

# \*artsinfo

The quarterly newsletter for Slough's growing arts community

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## Music 4 Slough

Young people in Slough will be getting more chances to make music, thanks to the new projects being set up by Music 4 Slough.

Music 4 Slough is one of 24 Youth Music Action Zones in England and Wales, providing music-making activities to young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

M4S aims to help children and young people up to the age of 18 to make music outside of school hours. There will be chances to explore new styles of music, have a go at instruments, create songs, perform and make music with other young people and learn from experienced musicians leading the projects.

Some pilot projects are already running and M4S will be rolling out more opportunities including;

- Music Technology and DJ-ing workshops in Youth Centres
- Rock and pop band workshops - a chance for young bands or aspiring band musicians to learn and practice with the help and guidance of experienced band musicians

- Afterschool clubs - hands on musical experiences in different musical styles.
- Live music events in childrens centres and libraries for 3-5 year olds
- Chances for parents, playworkers and others to learn new musical skills and confidence to make music with young children

Graeme Surtees, Music 4 Slough Manager adds; "We are very fortunate that Youth Music has chosen to support Slough to become a Youth Music Action Zone. It means a lot more opportunity for children and young people in Slough to make and enjoy music. If they have never done anything musical before, or if they are already out there creating music, M4S hopes to help them find new ways to develop their musical talent and interests."

*For more information visit [www.music4slough.co.uk](http://www.music4slough.co.uk), email [info@music4slough.co.uk](mailto:info@music4slough.co.uk) or contact Graeme Surtees, M4S Manager on 01753 539300.*



## Local Arts

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### \*artsinfo

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01753 477176

[www.artsinslough.org.uk](http://www.artsinslough.org.uk)

### Tell us your news!

What's happening in your area?

Send in your articles, news stories

and pictures to

[artsinfo@slough.gov.uk](mailto:artsinfo@slough.gov.uk)

*Title photo: Young people participating in music workshops*

## 48 Slough Schools Art Exhibition 2005

'Fortyeight' - the 4th annual Slough Schools' Art Exhibition took place at the West Wing and Creative Partnership Galleries last November.

The exhibition, which was supported by Creative Partnerships Slough, Slough Borough Council and the West Wing, was a celebration of artwork from all Slough schools, of pupils aged 3-18, on the theme of how students see themselves and the world around them.

The exhibition comprised of over 200 individual pieces of work including a human sized praying mantis, an



installation of a section of a bedroom and a range of ceramic masks made with Ugandan artist David Odwar.

The work was a reflection of the range of exciting and dynamic visual arts projects currently being offered in Slough schools, including many projects where pupils and teachers have been inspired by working alongside professional artists.

Following the opening and private view, over 1000 students and 90 teachers took part in a week of gallery activities, organised by Creative Partnerships', Visual Arts Consultant, Anne Brown. Students enjoyed visiting the exhibition and were inspired to create their own artwork. They commented: 'It was bubbly and lively' and 'it gave us thousands of ideas. It was 1000% fantastic!'

>> Work from Baylis Court School

### \*artsinfo FEBRUARY – APRIL 2006

\*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](mailto:artsinfo@slough.gov.uk)

Articles and pictures for inclusion in the next \*artsinfo must be submitted by 31st March 2006.

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](http://www.slough.gov.uk)  
**Slough**  
Borough Council

## Polish Dance Spectacular - Mlody Las

Slough's famous Polish folklore dance group Mlody Las (meaning Young Forest) is busy preparing for the sixth National Folklore Festival to be held at the Wycombe Swan Theatre.

The **Polish Dance Spectacular** will be a vibrant celebration of Polish dance and music folk culture. Following acclaimed performances in Poland and across Europe, 13 Polish ensembles from all over Britain have combined to bring a taste of one of Europe's richest and most energetic folk traditions to a UK audience.

From the flirtatious and romantic to the playful, the **Polish Dance Spectacular** is packed full of exciting energy. This is a unique opportunity to experience the colourful and diverse culture of Poland.

