

What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
August				
4	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Subject: Portrait Painting	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
9	11-12.30pm	School Days Reminiscence Project	Slough Library	01753 353166
16	11-12.30pm	School Days Reminiscence Project	Slough Museum	01753 526422
18	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Subject: Criticism	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
23	11-12.30pm	School Days Reminiscence Project	Slough Library	01753 353166
September				
1	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Subject: Paint a Country Cottage	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
6	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group Social Evening: New goals and light bites	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
13	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group Plays - Reading with Total Theatre Workshop Company	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
14	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
15	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Subject: Hollywood!	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
20	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
20	8pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society - Lift to the Scaffold	Windsor Parish Hall	01784 434868
21	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
27	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group Craft: A chilling tale with Merle Fletcher	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
27	8.00pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society - Round Midnight	Windsor Parish Hall	01784 434868
28	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
October				
4	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
5	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
6	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Subject: General discussion/ Criticism	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
6-15		Exhibition of artwork from Ugandan Artist	Slough Museum	01753 526422
11	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group Write Night	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
12	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
19	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
20	7.30pm	Slough Art Society - Demonstration in watercolour by Andrew Michael Smith	Red Cross HQ, Upton Hospital	01753 532678
21-24	Various	"The Deranged Marriage" RIFCO production	The West Wing Facility	01753 570770
25	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers Group Discussion	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
26	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868

*artsinfo

The quarterly newsletter for Slough's arts community

Inside this issue:

>> The artsinfo interview: RIFCO >> 4

>> artsinfo website goes live >> 5

>> New opportunities >> 7

Slough wins Art Plus Award

Slough Borough Council's Art at the Centre is one of the Development Award Winners for Art Plus 2005.

Chief Executive of South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Pam Alexander and Executive Director, Arts Council England, South East, Felicity Harvest announced the 10 winning ideas to receive development funding for the South East's Art Plus Awards - the UK's biggest awards scheme for art in public places.

"Ten unique and innovative project proposals to be located around the South East were picked from 132 applications of outstandingly high quality" said Felicity Harvest.

Art Plus is a joint initiative by Arts Council England, South East and SEEDA which seeks fresh ideas to enliven the design of our environment - whether streets or public spaces - and to promote excellence in commissioning artwork.

Five artists and five organisations are being awarded a total of £75,000 are now being awarded to develop their ideas in consultation with local communities. In March 2005, a selection panel will decide which outstanding projects will win the final Art Plus Award.

Art at the Centre, Slough is a new scheme to create a more inviting public space and improve the quality of design of Slough High Street. Over the coming years Art at the Centre will be working with local communities to develop design concepts for the High Street.

For further information about Art at the Centre please contact: Art at the Centre, Slough Borough Council, Town Hall, Slough SL1 3BR, email: artatthecentre@slough.gov.uk or call Roger Kirkham, Art at the Centre Project Manager on 01753 875840.

Useful Websites

Here are some websites you may find useful:

- >> www.slough.gov.uk/arts The new Arts Development website for the arts in Slough
- >> www.rifcoonline.com Website giving further details about RIFCO and their past and future productions
- >> www.sloughcoopfilmsoc.freeserve.co.uk Details of how to join the film society can be found here
- >> www.sloughmuseum.co.uk Lots of events over the summer to keep the children amused
- >> www.sloughcvs.org.uk SCVS offers advice to volunteer groups through funding information and training

Local Arts

*artsinfo

Editor:
Lorna Allen
Sub Editors:
Rebecca Cairns
Kevin Harrison

© 2004 SBC all rights reserved

*artsinfo
Arts Development
Slough Borough Council
Town Hall, Bath Road
Slough SL1 3UQ

Tell us your news!
What's happening in your area?
Send articles, news stories and
pictures to artsinfo@slough.gov.uk

*Title photos: Art Plus award
Slough High Street
Photographer: Brian Tollington*

*artsinfo August - October 2004

*artsinfo is published four times a year and is free of charge. The publication aims to raise the profile of the arts, artists and creative industries in Slough.

