

*artsinfo

The quarterly newsletter for Slough's growing arts community

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West Wing lifts off



The West Wing, Slough's new arts venue will launch its first programme this autumn. On offer will be a diverse range of quality theatre, music, comedy, dance and film. Whether you are an avid theatregoer, a music lover or passionate about dance, there will be something for everyone.

A taster of the line up includes: the Reduced Shakespeare Company's highly acclaimed production of 'Completely Hollywood', Irven Lewis Dance Company's energetic 'Ignite', the irresistible Blues sensation Guy Davis, the renowned Zimbabwean group 'Black Umfolosi' and many more exciting events.

RIFCO, the West Wing's resident theatre company will also be kicking off the return national tour of their outstanding show, 'The Deranged Marriage', which sold out at small venues across the country and is set to return to larger venues; bigger and bolder than ever.

The programme will also feature a range of Slough based artists and community groups including Slough

Musical Theatre Company and FennerFest.

In addition to providing top entertainment the West Wing has an extensive range of facilities and equipment available for hire, including a 250-seat auditorium, stage, dressing rooms, cinema and audio-visual equipment.

Rob Persey, Assistant Director, Cultural Services said: 'The West Wing is a real asset for the arts and cultural life of the town and provides an outlet for people to be entertained and to develop their own talents. Slough is a vibrant and exciting place to live for people of all ages, and the wide range of cultural opportunities on offer at the West Wing will ensure that everyone can get involved, improving the quality of life in Slough and helping to create a strong and cohesive community.'

The West Wing celebrates its programme launch in an open day on Saturday 24th September, filled with creative activities for all ages. Entrance is free and doors open from 1pm, please call 01753 476651, email westwing@slough.gov.uk.



Local Arts

*artsinfo

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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: Shows at the West Wing -
The Island, A Quiet Afternoon and
StopGap*

The return of 'The Deranged Marriage'

Since the overwhelming success of 'The Deranged Marriage' in 2004, RIFCO Arts have been busy organising its return. Finally the time has almost come; the wedding planners have pulled out all the stops, the aunties are dusting off their gold and audiences are waiting with bated breath.

The main stage tour is now confirmed and with four highly acclaimed venues included, 'The Deranged Marriage' is well and truly back. With a beautiful new set and lighting design to match the elegance of the event 'The Deranged Marriage' is set to take the country by storm this Diwali and Slough audiences can see it first at the West Wing.



>> Scene from 'The Deranged Marriage'

'The Deranged Marriage' will be at the West Wing from Wednesday 26th-29th October. To book tickets, please phone the West Wing Box Office on 01753 823710 for more information go to www.rifcoonline.com

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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

minicom: 01753 875030

email: artsinfo@slough.gov.uk

Articles and pictures for inclusion in the next *artsinfo must be submitted by 30th September 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.

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Stoke Poges hosts Art Fair

The Annual Stoke Poges Art Fair is to be held at the Stoke Poges Village Centre on 17th and 18th September 2005. The Art Fair is a forum for local artists and galleries to display their work for sale conveniently under one roof. There is a choice in range and price, and a chance to see work created by the excellent local talent of professional artists.

Saturday opening times are 12noon-6.00pm and Sunday opening times are 11.00am-4.00pm. Admission is free of charge and there is ample car parking.

If you would like more information regarding this event or would like to exhibit your work please contact Deborah Price on 01753 663035 or Steffi Goddard on 01753 860928.



>> Stoke Poges Art Fair

Big Dance Success

A festive weekend of dance kicked off on the 15th July. The events offered Slough groups and individuals the opportunity to perform in the Town Square, the West Wing and other venues around the borough, in the company of professional dance companies. The project has been developed by Creative Academy, a partnership of Creative Industries business and training providers funded by the European Social Fund, and Slough Borough Council.

'Creative' is a collaborative project with Rambert Dance Company, which showcased a performance by eight talented local dancers who auditioned for an innovative residential training opportunity with the company.

