

★artsinfo

The quarterly newsletter for Slough's growing arts community

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A £50,000 Plus for Art in the High Street

Slough Borough Council has won a £50,000 Art Plus Award to help revitalise Slough High Street. The grant was awarded by the Arts Council England, South East and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

Roger Kirkham, project manager, said, 'This is in recognition of Slough's innovative approach to urban design. It will go towards commissioning a specific piece of public art work for the Art at the Centre project, to transform the High Street using creative arts and landscape design.'

The £4million project was launched for public consultation on March 15. Three landscape designers, selected from a national competition, have been displaying their designs, alongside proposals for elements of the High Street from 11 artists, at various venues in Slough. The people who live and work in Slough have been asked their opinions about the designs to help inform the final selection. The design companies have

interpreted the brief very differently with common elements such as lighting, paving, artwork and seating seen in many forms. Plasma screens displaying artwork, kiosks for live performances and winter ice rinks are just some of the exciting ideas being considered.

Building Design Partnership has created a ribbon of multi-coloured recycled glass and lighting floorscape running along the length of the high street. Urban Initiatives' design features small decorative lights on wires zig-zagging across the high street giving the town a bright and celebratory air. Planting plays an important part of Waterman Burrow Crocker and Allen Scott Associates' design. They have combined an area for the arts, with a stage and seating for both everyday use and for special events.

Full details on the Art at the Centre project are available at www.slough.gov.uk



Local Arts

★artsinfo

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Arts Development

Slough Borough Council

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Slough SL1 3UQ

Tell us your news!

What's happening in your area?

Send in your articles, news stories and pictures to

artsinfo@slough.gov.uk

Title photos: Top - 'Exhibition image' by Brian Tollington, middle - 'Design by Walter Jack' by Designation, bottom - 'Design by Fred Baier' by Designation

Slough's Big Dance Weekend

Slough's Big Dance Weekend, co-ordinated by Creative Academy and Slough Borough Council (SBC) Communications, is to take place over the weekend of 15th-17th July 2005. The aim of the event is to raise the aspirations of participants and residents of Slough, building new audiences for arts activity in the town. The organisers hope to engage with national dance companies to perform at the events and create new work with existing youth dance groups in the town.

Creative Academy is commissioning the internationally renowned Rambert Dance Company, to hold a two-week residency to create a contemporary dance piece to form the headline act of the Big Dance Weekend.

Slough Young People's Centre hosted auditions for over 100 people over two days in April. Kevin Condliffe said, "It



>> Auditions with Rambert Dance Company

was a really fantastic opportunity to audition for such a high profile dance company". The judging panel was very impressed with all of the dance talent in Slough and found it difficult to choose only 8 people to work with Rambert Dance Company on this fantastic project.

The piece entitled 'Créative' will have elements showcased on Saturday 16th July at Dance in the Square and will be premièred at The West Wing the following night.

For more information on 'The Big Dance Weekend' ring George Kirkham on 01753 578267.

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★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 copy regularly, please call: 01753 875667

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email: artsinfo@slough.gov.uk

Articles and pictures for inclusion in the next ★artsinfo must be submitted by 1st July 2005.

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 the official SBC policy. The editor would like to thank everyone who has submitted articles for inclusion in ★artsinfo.

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
Borough Council

RIFCO become First Regularly Funded Arts Organisation in Slough

Since the huge success of their last smash hit show "The Deranged Marriage", RIFCO have gone from strength to strength. Arts Council England, South East, have confirmed that RIFCO are to become the first Regularly Funded Organisation in Slough, ensuring 3 years core funding. This is a major investment in the arts in Slough demonstrating RIFCO's regional and national success story as it joins an esteemed list of major arts organisation in the UK.

RIFCO have been working since 1998 to create vibrant, celebratory theatre that reflects the South Asian experience in Britain today, touring nationally and locally. RIFCO want to become an integral part of the community in Slough, engaging people from all backgrounds through

community and education programmes, in order to create relevant and reflective work that entices new audiences into the theatre.

'The Deranged Marriage', which sold out in six cities, with over 10,000 audience members enjoying the wedding fun, concluded its tour in Slough at The West Wing in October. This year RIFCO are concentrating on developing their new production alongside the local community, before re-touring "The Deranged Marriage" in the autumn.