Mlody Las will be performing at Wycombe Swan Theatre on Saturday 11 February at 7.00pm and Sunday 12 February at 4.00pm.

*For further details contact the box office on 01494 512000.*

>> Mlody Las



## Same Difference Film Festival 2006

The second annual Same Difference Film Festival will be held between 29th March and 6th April 2006. The same combination of high quality short and feature length films will be shown in different venues around Slough. There will be a range of films and events happening over the week, including a 'Bring your own picnic event' at St Mary's Church, a day of films about gun crime at Slough Young People's Centre, feature films at the West Wing and Cineworld and much more.

The aim of the Same Difference Film Festival is to help to explore each other's identities and communities through film. Slough is famous for its rich and diverse community and we hope the festival will help create a greater awareness of each other, dispell myths and stereotypes and increase community cohesion.

*For a full programme of films and further information please visit [www.same-difference.org.uk](http://www.same-difference.org.uk) or call 01753 574780.*



>> Same Difference Film Festival 2006

## Blank Canvas filled with creativity

Blank Canvas was an opportunity to experience a slice of Slough's creative life under one roof at the West Wing on Stoke Road.

Organised by Slough based musician Rob Harris and photographer Katherine Belcher, the evening offered an eclectic mix of visual art, film, dance, theatre and live music.

It was fantastic to see Slough based talent being profiled and to witness the

range and quality of creative work the town has to offer. Highlights included Harris and Belcher's collaborative visual/aural representation of life in Slough, Instinct Films' enchanting animated short film, and theatre company Mess Up The Mess' with their psychological and physical performance. All the work was of a high standard and shows the importance of the town having an arts centre for the brightest and best local talent to showcase their work.



> Art Exhibition at the West Wing

## Local Focus

### Fennerfest's exciting new events

2006 is already looking like a great year for local event organisers FennerFest. Their monthly **Maharajah Cabaret** music spectaculars at Vikram's Occasions Palace in Herschel Street features the very best headline acts including the legendary 80's group The Beat; Dub and reggae pioneers, Zion Train; plus the launch of a new, intimate event **The Secret Cabaret**, at the West Wing, the first of which features Ken Campbell playwright, actor, and comedian extraordinaire.

*Check the website for booking details on [www.fennerfest.co.uk](http://www.fennerfest.co.uk)*



### 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: George Kirkham, Creative Academy



>> Capricious Shifts

### What is the Creative Academy?

The Creative Academy was launched in November 2003 and is a partnership of creative industry training providers and businesses. Over 5,000 individuals have participated in its innovative programmes with many more attending its showcasing events across the town. The Creative Academy

develops a local creative workforce and increases the sustainability of local creative businesses through innovation, empowerment and equal opportunities. The Creative Academy also runs the Music 4 Slough programme which is the local Youth Music Action Zone promoting music for 0 - 19 year olds.

### What support do they offer the creative industries in Slough?

The Creative Academy's current programme focuses on establishing and developing young creative businesses. The 'Last Mile' programme targets under represented groups in the creative industries. In the last four months, nine new businesses have been identified by the Academy as beneficiaries and over the next two years will receive financial support and business advice from identified mentors in the industry. This will ensure that local creative talent remains in Slough, benefiting and contributing to the ongoing economic success of the town.

stage will feature the best of urban music talent, from local MCs to DJs and dancers. **Urban Action** is a free festival for everyone, families and young people alike.

### What excites you about your role in Creative Academy?

The innovative nature of the work and providing support to people aspiring to or working in the creative industries and the opportunity to open doors and see local businesses develop. The Creative Academy focuses on all creative industries although we have a strong leaning towards film, music and dance. Some of the most exciting projects include a film called **Kamera**, made by two local film companies Resource Productions and Paperknife Productions and **Capricious Shifts**, a dance project working with the world renowned Rambert Dance Company, offering local dancers the opportunity to have an intensive training fortnight leading to several performances.

