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Educational Impact

Warwick Arts Centre's long-established education programme demonstrates our commitment to working in partnership with local participants to help make the arts enrich the lives of everyone. In 2006/2007, 28,000 children from Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull participated in our activities.

Through our educational work, Warwick Arts Centre allows young people to:

- use the arts as a means of achieving a greater understanding of the world
- develop skills in and an understanding of the arts
- have increased access to and appreciation of the arts

Education Projects

The Education Department works primarily with children and young people in mainstream and special schools. The focus is mainly on those children for whom involvement in artistic activity is rare and who would not, as a matter of course, visit an Arts Centre or University campus. Two of the biggest projects in 2007, were Cov Cool Kids and Boys2Dance.

Cov Cool Kids

3,500 children in 21 primary and special schools across Coventry worked with 20 professional artists to create new works of drama, dance and music and shared them with their friends and families. Additionally they visited professional performances at the Arts Centre and teachers undertook training to develop their skills and confidence in working in the arts. The project elicited many positive responses from children, teachers and parents alike:-

"She can be anxious in new situations but at Warwick Arts Centre she was calm and composed and loved all of the performance. Her eyes were like saucers following the people and listening to the music... During our own performance she rose to the occasion with style and flair."

"The best thing I enjoyed was doing the final performance because it was fun and we got to improve our acting skills."

"We feel that creativity through the arts is now higher on the agenda since taking part in Cov Cool Kids. Thank you for enabling us all with the opportunity to celebrate and achieve through the arts."

"Performing to an unknown and very large audience is something that has given self-confidence and raised self-esteem to those who are usually unwilling to put themselves on the spot."

Credit: Oily Cart, Big Balloon



Boys2Dance

Aims to prove to adolescent boys that dance can most definitely be for them. Through engagement in choreographic composition, rehearsal and performance alongside the appreciation of others work, boys develop skills in and appreciation of contemporary dance. This year professional artists worked with number of schools to make *Open Windows*, performed in the theatre to a full and extremely enthusiastic audience.

Family Programming

Primarily programmed for families at weekends, performances are aimed mainly at children aged 3+ with puppetry, theatre and participatory work. This programme complements the larger scale programme of theatre, music, dance, film and activities presented in the school holidays. A youth theatre for 8 to 18 year olds is run by the education team, giving young people the chance to learn new skills, build confidence and perform in a professional venue. The gallery also runs a programme of Saturday afternoon art workshops for families led by artists from the region involving over 200 participants per term.

Learning Opportunities within the Programme

Many of the companies performing at Warwick Arts Centre also create an education programme to accompany their work. The Education Department liaises between companies and schools to enhance and deepen students' and teachers' experience. Additionally, the Education team manage numerous visits by schools to the sculpture and colour trail on campus, as well as offering a work experience programme twice a year, allowing students to experience the different roles and departments who work together to create and support the varied programme.

Contact the Education Department

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“I think it was outstanding. The performance was the best we ever did.”