Slough Youth Platform saw the likes of Fusion Dance Company, Motivation, Sugar 'n Spice and Children of the Monkey Basket perform a wide range of street, contemporary and break-dance.

This was a unique opportunity for these Slough based performers to take to the stage alongside national dance companies such as The Black Eagles, Swizzleshaker and others.

Emma Carvalho from Fusion Dance Company, who have been involved in the Rambert project and organised the Youth Dance Platform, expressed her feelings:

'Being able to track the young people from audition through their classes on the Rambert project, you really see them develop, improve their technique and raise their standards, and that was just two days in!'

'For Fusion it has been a mixture of nerves and excitement as we were running the Youth Dance Platform. We have had WAC coming from London and the Hip Hop Collective from the States, as well as showcasing local community

Local focus

groups and dance companies.'

'Some young people have never seen a professional dance company perform and now have had the chance to see their role models on the stage next to them.'



>> Local dancers training

Business Skills for Creative Enterprises

The Surrey Institute of Art and Design (SIAD) got together with Slough Enterprise Hub over the summer to produce a series of four workshops for people in the creative industries who are running their own business. The workshops covered marketing, pricing work, insurance and contracts and intellectual properties.

The first seminar looked at the subject of marketing and was delivered by expert Rachel Escott. She covered issues such as identifying unique selling points,

exploring the pros and cons of various channels of advertisement and promotion, and how to recognise and gather important customer information. Attendees were divided into groups to explore these issues before presenting their ideas for further group discussion.

The seminars were funded by SIAD's Creative Enterprise Initiative (CEI), which aims to help entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative industries to develop new companies and expand their businesses.



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.

>> Rachel Escott

The artsinfo interview: Cllr. Julia Long, Commissioner for Leisure, Culture and Community Services

What is your new role?

I am the new Commissioner for Leisure, Culture and Community Services. This portfolio is responsible for Libraries, Sport and Health Action Team, Arts Development, The West Wing, Creative Academy, Parks and Allotments, Community Facilities, Events, Equality, Community Cohesion, Community Celebration and Community Information. As Commissioner my role is to lead on community policies and to identify local needs.

Why have you taken the role?

As you may know I was Mayor of Slough last year and during that time I enjoyed attending many cultural events in the town. I was privileged to be involved with the annual Mayor's Arts Awards and was enthused by the

energy that is very obvious in this town both amongst the professional and voluntary groups who are really dedicated, and the members of the council staff who work so hard to support them. I felt that I could make a valuable contribution to this portfolio by helping to raise the profile of culture through acting as an ambassador.

What excites you about the role?

The exciting bit is seeing all the diverse communities in Slough living and working together and learning from each other. Each brings to Slough their own lifestyle from everyday things like food to the arts, dance, literature and music. We are immensely lucky in Slough; it is such a diverse town with so many communities living in harmony. Our communities share and exchange their talents and cultural specialities and this can only enrich the lives of those who live and work in the borough. The arts and cultural sector has so much to offer.

What would you like to achieve as Commissioner?

I think it is very important to maintain the sense of enthusiasm within the town for the arts and to inspire all the teams within my portfolio. I think that one way of achieving this is to encourage people to get involved with cultural and lifelong learning opportunities. The services currently on offer have benefited a lot of people and have encouraged us all to grow and learn from each other and I would like to develop this further.

As Mayor, your support for the arts was very much appreciated. How do you foresee taking this forward into your commissioning role?

Well as Mayor, I really had a chance to talk to people and to hear their ideas. They let me know their ambitions for Slough and what is important to them. In my role as Commissioner I would like to encourage people to continue to participate in their community through culture.

What benefits do you think the West Wing brings to Slough?

I can really say I am so happy that Slough finally has a venue; the West Wing is great news for Slough. It will be a really useful addition to the town after some twenty years without a venue. The Arts Development team are so enthusiastic about groups they work with performing there; it is great to see that everybody can use it. A venue like the West Wing encourages participation in the arts and brings in the different communities to enjoy the events on offer or inspires them to try something new themselves. It provides a professional space for Slough artists and groups to perform and for local people to see work of a professional quality. I wish the West Wing continued success for the future.