For further information on RIFCO go to www.rifcoonline.com or if you are interested in working with RIFCO in any capacity email info@rifcoonline.com.

Beyond Belief

Walking down the darkened nave of a Victorian gothic church experiencing a sense of quiet and reflection is entirely appropriate to the Via Dolorosa project, an ambitious installation of inter-faith art responding to the Stations of the Cross. The journey of Christ towards crucifixion and burial is marked at each point by a multimedia presentation by artists of different faiths.

David Sparrow, a photographer and member of Art at St Mary's, was inspired to start this project in 2003, securing funding from Arts Council England, South East, with support from Arts Development, after a pilot project of two stations. Via Dolorosa is devised as an opportunity to 'give away' stations of the Christian journey to artists from Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and other traditions. There is Christian representation too, with contributions from David Sparrow and Pforzheim, a German town that suffered bombing by

the Allies during the 2nd World War.

The diversity of responses is astounding, yet the pieces sit coherently and lead the viewer along reflecting the journey of parishioners during Holy Week. Politics, spirituality, faith and responsibility charge the work, which ranges from photography to music to animation, all framed and composed on monitors that arc around the church.

Zeljana Schönauer chants continuously over images of her textural collage, each utterance punctuated by a gasp of human breath. In 'Station XIII - Jesus Dies on the Cross', Shenoor Ahmed's work begins with a 'rear window' on life with all its music, noise and banality. Slowly, as the lights switch off, the inevitability and gravity of silence shouts louder than any human voice. Clay-mation by Vikaas Mistry reveals a ceremonial aspect to Jesus' body being removed from the Cross, with nails that

Local focus

unscrew themselves from his hands while the colours of Hindu ritual festoon his body.

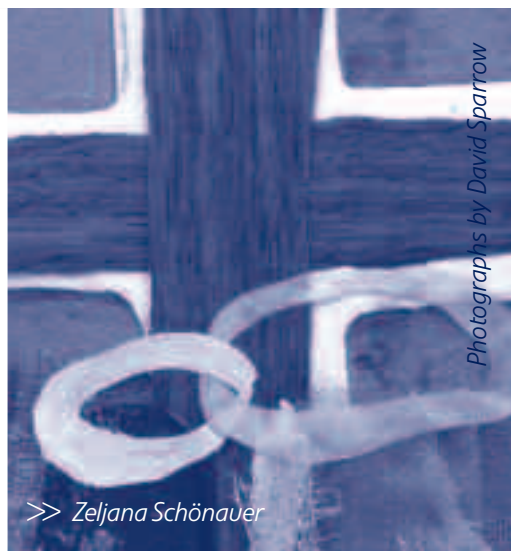
This thought-provoking and inspired work is challenging yet cathartic, a symphony of expression through many different eyes, beliefs and questions. The project has led to the establishment of an interfaith arts organisation, Art Beyond Belief.

The inclusive nature of the project reflects the concerns about racial and religious prejudice, war, suffering, forgiveness and life. This is an agenda for today and one that Art Beyond Belief has taken forward bravely.

For further information visit www.art-beyond-belief.com



>> Gotthilf Ehninger, Pforzheim



Photographs by David Sparrow

>> Zeljana Schönauer



>> Imkan Hayati



>> Via Dolorosa images from exhibition
Gotthilf Ehninger, Pforzheim

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.

The artsinfo interview: Sbba Siddique, Slough Mela

What is Slough Mela?

The Slough Mela, now in its fifth year, is an annual event held at Upton Court Park, Slough. I have been involved with the Slough Mela since 2001. It has developed into a phenomenal event, a huge multicultural musical fest and a great day out for the whole family. Originating from South Asia, the word 'Mela' comes from the Sanskrit 'to meet'. Melas were an opportunity for communities to come together to celebrate religious, cultural, or artistic events. In the UK, a Mela has come to mean a festival, beautifully describing an exciting summer outdoor event with an emphasis on cultural and artistic programmes. They feature a mix of music, food, and information as well as all the fun of the fair. Melas are an excellent opportunity for the whole community to come together and

celebrate irrespective of ethnic background.

Who works on the Mela?