To receive a regular copy, please call: 01753 875667
minicom: 01753 875030
email: artsinfo@slough.gov.uk or
download at www.slough.gov.uk/arts

Articles and pictures for inclusion in the next *artsinfo must be submitted by 1 October 2004.

While every care is taken with submitted material, the editor regrets that no responsibility can be taken for material that is lost or damaged. The views expressed in *artsinfo do not necessarily reflect official council policy. The editor would like to thank everyone who has submitted articles for inclusion in *artsinfo.

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
Borough Council

One big weekend in Slough

Arts Alive

Slough town centre was the place to be on 10th July. The Arts Alive festival brought free street art right into the heart of the borough - all part of Slough's One Big Weekend.

From the wonderful to the weird, some of the best national and regional street arts companies performed alongside Slough's very own local artists, community groups and school children.



>> Artist in action - Jon Hicks

Austin Nicholas

Slough gets on its feet for Dance in the Park!

More than 6,000 people enjoyed a unique new festival of high quality professional dance and performances by local young people, at Slough's first ever Dance in the Park festival.

The free event, featured spectacular and memorable performances across a wide range of dance styles.

Two large stages hosted a continuous series of live performances all afternoon, and leading Bollywood figure Honey Kalaria, seen recently on Channel 4's 'Bollywood Star' programme, led an estimated 1,000-1,100 people in a mass Bollywood dance routine, just one of many highlights of the festival.

>> Carnival atmosphere at Dance in the Park



Brian Tollington

Slough Enterprise Hub seeks young entrepreneurs

Slough Enterprise Hub is running a Business Plan competition for young media/creative entrepreneurs. Your business idea might be to set up a new fashion label, start a web design company, a graphic design studio or a film production company. If you are between 16-25 and you've got a good idea for a creative business, but are just not quite sure of the next step - this is the competition for you.

To qualify for the workshop, send your business idea in simple terms to Dom Oliver at Slough Enterprise Hub by 20 August 2004. Dom can be contacted on 01753 553 374 for an application form. You have the chance to win free office space in the Hub, business cards, books and business support and at the same time, launch a new career.



>> Dom Oliver at Slough Enterprise Hub

Do you have an idea for an arts project in Slough?

The Arts Development Team is available to provide information and support in putting together applications for funding for arts projects in Slough.

If you would like their help please contact the team on 01753 875667, minicom: 01753 875030 or email: artsinfo@slough.gov.uk

Awards for All awards grants between

£500 and £5,000 to local community group projects which aim to extend access and participation, increase skills and creativity, and improve quality of life in the local community through a variety of activities including the arts.

For an application form call 0845 600 2040, or use text phone: 0845 7556656. Or download a form online at www.awardsforall.org.uk

SEEDA Sustainable Business Awards for the South East 2004: Social Enterprise Category

This year, SEEDA's nationally recognised Sustainable Business Awards for the South East will have a special Social Enterprise Category.

The SEEDA awards aim to recognise and celebrate those organisations that are mainstreaming sustainable development in both their daily operations and their strategic planning.

To download a copy of the application form, go to: www.seeda.co.uk/Publications/Sustainable_Development/docs/SBA_Application_Information.pdf or contact Liz Gall at SEEDA on 01483 470 141 for a hard copy.

Bursaries for disabled artists

Newly formed Disability Arts Agency DADA-South is offering six bursaries for disabled artists, in any art form, living in the south-east of England. The Go Make! bursary scheme has been launched to help create a visual identity for the new agency.

Contact Kath Gorman on 020 7269 7745 or email: kath@redfront.co.uk

Kick start your community activity with a grant

Slough Borough Council is offering grants of up to £1,000 towards community activities and events across the borough.

