

Flashlight

SILVER SCREEN STARS - earn their stripes

MORE THAN EIGHTY young people from Wirral enjoyed the limelight and were treated like film stars for the evening when they attended the premiere of their own films on 26th June 2007. Lighthouse Productions and Pacific Road Arts Theatre hosted the premiere of four films created by students from Wirral. The taste of Hollywood included a red carpet, transport to the event in limousines and a canapé reception.

The filmmaking has been supported by Lighthouse Productions, part of The Learning Lighthouse City Learning Centre and funded through First Light Movies, the youth branch of the UK Film Council. The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Phil Gilchrist greeted the young filmmakers and presented them with mementoes of the occasion.

The four films were:

- * Convolution - a film which leads you in different directions and one you will definitely need to watch more than once to fully understand.
- * Underfoot Safari 2 (reduce, reuse, recycle) - the sequel to Underfoot Safari in which 4 children shrink in size and explore a compost heap! This film has a strong message about recycling.
- * "Don't Label Me!" - a drama exploring the friction between two teenage groups (with a moral undercurrent) using split screen.
- * Teenage Kicks - a documentary examining the varied music tastes of teenagers.



IT'S YOUR FUTURE! - SUCCESS STORY

The first ever 'It's your future event' was held in May 2007 at Discovery City Learning Centre in conjunction with Wirral's ICT Advisory Service and the Learning Lighthouse CLC. The event was organised and promoted by students and for students and celebrated all the excellent pioneering work involving IT that has been going on this year. IT's Your Future was aimed at 14 to 19 year olds to showcase how they use ICT in an innovative way.

The work submitted was amazingly varied including podcasts, stop-frame animations, website designs, flash animations and digital artwork. The event had a 'competitive element' and prizes such as iPods, Mp3 Players, Vouchers and Software were kindly donated by sponsors and the three Wirral CLCs. The judging panel who selected winners was comprised of representatives of the student organisers and they commented on 'the high standard and quality of submissions'.

Next year's IT's Your Future - the date is set - 8th May 2008!



WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FILM FESTIVAL 'TAKE 5'

The fifth 'Wirral Schools' Film Festival' will be held on Thursday, 3rd July 2008 at Weatherhead High School Media Arts College in conjunction with The Learning Lighthouse City Learning Centre and Wirral's Gifted and Talented Strand.

If you are involved in making a film this year or in the planning stages then make sure that your film is submitted to this festival by 23rd May 2008. This year's film festival will be bigger and better than ever with a VIP guest speaker from the world of filmmaking. Make this a 'not to be missed' event in your School Calendar. Put the dates in your diary!

If you are interested in these or any other projects that we can help you with – contact April or Patsi at the learning lighthouse on 678 2509.

Flashback

FILMS IN THE MAKING

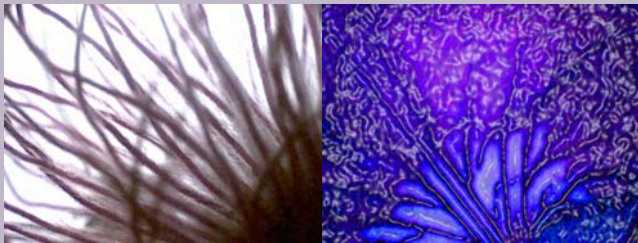
'A snapshot of film projects at The Learning Lighthouse CLC'

SCI-ART...

...is an exciting, new creative project for primary schools. Pupils from around 40 Primary Schools have booked into the Learning Lighthouse CLC for a project bringing together both science and art: 'Sci-Art'.

Last year a pilot group of schools were inspired by the work of artist Georgia O'Keefe and produced some sensational artwork developed from digital images. The work was exhibited at The Professional Excellence Centre in Bromborough.

Rose Froud (former Science Advisory Teacher for Wirral) will lead the sessions and has linked the work to the KS2 Science Schemes of Work. Children will use digital microscopes to merge their learning about a science topic with art to create an original digital image in the style of a chosen artist. The digital images will be enhanced using Adobe Photoshop by applying filters and changing the colours and saturation levels.



Consideration of important science skills such as predicting, observing and explaining are highlighted as well as covering some key elements of science knowledge in each session. The Learning Lighthouse has 16 digital microscopes so a whole class can enjoy a digital imaging experience.

Due to the success of this programme for KS2, we are currently aiming to roll this out to link into KS3 Science Schemes of Work early next year.

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

The Learning Lighthouse CLC has run a number of successful holiday workshops during the summer and half term holidays. The workshops were designed to encourage parents, carers and grandparents to come along and learn with their children. A variety of free workshops using digital microscopes, working with digital images, stop-frame animation, making your own music video and using Kar2ouche to create an animated version of a well known fairytale were very well attended.

If you are interested in these or any other projects that we can help you with – contact April or Patsi at the learning lighthouse on 678 2509.

The Learning Lighthouse is currently involved in recording, editing and compiling a number of films in conjunction with different groups.

Ten schools who are concerned with Fair Trade have visited the CLC to receive training in 'The Five Shots' - how to get the best out of your video camera to film a documentary. They will all record different elements of the film and it will all be compiled into a completed DVD at the Learning Lighthouse.

Nic Harding (Wirral Ranger Service, Bidston Hill) has received a grant to create a film which will coincide with the re-opening of Bidston Mill to the public and schools. Estelle Condliff, the BBC Community Producer for Wirral and the Learning Lighthouse CLC have been involved with a group of Wirral students who have visited both Bidston Mill and a fully working mill in Llanddeusant in Anglesey, Melin Llynnon. There, they were able to film a fully restored mill and interview both the miller, Lloyd Jones and his assistant. Bidston Mill's floors and roof have recently been restored and students were able to film and photograph there during half term. Using archive images they have compiled a video which tells the story of Bidston Mill from the sixteenth century to the present day.

Hilbre High School is currently producing a video with the Institute of Advanced Motorists, about teenage drivers. The film is based on the pressures that teenage drivers find themselves under from their peers ie speeding, distraction by loud music, using mobile phones and drugs and alcohol. This will be a very powerful film evoking strong emotions which will hopefully contribute to saving lives.

We are currently in the process of setting up a project in association with The Oldershaw School and Fat Free Media Productions. Fat Free Media design a fresh and unique range of video production services for businesses. They will work with a small group of Business Studies students, who will pitch to a client based on a brief to commission, film and edit a unique production based on the requirements of a local business.

A new, permanent gallery at the Lady Lever Art Gallery will house Lord Leverhulme's African art collection together with a photographic archive of his time in search palm oil in Africa. To complement this new gallery, The Learning Lighthouse is to work with two local secondary schools, Bebington High School and Wirral Grammar for Girls, to create a series of animations forming a projected installation and inclusion in an AV unit as part of the new gallery which will be opened to the public in June 2008.



Mark Fleming an animator and 3D architectural model maker will be working with Plessington High School to create a 2D animation. This innovative project will allow photography of images and shapes through a Perspex rig (right) from above to give an added depth to the animation.