

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

new website is live and dangerous

Yes indeed, the shiny new hybrid:arts website is officially up and running and waiting for you to contribute! Visit www.hybridarts.co.uk to keep up to date with the latest arts and training news, find out how our loveable LYC lads are getting on and learn about available courses and openings. You can get your views heard by logging in at <http://tryitout.hybridarts.co.uk> - a space for students, staff, partners and the plain curious to contribute to the Hybrid:arts world - not to mention the home of the Hybrid Blog. And to whet your appetite further you are going to be treated to an exclusive snippet of *Hybrid:arts Take On The System - And The World*. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin...

Theme: Big brother. 'Hybrid:arts discover they have a lot more in common with MI5 than you would think.'

Opening Scene: to be narrated by Velvet Johnny. Scene opens with Tim sitting at his desk, opening his morning emails. He is sitting in his comfy swivel chair, looking finely balanced between an intellectual and a gangster, casually twirling a pen between the fingers of his left hand. He is dressed all in black. In fact, he looks like a spy.

J: Meet Tim Ellis, Creative Director of Hybrid:arts. This morning, Tim is greeted with an email of a different calibre from the usual offers of Viagra. An entrepreneurial head teacher from a school in the region has sent Tim a piece of music he has composed himself. Think Vivaldi meets New Order...

The music is played. Tim and other people in office, Stella and Gemma, stop working, sit completely still and dumbfounded.

G: I love it!

Roll titles. Need to have amusing title music - Am thinking Sex Pistols. Or Sinatra "My Way".

continued at www.hybridarts.co.uk

The olympic corner

The Organising Committee of the 2012 Games launched a set of Education Materials at the end of last month, designed to "help excite and engage children and young people across the UK" about the Games. Well it certainly sounds, er, 'exciting'...but what does it actually mean? The materials, marketed under the name 'On Your Marks!', are the first step of the London 2012 Education Programme, developed with key national education partners including the DfES. It has been set up to promote the Olympic values in an educational environment and provide young people with opportunities to engage and be inspired by the Games and get them thinking positively about sport and culture. The 'On Your Marks' kit, targeted at 7-14 year olds, is available as an interactive online resource at www.london2012.com/onyourmarks - providing fact sheets, news articles, an image bank and cross curricular teaching ideas and resources. 'On Your Marks' promises to build an inspirational bridge between the Games and education, bringing the experience to young people in a positive and meaningful way. The best way to get young people excited and motivated is by talking to them - so the interactive element of the site will play an integral role in engaging young people in culture, showing them how they can get involved personally and, in turn, motivating them to achieve their potential in line with the true spirit of the Games.

www.london2012.org



Launch extravaganza

Thursday 21st of September saw Spencer Yard proverbially lit up through sheer enthusiasm, verve and artistry when more than 150 guests from far and wide joined us in celebration of the launch of our studio at the Cultural Quarter. The move reflects the beginning of a stable and progressive new phase. Hybrid:arts showcased our new abode with the kind of glamour we are now accustomed to, complete with star guest speakers in the form of James Plaskitt MP (who attended virtually, in true Hybrid:arts style, via a special video presentation), Steve Stewart OBE, Executive Director of CSWP Connexions and Ursula Russell MBE, former chair of the LSC. Steve summed up our cause perfectly in his speech, saying: "The lesson has been learned – we have to captivate and engage learners with things that they enjoy. Which, of course, leads us here at Hybrid:arts."

"There are 293 young people in Leamington and Warwick who aren't engaged in employment, education or training. 63 young people are on



the youth offending team. 48 young people who left school in year 11 and applied to some form of education or training haven't had a reply – so if you wanted a business case for why we need a place like Hybrid:arts, the facts speak for themselves."

In addition, guests were treated to demonstrations of young people's work and performances, including graphics and music demos and a professional break-dancing performance by the local Kombat Breakers.

STOP PRESS!!! The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by our newly appointed patron Ursula Russell. Not only was this a symbolic gesture marking the occasion, it also gave us the opportunity to express our thanks to Ursula in accepting this integral role within our organisation.

And as if this wasn't enough, young volunteers gave guided tours of the state-of-the-art facilities, making use of the elegant terrace for an outdoor soiree of food, refreshments, good company, overlooking the River Leam. Evidence is provided above.

Warwick Words

We would like to congratulate Helen Meeke and the Festival team on another successful and inspiring Warwick Words Literary Festival.

This year's annual festival of literature and spoken word was held in Warwick between the 5-8 October, attracting visitors from all over the region and beyond.

Warwick Words was the first festival of its kind to be held in Warwick back in 2002, and it continues to grow stronger with each passing year. The festival adds another layer of culture in the realm of the spoken word to Warwick District.

At this year's event it was announced that Warwick's Poet Laureate for 2006 is Helen Yendall, with her winning poem 'Kettle.'

www.warwickwords.co.uk



Dot mobi madness

For those of you who have heard about the dot-mobi movement on the virtual grapevine, your thoughts may be running along the lines of: Just what is all this dot-mobi business about? What does it all mean? And who really cares anyway? Well, Hybrid:arts care and we have officially boarded the dot-mobi bandwagon.

In brief, dot-mobi is the first top level domain (TLD) dedicated to the better delivery of the internet to mobile phones and other hand-held wireless devices. This means that dot-mobi will be the new suffix for web sites that are specifically designed to be viewed on small screens.

Although there is some controversy as to whether this is actually necessary or useful, Hybrid:arts firmly believe there is a bright future in dot-mobi, and we're hoping our trainees will benefit from the service. We have applied for hybridarts.mobi, and have great aspirations for the site – it will provide an unrivalled means of communication with staff and trainees, through a medium fully embraced and used frequently by our target group.

For the full story on the dot-mobi debate and what it could do for you visit the article archive at

www.hybrid:arts.co.uk

Expulsion madness

A recent article in the Warwick Observer stated that the number of pupils being expelled from Warwick district's schools has soared over the last few years, with 34 expulsions in the last academic year - more than double the rate of 2003. A further 250 pupils were temporarily excluded, and more than half of these pupils were repeat offenders. Across Warwickshire as a whole, expulsions rose by 60%. Reasons for these decisions included violence and verbal abuse, racism, bullying, theft, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual misconduct. According to Geoff King, the council's head of commissioning, said the increase reflects a small number of secondary schools not having effective procedures to deal with problems, and some school heads being less tolerant of disruptive children. In response the council have pledged to develop more "peer meditation". This would involve fellow pupils working together to resolve disputes, as well as implementing a peer mentoring system with older pupils. This support is a step in the right direction. We have already seen the benefits of peer mentoring here at Hybrid, enrolling ex-trainees on our peer mentoring programme, themselves once disruptive pupils. The best way to curb the alarming readiness to expell pupils and effectively give up on them, is to react positively to the issue, working together with schools and pupils alike to get disaffected young people back on tract and, in turn, fostering a sense of respect that will act as a preventative measure.