Including myself, we have a core team of six that manage and run the event, however one month leading up to the actual day this can go up to about 15 people who are all volunteers. Our volunteers are mainly students with an interest in the arts and media or event management and it is a great opportunity for them to be involved and experience first hand the logistics of organising such a large-scale event.

What are you planning for this year's Mela?

Upton Park will be transformed from a wide-open space to a colourful theme park, with attractions to accommodate everyone. This year we are proud to announce the launch of our new Arts and Community stage. It is an opportunity as Mela makers to showcase and promote the wealth of local art, talent, and community projects in association with West Wing Arts Space, Slough. There will be a tremendous music stage featuring national and international artists, a huge funfair, kiddies corner with inflatables and rides, arena acts and displays by the Army and Fire Brigade. An array of trade stands will add to the variety of what is on offer, including ethnic foods, fashion, jewellery, toys, henna, and many community stalls.

How do you feel about working with the groups in Slough?

Privileged, thrilled and very excited. As a company we have developed and matured the event to what it is today and we feel that the time is now right to give ownership of the event back to the local community. We feel that building and developing our relationship with the various groups in Slough is the vehicle to achieving this. As Mela organisers it is important to us that the Mela offers diversity, multiculturalism, and social inclusion for all cultures in Slough. It is vital to us that Slough as a town is portrayed in a positive manner and we feel the Mela does both of these things extremely well.

How do people get involved?

Anyone who is interested or would like further information, general enquiries and stall bookings can get in touch with us at the contact details below. We are actively looking for local artists and/or bands to perform on our new Arts and Community stage.

Contact: Kelly Williams - Events Team
Telephone: 01753 737474 or 07973 188395 or email:
unitedcommunityevents@yahoo.co.uk

Where: Upton Court Park, Slough

When: Sunday 7th August 2005

Time: 12 noon till 8.00pm

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 the marketing card to: **Arts Development, Slough Borough Council, FREEPOST (SCE 8944), SLOUGH, SL1 3BR**



>> Taz and Mc Angel from Stereo Nation at the Mela

Teacher's success with first school arts project

About Vale school teacher, Aseema Mahmood, has realised her first creative schools project under the Making, Meaning and Materials (M3 x M4) initiative. Collaborating with designer-maker Ruth Spaak with support from Creative Partnerships, Aseema was able to offer a unique programme to over 30 students with special educational needs.

Ruth Spaak, whose work encompasses textiles, glass and window treatments, worked with the teachers and pupils on joining and linking a range of items including tubing, washers, car seat beads and name tags. Aseema, who attended the Community Arts Training in Slough (CATS) course for Teachers in October 2004, relates that one of the

strengths of the project was its accessibility to a wide range of ability levels. "The project worked on so many levels in the school and all the pupils have been able to access it."



>> Aseema Mahmood, teacher Arbour Vale School

Arts Development

Making, Meaning and Materials craft exhibition

The West Wing Arts Space - Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd June

Teachers and students from 16 Slough schools have been working with a range of professional craftspeople including textile artists and jewellery makers, and the exhibition celebrates their work.

For more information contact slough@creative-partnerships.com

Working in the Arts with Young People

A season of free practical training courses for setting up and running arts projects with young people in Slough begins in June with training for artists who want to work in schools and in non-educational settings.

One-day courses, for people living or working in Slough, offers the knowledge and skills of expert trainers. The training is led by Arts Development and visual artist Christine Wilkinson who have been

delivering community arts training in partnership for eleven years in Slough. This new training is funded by Arts Council England, South East, as a pilot training scheme to be delivered across Berkshire with the Berkshire Arts Partnership.

Programme

Courses are delivered through talks, workshops, practical sessions, group projects and discussions.

For artists: working in schools
>> 23rd June 2005

For artists: working with young people in non-educational settings
>> 7th July 2005

A further course will be run in October for youth workers and community groups who want to develop arts project with young people.

The courses will take place at Slough Library from 9.30-4.30. Please contact Arts Development for further details.

Mosaic Signpost completes Britwell Library project

Britwell Library celebrated the completion of a successful public art project in March with the installation of a mosaic signpost drawing attention to the wide range of library services available to the community.

Sure Start Slough and Britwell Library commissioned mosaic artist Joanna Dewfall, last year, to design and make mosaics to celebrate the completion of the extension to Britwell Library. Joanna worked with local people in Britwell to create images for panels to decorate the front of the library. Participants made the mosaic panels with hand-cut ceramic tiles. The installation has improved the visibility of Britwell Library and its services.