### What projects are you currently working on?

We are offering paid creative work placements in several companies including Fusion Dance Company, Rifco Arts, Resource Productions, Slough Young People's Centre, the West Wing and Hyperreels. Creative Academy also has 10 work placements on a feature film being developed locally and filmed in Canada, **Kill Kill Faster Faster** with Aria Films and Full Circle Films. SYPC and Haymill Youth Centre are also offering music apprenticeships.

### How do people get involved?

Please contact the Creative Academy on 01753 875400 or e-mail [creative@slough.gov.uk](mailto:creative@slough.gov.uk)



### 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 to join the West Wing's mailing list.

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

### Do you have any new projects planned?

Slough's Creative Academy and Slough Borough Council are proud to announce the very first urban orientated festival of sports and arts, which is planned for this summer in Salt-Hill Park. **Urban Action** is a celebration of urban street culture with a varied and exciting programme. The festival will feature music, performances and various sporting activities. The site will be host to a large urban art display, featuring some of the UK's top street artists, who will be painting a large scale production piece live on the day. There will also be a chance for local people to paint their own piece, accompanied by a professional street artist. The main

## Mayor's Arts Awards

This year's annual Mayors Arts Awards will be held at the West Wing in Slough. The event is held to celebrate and recognise the artistic achievements of those individuals and groups that have increased people's involvement and participation in the arts in Slough. There are six categories: Project of the Year, Arts Group of the Year, Individual Artist of the Year, Arts in Education, the Mansell Award for Best Newcomer and the Ranjit Mann Award for Women in the Arts. Closing date for nominations is 14th February.

Nomination forms can be obtained from Arts Development in 01753 477176 or downloaded from [www.artsinslough.org.uk](http://www.artsinslough.org.uk)

## CATS is back

The Community Arts Training in Slough (CATS) course will be running for the 12th year in March. CATS is a four day practical course tailored to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to set up and run community based arts projects. Anyone who either lives or works in Slough can attend and no previous experience of the arts is necessary.

## Arts Development

CATS is run by the Arts Development Team in partnership with visual artist Christine Wilkinson. The course has been adopted by other counties across the South East as a model of best practise.

For further information or a booking form contact Arts Development on 01753 477176 or visit [www.artsinslough.org.uk](http://www.artsinslough.org.uk)

## Creative Horizons 2005

Over the past couple of months, Katherine Belcher has been working with a number of Slough based Year Nine budding photographers developing their critical and compositional documentary skills.



>> Work from Beechwood School

Developing the project with Creative Partnerships, as part of the Creative Horizons 2005 event, a group from each school were given the opportunity to document the event through their own eyes.

The students took to their roles with gusto and were not shy in coming forward. Katherine says: 'I heard on more than one occasion, "excuse me, photographer coming through". I think we definitely have a growing bed of photographic talent in Slough. The local paper certainly seems to agree as they featured the photographs taken by students in a double-paged spread.'

## Arts Funding - have your say

The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is currently consulting the public on the future distribution of National Lottery money. The National Lottery plays a role in most of our lives, whether as players, grant beneficiaries, users of Lottery funded facilities, or as someone who has enjoyed or benefited from something the Lottery has funded, however big or small; such as new equipment for an arts group or funding a youth film project. This is an opportunity for all those who care about the arts to make their voices heard.

The DCMS want your views to help them determine what proportion of Lottery money is allocated to the arts and film, sport and heritage after 2009. For the first time ever, they are asking you to tell them about the projects you most value, and how you think Lottery money can be best spent to improve the UK.

*This consultation will close at the end of February 2006. Details of how to respond to the consultation can be found on the DCMS website [www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk](http://www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk)*



>> Students at St Bernards School

## Local News

### Alison Lamb (1959-2005)

The arts community in Slough is mourning the tragic loss of Alison Lamb who died in a car accident just before Christmas. Alison had worked as a finance officer for Creative Academy for the last 11 months. Alison's manager, Alison Hibbert, paid tribute to her colleague: 'She could not fail to have an effect on everyone she met with her infectious laughter, helpfulness and caring nature. We will all miss Alison so much and obviously all our thoughts are with her family at this very sad time.'