Marketing List - Entry form

Please complete in CAPITAL letters

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>
Position (If applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (If applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Tel No	<input type="text"/>
Fax No	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Website	<input type="text"/>

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Artist | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Artist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Arts Org | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Arts Org |

How would you like to receive information from us:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post | <input type="checkbox"/> email |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|

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

Please tick the box if you would like us join the West Wing's mailing list.

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



>> Councillor Julia Long

Mayor's Arts Awards

On Thursday 28th April the annual Mayor's Arts Awards took place at the West Wing. Attended by over 150 people from the local community, the evening celebrated what has been an exciting year for the arts in Slough.

Winners included Salma Barakat from Slough Library, who's innovative work developing music time has encouraged children and parents to use library services across Slough. Fusion Dance Company were

recognised as Arts Group of the Year for their work with events such as Dance in the Park. Sarla Seth, president of the Eastern Womens Cultural Association was presented with the award for Individual Artist of the Year for her work involving Asian women with cultural dance and craft. Awards also went to Jermame Richardson and Sarah Harris, who received the Mansell Award for Best Newcomer for their work bringing radio production skills into schools,

Professional Development for artists

Arts Development will be continuing their series of FREE one-day professional development training courses for artists. The courses will be running in November 2005 and February 2006 and will focus on public art, going freelance and presentation skills. A third round of training will be announced later this year.

The courses are open to artists currently living or working in Slough, at any stage in their career and are delivered through talks, practical

workshop sessions, group projects and discussions. The courses are co-delivered with visual artist Christine Wilkinson who has been running the successful Community Arts Training in Slough (CATS) in partnership with Arts Development for the past eleven years.

- Public Art: An Introduction
Friday 4th November 2005
- Going Freelance
Friday 11th November 2005
- Presenting your work
Friday 17th February 2006

Arts Development

whilst STEAM (Slough Town Employment Action Movement) received the Award for Best Project, Shenoor Ahmed was presented with the Ranjitt Mann Award for Women in the Arts in recognition of her work with Creative Partnerships. A special Award also went to Tanya Weeden of Beachwood Secondary School, for a project involving the Slough Allotments Team.

- Presenting yourself

Friday 24th February 2006

There are still some places available on the final session of the Art and Young People series, on October 14th 2005, which is designed for youth workers and looks at how they can collaborate with artists to run successful projects.

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

Same Difference Film Festival

Slough's first film festival dedicated to building better community relations within the town took place in May at the West Wing. The Same Difference Film Festival incorporated a series of local and international short and feature length films based on the theme of conflict resolution and community relations. The films were selected to reflect the different communities that make up the diverse town of Slough and the festival attempted to help communities explore each other's cultures and bring people together.

Highlights of the festival included *Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)*, a landmark partition film following the story of a mother and her son during the events of the partition of India and Pakistan and *A Way of Life*, a complex attempt to explore the roots of racism in contemporary British society.

Over 600 people attended the various showings organised by Aik Saath, an organisation dedicated to promoting peace and racial harmony through conflict resolution, on behalf of Slough Community Relations Partnership. Aik Saath hope to organise a second film festival in May next year.



>> *Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)*

Local News

Caring Words

A booklet of short stories about caring for someone at home has been published by Windsor and Maidenhead Crossroads and Slough Writers Group. The booklet, *Caring Words*, contains 12 stories written by members of Slough Writers Group for a competition judged by Crossroads. The judges were so impressed by the standard of entries they decided to publish them as an anthology, helped by a grant from Berkshire Community Foundation.

The collection of stories covers all the ups and downs of caring for someone at home. The booklet is available for £2.50 from *Caring Words*, 163 Clarence Road, Windsor, SL4 5AP or telephone 01753 866197.

