen.

Nicky Everett

Nicky leaves Motionhouse Dance Theatre as Marketing Officer this month to focus on a freelance career in arts management. Nicky is founding partner of The Lift Creative Services, offering a broad range of services from project management, marketing and development to tour booking, consultancy, branding and web and email campaigns - in fact Nicky was behind the web branding campaign for Spencer Yard. She has left a lasting legacy at Motionhouse, and we'll certainly miss bumping into her in the kitchen here at the Yard! But we hope to be working with Nicky on future Hybrid projects - watch this space...

www.theliftrightcreativeservices.com



Alice Wigley

The Hybrid:arts effect doesn't just impact upon young people... We are proud to be connected with practising artists and, yet again, here's an example of one of our trainers rocketing into the creatives industries in the Capital. Alice worked with our Re@ctiv8 group, using her people skills and great patience to engage the group in a series of animation sessions. She recently said goodbye to Hybrid:arts to embark on a new and, might I add, rather glamorous career in London. "I'm enjoying London life very much. I've got a permanent job at a post production company called 'Smoke & Mirrors' in Soho. It's good fun I get to run around in the sunshine and everyone's really lovely and fun. It's kind of an apprentice position so I'll move up into the company after about a year, which is cool." Congratulations, Alice!



launch of Coventry Foyer

Congratulations to The Foyer in Coventry on a brilliant launch. The event provided the perfect opportunity for guests to learn more about what the Foyer does and to meet the young people it supports. It was especially positive that residents were given the opportunity to demonstrate their confidence and ability to attendees. The Foyer aims to provide additional and much needed accommodation for disadvantaged local people aged between 16 and 24 years. Hybrid:arts support the project 100%, recognising that the encouragement and support provided by the Foyer is key in order for residents to acquire life skills and become independent. The extensive training facilities at the Foyer, including two dedicated training rooms and an Information Technology Suite, is set to truly change the lives of young people. Ursula Russell MBE, former Chair of the local Learning and Skills Council and patron of Hybrid:arts, demonstrated her continued support of the Foyer by attending the launch. She was joined by Margaret Dorman-Frost, former Chair of Spon Street Traders Association, Steve Stewart OBE, Chair of Trustees, Jim Cunningham MP and Jimmy Boyle, Coventry City Councillor (see picture, from left) To learn about the Electronic Graffiti Hybrid:arts delivered with residents at the Foyer, funded by CSWP, please visit

www.hybridarts.co.uk/projects/foyerEG.html

Picture far right: Foyer residents



Futuresonic Manchester 2007 - reporting by Tim Ellis

Well, I didn't know what to expect when visiting the FS festival in Manchester and have mixed feelings having been for the first time (as far as actual organisation goes, they could do with some German efficiency).

First call, Faust at Academy 2 Oxford Road - they started off a wee bit concrete for my liking, making the art music they became famous for (not my cup of tea) so I got a bit worried that I was actually at the wrong gig. However I persevered, once they started the multi layered drone thing with minimalist lyrics I started getting into it and by the time they got the chain saw and electric drills out I was a Faust fan. The only real disappointment was the accompanying visuals / film show - in an age when it's possible to see truly original video art synchronised to music or sound, Faust decided to show tapes of a couple of them rehearsing with a few default video effects applied.



Next to Kro Bar where we have workshops on experimental art / technology, highlights for me were:

"video sniffing" MediaShed are (legally) hacking into wireless CCTV networks and turning the location into a temporary film set.

"spy kiting" - well I was hoping to actually fly a kite equipped with a camera but MediaShed admitted this was a project in its infancy as they only tried it a couple of times and only with materials they had to hand - nice idea though, we may try this!

"Locomash" and "Locoblog" are research projects by Mobile Radicals, headed up by a senior Dr at Lancaster University. The projects are similar to our own CincofiveCinco (555) integrating GPS to automatically map the image sent from a mobile phone, something we have been looking at for the next phase of the 555 project.

Contact Theatre was the hub of the festival, and here I found a collection of films by Telcosystems and Semiconductor - these people have coded their own software to link digital sound and picture / pixel. The performance is a joint effort that sees Semiconductor creating forms and compositions on the fly through a process of drawing and manipulation, whilst the computer 'listens' to the audio, realising and animating the digital creations to its resonance - worth a look - www.semiconductorfilms.com

Telcosystems' work can probably be best described as computer art. The essence lies in self-developed software, allowing computers to generate and compose image and sound. Telcosystems use hardly any source material that stems from outside the machines. Everything is built up from digital, synthetic elements that create image and sound in 'real time'. www.telcosystems.net

The closing night at Underground club includes a return of the original 60's light show from the famous UFO club and a set by Kraftwerk hero Wolfgang Flur - interestingly enjoyable to be there but he seemed a bit stuck on 90's euro disco whilst the visuals, a mix of oily colour wheels and swirly filters, seemed a bit tired and the mainly drunken student audience didn't seem to realise the significance of Flur the pioneer in their midst. The closing party was much more fun down at Islington Mill in Salford - the venue, unchanged from working mill to stark stone, metal venue. Here we have energetic sets from Warp wunderkind Clark blends decimated MPC loops, live drums and trademark melodies, creating a perfect balance of abstraction and focus. Alexander Robotnick is also on hand to spin his famous blend of Italo-Disco and electro whilst the madcap 303 alchemy of Ceephax Acid Crew. Support on the night comes from Legowelt and Replex legend, Cylob.

Anyway, as is always the case with a festival like FutureSonic, it's impossible to see everything - just go and try to hear something.

www.futuresonic.com

want to see the music videos produced by the Hybrid:arts Young Agents?...then visit

www.youtube.com/profile?user=hybridfilms