### Changing Faces

**Rob Gilmour** will be joining the Music 4 Slough team as Programme Co-ordinator at the end of February. Rob is currently the Operations Manager for Creative Partnerships Slough.

**Kathryn Hewitt** joined the Art at the Centre team as Regeneration Project Assistant in January. **Arwen Hobday** has temporarily joined the Creative

Academy as the Creative Academy Intern.

### Young Entrepreneur Moves in

One of the most recent and exciting additions to the Enterprise Hub is Young Entrepreneur Competition 2005 winner Spencer Lowe. His business, a record label called **Beat Routes**, works with a diverse mix of people who come together over a shared love for art and music. The judging panel was really impressed by Spencer's knowledge of the industry, his strong professional network and his understanding of his niche market.

### Cartoon workshops at Slough Libraries

National Big Draw week took place last October. The Library Service was delighted to invite well known cartoonist John Byrne, to lead two workshops at Langley and Slough libraries. Each of the hour long

sessions proved very popular with a wide range of people, aged 7 to 70+ with a number of families joining in. The workshops were fast paced and humorous and everyone had a lot of fun, with a number of people asking when John will be coming back to do more.

### World cinema at Cineworld

Slough Film Co-operative Society show films in Cineworld on Tuesday evenings at 8.30pm. As a member of SCFS you can see a film for less than £2.00. Single membership is £30 and double membership is £50. Guest tickets (purchased in advance) are £4.00, or tickets can be purchased on the day from the cinema at their standard rate.

*For more information, contact Dudley Smithers on 01784 434868, or email [dudley.jo@virgin.net](mailto:dudley.jo@virgin.net), or visit: [www.sloughcoopfilmsoc.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.sloughcoopfilmsoc.freeserve.co.uk).*

## Training

Slough Community Training Partnership has produced a training course bulletin covering January - June 2006. 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. You may be interested in the following courses:

### Guide to writing Constitutions

25 April 2006

10.00am-12noon

Trainer: Slough CVS

Beginners guide to developing a constitution by exploring key fundamental principals. The session will also be using real examples to demonstrate how not to write a constitution.

### Managing Your Group's Money

9 May 2006

10.00am-12noon

Trainer: Slough CVS

A beginner level course giving practical advice and information, including preparing an income and expenditure account, paying expenses and keeping your cash book.

### Running a Community Group

16 May 2006

10.00-12 noon

Trainer: Slough CVS

Practical guide to what it takes to run a community group successfully. Aimed at new and smaller voluntary and community groups.

## Adult Drama Classes

Looking for an alternative to Am Dram? Want to be involved in a high quality theatre production?

The West Wing is starting Adult Drama classes on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm – 9.00pm. The cost is £5 per session or £45 for a block booking of ten classes, concessions are £3 per session. So if you have ever fancied treading the boards, want to boost your self confidence or you just want to make some new friends, these classes are for you!

The classes will be led by experienced theatre practitioners and will cover areas such as improvisation, devising, movement, mime, vocal techniques, and characterisation. Classes will lead towards a fully fledged production, which will be shown at the West Wing in the summer.

Please book your place in advance as numbers are limited.

*For further information please contact Yasmin on 01753 476651.*

## Creative Academy Internships

Are you looking to develop a career or business in the creative industries? Do you live or work in Slough or the Thames Valley? Then talk to the Creative Academy about becoming a beneficiary .

Becoming a beneficiary is free and can offer you the opportunity to participate in work placements, internships and creative modern apprenticeships. You will receive

bespoke business advice and the opportunity to develop your business skills in the creative area of choice, be it performing arts, design, or film and media.

*If you are interested in becoming a beneficiary, please contact Paul Martin on 01753 875400 for further information about the programme and to register your interest in becoming an intern.*

## Enterprise Hub Update

Slough Enterprise Hub is expanding. From 1st March, there will be 50% more units available for small creative and new media businesses, bringing the total to 26. The new space will also house a basic kitchen facility and will be situated on the first floor of the Learning Resource Centre at Thames Valley University.