Changing faces

Paul Martin has joined the Creative Academy team, as the Creative Industries Development Officer, a new post offering advice and guidance on careers in the creative industries.

Also joining Creative Academy, on secondment from Arts Development, is **Kevin Harrison**, who will be managing operations as Business Manager.

Louise O'Dwyer has been appointed to take over as Assistant Arts Development Officer during Kevin's secondment. The Arts Development team will also shortly be joined by **Fiona Heathcote** as Arts Development Assistant. Fiona joins the team from South Hill Park arts centre in Bracknell, where she was Visual Arts Co-ordinator.

Graeme Surtees has been appointed to manage Slough's new Youth Music Action Zone, Music 4 Slough, a programme providing music opportunities to children and young people in Slough. Graeme will be based at Slough Young People's Centre.

Slough Youth Festival saved

Slough Youth Festival will go ahead this year on September 4th at Upton Court Park with one stage for performers and a world marquee set up with stalls for careers guidance and workshops. Organiser Minaz Ali is hoping for a great line up of stars to attend. Stalls are available for those who want to get involved. To sponsor the festival or to hire a stall call 07818272247.

Training

Summer Film Courses from Innov8

Innov8 are running two film courses this summer. A two-week course from 1st - 12th August for 14 to 19 year olds and a one-week course from 15th - 19th August for 11 to 13 year olds. They are both based at Thames Valley University and are FREE subject to attending a free open workshop for anyone interested on 23rd July at TVU Summer Programme Open Day.

For more information please contact Dom Oliver on 01753 553 374, e-mail: info@resource-productions.co.uk or sign-up direct through TVU's Summer Programme.



Creative Writing in Slough

Slough Library's Creative Writing Workshops have gone from strength to strength over the past year, and are still on the look out for new members to join when term re-starts. The group meets on alternate Saturday mornings from 10am to 12noon, re-commencing on 1st October at Slough Central Library. Classes are a mix of advice, inspiration and mutual support run by the Workers' Educational Association (WEA). Tutor Gill Smith explains, "Some of the writers have already been published. The group are all really committed to their writing and to getting their work published, and it's great to see them succeed in that."

For further details contact Gill Smith on 0118 9313778.

Competition for young entrepreneurs

Do you know anyone aged 16 to 30 who is thinking of making a living out of their creative skills, for example: designing, dressmaking, dancing, acting, music, filming, painting etc? Then make sure they enter the Slough Enterprise Hub Young Entrepreneurs Creative and Media Business Plan competition.

No experience or business qualifications are needed to enter, just a passion for creativity and an interest in making money!

Successful applicants will get a goody bag full of creative business start-up resources and will be invited to a free day of special workshops sponsored by a range of business and creative partners. After the workshops - those who are still serious about setting-up will be invited to submit a business plan to be entered into the final of the competition - where prizes including Apple products and free business support can be won.

To apply call Dom on 01753 553374, or email info@resource-productions.co.uk



Tom Law

>> *Young Entrepreneurs*

Art at the Centre

After two months of consultation involving over 660 residents in Slough, Waterman Burrow Crocker (in association with Allen Scott Associates) has been selected as the concept design team for the Art at the Centre project. 48% of those surveyed chose Waterman Burrow Crocker's as their favourite out of three design proposals displayed at exhibitions in Slough Trading Estate, Slough Library and

Queensmere Shopping Centre.

The recommendation was passed by Slough Borough Council's Cabinet on July 18. The concept designers will now liaise with a team of artists to develop the plans for the High Street which will include new paving, seating and lighting, and work should begin in the spring of next year.

RIFCO Production traineeship

RIFCO Arts are looking for a production assistant to undertake a traineeship over the next two years. We hope to invest in, train and support an individual who can become a core member of our staff on a project basis and who is interested in pursuing a career in theatre production. The trainee will work on our forthcoming professional mid-scale tour of 'The Deranged Marriage' in Autumn 2005 as well as helping to support the development of forthcoming productions and touring a smaller scale show in 2006.