Grants are also available for new groups wanting to set up and work with local people to help regenerate their local area. The Kick Start Grants programme is new this year and the council is inviting applications. The grants are usually up to £1,000 and no more than £2,000.

For more information on the Kick Start Grants contact the council's Voluntary Sector and Partnerships Unit on 01753 875553 or 875610.

Crossroads Workshops

Slough Crossroads is providing a series of workshops for disabled children aged 8-16 during the summer holidays. These will be led by professional artists, and at the end of the summer it is anticipated that there will be an exhibition to display the work. Funding for this project was obtained from the Awards for All Scheme and the Arts Council.

For further information please contact Jackie Yokota on 01753 547799.

Local News

Changing Faces

There are new faces joining the arts community in Slough.

Lorna Allen will be working with the Arts Development team as editor of **★artsinfo** newsletter over the next year and brings with her a host of experience of editing and writing newsletters.

Liz Broekmann has been promoted to Principal Librarian: Children and Young People at Slough Library and is looking forward to this new position.

Elaine Fisher has been appointed Curator for Slough Museum. She was previously the Curator at the British Red Cross Museum and Archives in London.

The Arts Development team has appointed **Kevin Harrison** as Assistant Arts Development Officer. Kevin joins the team from an arts development role at Shape in London, a charity that opens up access to the

arts, enabling greater participation by deaf, disabled and older people.

Alison Hibbert has recently been appointed as Creative Academy manager. Alison joins the team from the Heart of Slough initiative.

Sarah Jones has been promoted from After Hours Co-ordinator at Slough Young People's Centre to Operations and Development Manager.

George Kirkham has been appointed Creative Academy Co-ordinator and will be responsible for developing the Creative Academy projects. George was previously Arts Development Officer for SYPC and was responsible for developing arts programmes for young people.

Mirka Naplavova is the new Community Development Worker for Small Groups in the Slough area. The project continues to support small voluntary and community groups through advice, consultancy and information.

Rob Persey will be starting with Slough Borough Council from early August as Assistant Director, Cultural Services. With a background in planning, sport and tourism Rob is joining from the Audit Commission in London where he has been the regional service lead for culture. The Assistant Director post has been newly created to raise the profile of the cultural sector and further embed in the community and across the council much of the good work already being delivered in Slough.

Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month at Slough Libraries, with displays, exhibitions, events and activities for all - and take part in the Fasting for Faith presentation.

Find out more from your local library, or on the library website: www.sloughlibrary.org.uk. Alternatively call Haneesa Nisar at Slough Library on 01753 535166.

Art with a message

Pupils from four secondary Slough schools have been working with the internationally acclaimed Ugandan artist, David Odwar to create over 250 clay figures, each with a unique message about what it means to look after and care for others. The clay work has been inspired by David's Ugandan background and the pupils' own interpretation of the citizenship theme, 'Looking After Others'.

David delivered assemblies in schools about village life in Uganda and contrasting and comparing life for a child in Slough and in Uganda. Pupils then produced clay masks. David spends a lot of time travelling between Uganda and this country, developing people's cultural understanding about his homeland. This has led to a BBC documentary about David and his work.

The clay figures will be displayed in an exhibition at Slough Museum in October.



>> An example of a pupil's work

Creative Spanish is fun!

Have you ever thought about learning a language whilst having fun? And how singing a song can help you to remember words in another language?

These are the main principles of Creative Spanish, an arts project funded by Creative Partnerships and managed by singer and dancer Gloria Garcia. The main aim of Creative Spanish is to teach Spanish through the arts, music, dance and drama. Gloria Garcia explains "When you

introduce the arts in a learning environment, Spanish is perceived as fun and it's more natural to learn. The kids are learning and having fun!"

The project has been developed in various Slough schools. Some of the activities include: learning and singing Spanish songs, learning Spanish words associated with dancing salsa and flamenco, drama representation and role-play.

Student comments included, "I've had loads of fun. Spanish is easier to remember with the songs and I feel more confident speaking in Spanish" and "It is great to have activities like these as we can use our imagination and be more creative".