The Enterprise Hub has added another film and media production company to its list of tenants. Instinct Media Ltd. is the forth new media production company to be based at the Hub. Lucy Lee, of Instinct Media Ltd, joins Dominique Oliver (Resource

Productions Ltd.), Asham Kamboj (Paperknife Productions Ltd.) and Chris Jones (Hyperreels).

When asked about her move to the Enterprise Hub, Lucy said: "I moved here from London because it was far better value for money, allowing me space to expand. It is also a friendly place full of entrepreneurs who are actively building their businesses, which makes a great working environment."

*For further details about the units please contact Annie St-Aubin on 01753 697815.*

## At the West Wing

### Music: Big Blue Kangaroo (BBK)

Honkin' saxes, blisterin' guitars, rockin' keyboards and a solid rhythm section bring you the best from the 50's to the 90's. From Chuck Berry to Madness, BB King to Van Morrison, with a little Shirley Bassey thrown in for good measure!

**Sat 22nd Apr**  
**8.00pm**  
**£5 (£4)**

### Dance: Ether

Angika is a leading British Indian dance company committed to regenerating the rich vocabulary of classical Bharata Natyam dance with a contemporary approach. In 'Ether', Angika engage the powerful rhythmic element of Bharata Natyol with lyrical stillness.

**Thu 11th May**  
**7.30pm**  
**£8 (£6)**

### Theatre: A Shut Up Comedy From Japan

With an ingenious package of clever, free-flowing mime, gentle acrobatics and a suitcase full of intrigue, this is a show that really has to be seen to be believed.

**Fri 19th May**  
**7.30pm**  
**£10 (£8)**

*The West Wing*  
**Stoke Road**  
**Slough SL2 5AY**  
**Box office 01753 823710**

## What's happening?

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>February</b>				
Every Tuesday	7.30pm	Adult Drama Classes	West Wing	01753 476651
Every Tuesday	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	Cineworld (formerly UGC cinema)	01784 434868
6	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Discussion: Editing, polishing and proofing	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
11, 12	various	Polish Dance Spectacular	Wycombe Swan Theatre	01494 512000
13	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Pitching the Proposal	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
18	8.00pm	Fennerfest: Maharajah Cabaret	Vikram's Occasions Palace	
20	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Guest Speaker: Brad Ashton (Comedy script writer)	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
27	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Write Night - Backslang. (Lateral inspiration)	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
<b>March</b>				
Every Tuesday	7.30pm	Adult Drama Classes	West Wing	01753 476651
Every Tuesday	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	Cineworld (formerly UGC cinema)	01784 434868
6	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
11	8.00pm	Fennerfest: Ken Campbell - Secret Cabaret	West Wing	01753 823710
13	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Write Night: Room 101	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
18	8.00pm	Fennerfest: Maharajah Cabaret	Vikram's Occasions Palace	
20	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
27	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Discussion: Critique technique	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
29 – 6 Apr	various	Same Difference Film Festival	Various venues	01753 574780
<b>April</b>				
Every Tuesday	7.30pm	Adult Drama Classes	West Wing	01753 476651
Every Tuesday	8.30pm	Slough Co-operative Film Society screening	Cineworld (formerly UGC cinema)	01784 434868
3	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Manuscript Evening	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
10	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Term's Story Competition: Results and reading	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725
21	8.00pm	Maharajah Cabaret	Vikram's Occasions Palace	
24	7.30pm	Slough Writers' Group Meeting: Start of Summer Session 2006	The Greyhound, Eton Wick	01628 661725

## Useful Websites

[www.slough.gov.uk/arts](http://www.slough.gov.uk/arts)  
[www.fennerfest.co.uk](http://www.fennerfest.co.uk)  
[www.sloughcvs.org.uk](http://www.sloughcvs.org.uk)

Arts Development website for the arts in Slough  
 Encouraging the community to get involved in local art and cultural events  
 Advice and training for voluntary organisations

For information on exciting arts events taking place throughout the season at the West Wing, visit [www.artsinslough.org.uk](http://www.artsinslough.org.uk).

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](mailto:artsinfo@slough.gov.uk)