No experience is necessary but the successful individual will be committed to pursuing a creative career in theatre. This will be a paid position commencing in September 2005.

For more information please contact Lucy Bradley on 01753 570700 or email info@rifcoonline.com.

Opportunities

Artist Network

What: Run in partnership between Arts Development and the Enterprise Hub these quarterly meetings bring artists and creative industries together to strengthen links, make valuable contacts and share information.

Where: Slough Enterprise Hub

When: Wednesday October 12th, 6-8pm

Phone: Alastair Gemmill on 01753 697766

Email: alastair.gemmill@tvu.ac.uk

Art @St Mary's

What: We are seeking artists of all media, funders, art lovers, and any other interested individuals and groups to share ideas and develop the contribution Arts @ Saint Mary's can make to local arts initiatives.

Where: St Mary's Parish Church, Church Street

Phone: Rachel Holt on 07989 615247

Email: rachel321@tiscali.co.uk

Volunteering at the West Wing

What: Team of enthusiastic volunteers needed at the West Wing; to make a valuable contribution by volunteering as an usher, helping out in the office or in the new café. Full training will be provided, so if you're passionate about the arts the West Wing wants you!

When: Daytime and evening staff required

Where: The West Wing

Phone: 01753 476651

What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
August				
3-6	8.00pm	CAST – 'Moby Dick - The Musical'	Colnbrook Village Hall	07891 486330
3 & 4	1.30-3.30pm	Summer fun at Slough Museum	Slough Museum	01753 526422
7	12-8.00pm	Slough Mela	Upton Court Park, Slough	01753 737474
10 & 11	1.30-3.30pm	Summer fun at Slough Museum	Slough Museum	01753 526422
17 & 18	1.30-3.30pm	Summer fun at Slough Museum	Slough Museum	01753 526422
24 & 25		Summer Fun at Slough Museum	Slough Museum	01753 526422
September				
Every Tuesday	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	UGC Cinema, Slough	01784 434868
17	12-6.00pm	Stoke Poges Art Fair	Stoke Poges Village Centre	01753 663035
18	11-4.00pm	Stoke Poges Art Fair	Stoke Poges Village Centre	01753 663035
24	1.00pm	West Wing Programme Launch	The West Wing	01753 823710
October				
1	10-12noon	Creative Writing Workshop	Slough Library	0118 9313778
12	6.00pm	Artists' Network Meeting	Slough Enterprise Hub	01753 875667
14	9.30-4.30pm	'Using the Arts with young People at risk' for youth workers and community groups	Slough Library	01753 477176
15	10-12noon	Creative Writing Workshop	Slough Library	0118 9313778
16	10.00-6.30pm	Wing It! – Acting workshop	The West Wing	01753 823710
26-29	various	RIFCO - 'The Deranged Marriage'	The West Wing	01753 823710
29	10-12noon	Creative Writing Workshop	Slough Library	0118 9313778

Arts Development - supporting the arts in Slough

Arts Development provides information, advice, training and continuing support around:

- >> **Advocacy for the arts**
- >> **Fundraising for the arts**
- >> **Arts in public spaces**
- >> **Best practice**

Arts Development carries out these services by providing:

- >> **Advice and support** to local groups, artists and individuals to develop arts projects in Slough

>> **★artsinfo newsletter** - the free quarterly newsletter for Slough's arts community

>> **Online directory of professional artists** - provides information about professional artists and arts organisations that have experience of arts in community and education settings.

>> **Arts Training** - specialist arts training to support the arts community in Slough. This includes Community Arts Training in Slough (CATS), a practical

course for running arts projects in the community

>> **Publications** - including 'Art & People', a practical guide to running arts projects in the community. Available from Slough Library 01753 522 869. Cost £10 + pp

>> **Arts in public places** - as part of their commitment to making the arts accessible in public spaces, Arts Development manage, support and offer advice on public art projects