The project has increased the Profile in Spanish in many schools and the activities are intended to be developed again during the next academic year.



>> Gloria Garcia teaching flamenco dance to Castlevue students

Local focus

Arts week

Pupils at Holy Family Catholic School in Langley enjoyed an exciting Arts Week in June. Parents, teachers, musicians, dancers and artists led workshops in African and Indian dance, special effects make-up, henna painting and felt-making.

Artist Chris Gibbs worked with children from the Nursery class up to Year 6, teaching them how to make felt and decorate it with embroidery and applique. These new skills were used to create a 7' x 4' embroidered felt wall hanging. The school ran an art competition for pupils to create their own picture about creation. The 6 winning entries had an element of their pictures included in the overall design. Some formed part of the background depicting the earth and sky from morning till night.

Join the Slough Arts Development marketing list

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 we are required to gain your 'informed consent' to add your name and details on to our marketing list.

We would like you to join this list so that we can send you ★artsinfo and information about funding programmes/events/performances/workshops and training organised by Slough Arts Development, other Slough Borough Council departments, other local or regional community/arts/education organisations we think are relevant.

We will also use the information we will hold to assist towards statistics used to promote the Arts.

Training

Slough Partnership Training

The following free training is available to voluntary and community groups this season:

Managing Your Group's Money

21st September 2004, 6.00 - 8.30pm
Trainer: Slough Council for Voluntary Service

Effective Budgeting

5th October 2004, 6.00 - 8.30pm
Trainer: Slough Council for Voluntary Service and Slough Borough Council

For full details of all courses available please contact Slough Council for Voluntary Service on 01753 524176.

Free Professional Development Training for Teachers

A FREE three-day programme aimed at teachers involved in running arts projects in schools in Slough. The course is run by the Arts Development Team on behalf of Creative Partnerships, and is based on the highly successful and nationally recognised CATS

(Community Arts Training in Slough), aiming to equip teachers with tools they need to organise and run creative arts projects in schools.

The course will run on Monday 4th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 20th October at Thames Valley University.

For more information and booking forms, please contact the team on 01753 875667, minicom: 01753 875030 or email: artsinfo@slough.gov.uk

What is RIFCO and how did it come about as a company?

RIFCO stands for the Reduced Indian Film Company. We have changed our name to RIFCO, as is easier to say and is more inclusive. We are a multicultural company rather than specifically Indian focussed. RIFCO was formed in 1986 by a group of actors and directors who started collaborating, forming a professional theatre company with a multicultural focus. We're a national touring company with at least one national tour a year. We are also a local company and working with the local community in Slough is one of our main aims. Slough is very multicultural and diverse and our focus is on inclusion. RIFCO's work is linked closely to Slough, and draws its influences from the people of Slough.

Who's who at RIFCO?

I, Pravesh Kumar, am the Artistic Director of RIFCO, Sanjay Sharma is Administrative Manager and Lucy Bradley is our Development Officer. Two other people working closely with us are Andy Kumar, our choreographer and Apurva Asrani, our film director.

How would you characterise your work?

Our aim as a company is to bring in new audiences to the arts, with a focus towards theatre. People have forgotten the beauty of live performance. There hasn't been a theatre in Slough for 15 years. Another focus is outreach work with young people and elders. I really believe that the arts can develop and enhance peoples' lives.

When will you next be performing in Slough? Tell us about the production.

'The Deranged Marriage', comes from Slough, with stories from schools in the local community. A national tour starting in September will end at the West Wing, a new venue in Slough in October. The homecoming gala will take place on the 21st October and there will be performances from the 21st through to 24th October, including Sunday.

You could say that 'The Deranged Marriage' is another play about arranged marriages. It is however, unique, as we invite the audience to take part in the wedding, and they are guests throughout the performance. You will see all the mandatory elements of an arranged wedding and romantic comedy, but as it is so integral to Slough, it looks at the issues in the community, and reflects these with a culturally diverse cast.