>> Mosaic signpost at Britwell Library



Local News

Changing Faces

Maggie Allen leaves her position as Centre Manager of Manor Park Young People's Centre to take on a new role in Hillingdon working for Groundwork Thames Valley as Community Leadership Manager, after 9 years work in Slough.

Through the support of Creative Partnerships, **Claire Toogood**, Creative Co-ordinator, with Slough Museum will be there until March 2006. Claire works with Slough schools on various creative projects as well as developing out of school activities for the whole family.

Community Curators

Slough Museum have received a grant from South East Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (SEMLAC) to develop their website further through a project called 'Community Curators'. The project will enable schools and

community groups to create exhibitions for the Museum's website and will run from April 2005 to March 2006.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Arthur Saunders on 01753 526422.

Creative Spanish is back!

After last year's success, Creative Spanish is back in schools around Slough. The project managed by singer-dancer Gloria Garcia and funded by Creative Partnerships, aims to teach the Spanish language through the arts, mainly singing, dancing and drama. It allows the students to explore their own creativity, potential and imagination. Gloria Garcia said "We want to increase their motivation for learning a foreign language while having fun". Slough Grammar School students are currently acting and singing songs

from the musical "Grease" in Spanish while students at St Bernard's and Langleywood Schools are taking part in traditional flamenco and salsa dance workshops.

Great opportunity for a Community Arts Feature

Thomas Gray Centre, the Adult and Community Learning Centre at the heart of the central Slough Community has a large empty wall that we would love to see being used to illustrate the rich diversity of our population. The wall would be seen by all the learners that use the Centre and those who come for cultural events and exhibitions here.

If you would like to use our wall to display your talents please get in touch with Julia Walsh, Lifelong Learning on 01753 476600 to discuss this opportunity.

Training

Slough Community Partnership has produced a new training course bulletin covering May-August 2005. The bulletin gives an overview of the wide range of training available in Slough, the majority of which are free to voluntary and community groups. If you would like to receive a copy or to book a course, please contact training at Slough Council for Voluntary Service on 01753 524176 or check their website on www.sloughcvs.org.uk. You may be interested in the following courses:

Learn the Language of the Web

23-24 May 2005 • 10.00am-2.00pm
Trainer: Slough CVS

For those of you interested in learning HTML to create websites and much, much more.

Running a Community Group

31st May 2005 • 10.00am-12noon
Trainer: Slough CVS

Practical guide to what it takes to run a community group successfully. Aimed

at new and smaller voluntary and community groups.

Fundraising for beginners

14 June 2005 • 10.00-2.00pm
Trainer: Slough CVS

An introduction to planning your fundraising and making grant applications up to £10,000. Aimed at new and smaller voluntary and community groups.

Desk Top Publishing & Create, Manage & Integrate Files

21 June 2005 • 10.00-3.30pm

Trainer: Learn Direct

Learn how to use and master DTP. To book contact Sam on 01293 886047. Held at Slough CVS.

Communication Skills

20 July 2005 • 10.00-4.00pm

Trainer: Capacity Building

Improve your written & verbal skills.

Slough Enterprise Hub growing Film Cluster

Slough Enterprise Hub welcomed Chris Jones of Hyperreels, a film company, this month. It seems that the Enterprise Hub is beginning to grow a cluster of film companies. Chris joins

Dominique Oliver from Resource Productions and Asham Kamboi from Paperknife Ltd at the Hub. Although Chris Jones has only just moved into the Enterprise Hub, his company Hyperreels has enjoyed success in the last year, working with clients such as Girls Aloud, Holly Valance, McFly, Mark Owen and Puddle of Mudd.



>> Dominique Oliver, Chris Jones and Asham Kamboi

Hub director Ann Johnstone believes the new film 'cluster' that is emerging will be very beneficial not only because these production companies can now collaborate more easily, but they can also enjoy external economies of scale such as the benefit of each others' knowledge and advice at hand.

Slough on Film

Slough Borough Council's Marketing and Communications Department are teaming up with Resource Productions with the support of a grant from Screen South, to produce a comprehensive archive of films, TV programmes, adverts and videos filmed in Slough.