What can an audience expect from a RIFCO performance?

They can expect fun and entertainment. They will also leave with something, as there is always an extra element to our shows. Yes, they will leave with a thought and a smile.

What are your plans for the future?

To make us integral to the Slough community, to work with Slough and to develop strong roots here. We want to become a resource to the community.

For further details please contact RIFCO on 01753 570770 or you can access their website at www.rifcoonline.com. Their address is: The West Wing, Stoke Road, Slough, SL2 5AY.

>> RIFCO's 'The Deranged Marriage'



Marketing List - entry form

Please complete in CAPITAL letters

First Name

Surname

Position (if applicable)

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Postcode

Tel No

Fax No

Email

Website

Professional Artist Voluntary Artist

Professional Arts Org Voluntary Arts Org

How would you like to receive information from us:

Post Email

Please tick the box if you would like us to share your details with other relevant organisations as detailed overleaf.

Please return this form to: Arts Development, Slough Borough Council, FREEPOST (SCE 8944), SLOUGH, SL1 3BR

Launch of ★artsinfo online www.slough.gov.uk/arts

The Arts Development team is pleased to launch artsinfo online, a new website for the arts in Slough. It is a new resource for Slough's artists, arts organisations, schools and voluntary groups. It offers advice, support and information about the arts in Slough. Whether you are looking for a creative professional to work with, seeking arts funding for a project or are an artist who teaches or leads workshops, the website will provide a wealth of information.

★artsinfo online includes an archive of artsinfo newsletters, case studies of projects and guidance about fundraising for arts projects. A searchable directory of artists who live or work in Slough will help link practitioners and groups together for projects.

Artists' Directory Goes Online

With the launch of ★artsinfo online, registered users of the site are now able to access details of artists who work or live in Slough, via the website. The online searchable directory provides information about artists who have experience of arts in education and community settings. Any professional artist, creative professional or arts organisation based in the area can submit their details online and profile themselves to the local community. This is a valuable opportunity to link practitioners to groups, and for artists to access information about available training in Slough.

Questionnaire for Slough Artists

Slough Arts Development, in collaboration with Berkshire Arts Partnership is planning a series of one-day workshops for artists. We are interested to find out about the training that artists would like. We have included a questionnaire with this edition of ★artsinfo. Please return responses to Freepost, Arts Development, Slough Borough Council, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UQ.

If you require further information please call us on 01753 875667, minicom: 01753 875030 or email: artsinfo@slough.gov.uk.

Artist's network meeting

Come along to the West Wing Arts Facility on Wednesday 6th October at 6pm, to meet and network with other artists from Slough. The Arts Development team is planning a pilot series of professional development opportunities for artists and is interested to hear your views. The evening will also include a tour of the new West Wing venue.

The artists' network meetings are supported by the Arts Development team and Slough Enterprise Hub. Please contact Nick Ebanks to RSVP on 01753 697815 or with any questions at nick.ebanks@tvu.ac.uk

Good news for filmgoers

Slough Co-operative Film Society is to continue its weekly screenings at the UGC Cinema, commencing on Tuesday 14th September. UGC Cinemas was very pleased with the response to the last programme of films, which saw the Society's membership increase significantly, and is keen for the partnership to continue. The Society has been showing quality films from around the world for nearly 60 years. It

continues to work with community groups and organisations. Following a successful screening for Refugee Week is proposing a special film presentation for Black History Month in October.

The Society will also be screening two films with a 'Jazz Film French Connection' theme in the Windsor Fringe Festival in September. Films

featured are Lift to the Scaffold (1957) and Round Midnight (1986) - films with two of the greatest jazz soundtracks.

For more information about the Society, membership and future programme, contact Dudley Smithers on 01784 434868 or visit www.sloughcoopfilmsoc.freeserve.co.uk