Slough has provided the location for many films including the Carry On series and few people realise that Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds was shot on the Trading Estate. More recently adverts including Playstation and Wrangler were filmed on the High Street.

If you have any photos, videos or DVDs of any films, adverts or TV programmes shot in Slough, which you would be willing to loan to Slough Borough Council, please get in touch with Dominique on dom@resource-productions.co.uk



>> BBC Question Time filming in Slough

Swapping Snaps between Slough and Latvia

'Talking Pictures', a Creative Partnerships project, run by Ozzy Nicholas, will create and develop a pictorial dialogue between two schools. What makes this photography project unique is the fact that the two schools involved will be from two different nations - Latvia and the UK. Exchanging photographs between schools will inform and educate the children about their respective 'photo pals' and build positive ongoing relationships.

The project is divided into two stages. For the first half of the course the children will capture images and scenes from their school environment and compare them with their creative partners. The second phase will allow the children to tell a story about themselves through photography. The project will culminate in an exhibition in Slough and Riga.

Opportunities

Adult Learners' Week

What: Adult Learners' Week - Lots of crafts activities.
When: 23rd May 2005
Where: Thomas Gray Centre
Phone: 01753 476602

Motivation Dance Academy

What: Motivation Dance Academy - Dance classes for young people from 8-21 year old
When: Every Thursday, Beginners: 5.30-6.45pm, Intermediate: 6.45-8.30pm, Advanced: 8.30-10.00pm
Where: Cippenham Community Centre, Earls Lane, Slough
Phone: Claudine on 07745557127

Children's Library Events

What: Celebrate the bi-centenary of Hans Christian Anderson's birth with a feast of fairy tale events.
When: 31st-3rd June 2005, various times
Where: Slough Libraries
Phone: 01753 535166

What: "Stories from the Web" club. Children have the opportunity for creative writing and viewing their work on the internet.

When: 11th June-15th July 2005
Where: Slough Library
Phone: 01753 535166

What: Launch of the Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme is The Reading Voyage.

When: 9th July 2005
Where: Slough Library
Phone: 01753 535166

What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
May				
6-7	Check times	Conflict Resolution Network UK - Aik Saath Film Festival	The West Wing	01753 574780
Until 7 May	11.30am-3.30pm	Art at the Centre Exhibition	Queensmere Shopping Centre	
Every Tuesday	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
9	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
16	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Guest Speaker Guy Pringle (tbc)	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
21	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Discussion: Author! Author! led by Roy Cecil	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
31	Check times	Fairy Tale Events	Slough Libraries	01753 535166
June				
1-3	Check times	Fairy Tale Events	Slough Libraries	01753 535166
6	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Art of Completion led by Terry Adlam	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
13	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
20	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Beyond Monday Night Group feedback	Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
22-23	Check times	Craft Exhibition: Making Meaning and Materials	The West Wing	01753 470324
23	9.30-4.30pm	Training for Artists: Working in Schools	Slough Library	01753 477176
27	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Craft - Script Tips	Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
July				
4	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
6	6.00-8.00pm	Artists Network Meeting	Slough Enterprise Hub, Thames Valley University	01753 697766
7	9.30-4.30pm	Training for Artists: Working in non-educational settings	Slough Library	01753 477176
11	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Discussion: My Year	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725
15-17	See below	Big Dance Weekend		
15	7.30pm	'Origin' – Youth Dance Platform	East Berkshire College, Langley Campus	
16	4.00pm	Dance in the Square	Town Centre	
17	7.30pm	'Créative' – featuring the Hip Hop Collective and Rambert Dance Company	The West Wing	01753 578267
18	7.30-9.30pm	Slough Writers' Group: Annual General Meeting Awards and Presentations	The Greyhound Skittle Alley, Eton Wick	01628 661725

>> Useful Websites

www.slough.gov.uk/arts

Arts Development website for the arts in Slough

www.sloughmuseum.co.uk

Find out what's happening at your local museum

www.rifcoonline.com

For further information on RIFCO production company

www.art-beyond-belief.com

The Via Dolorosa Project website

This newsletter can be made available on audio tape or in large print. If you would like a copy of this document translated please ask an English speaking person to contact Arts Development on 01753 875667.

Let us know your arts news on artsinfo@slough.gov.uk