

# Flashlight

## IN VIVO, IN VITRO, IN FORM

*'science inspired art informing young people'*



The Wellcome Trust, *Pulse* award has provided funding to support a Wirral school's arts initiative which will engage young people with biomedical science. The project, which is being co-ordinated by The Learning Lighthouse CLC, will involve many young scientists, artists, design technologists, performers, dancers and musicians and also young people interested in stage management and debate.

A number of workshops were held last term to create digital art work and animations. Artists in residence went into five schools to produce large scale pieces. Their brief was inspired by the sculpture of Alison Lapper in Trafalgar Square: 'Produce life size sculptures, linked to prosthetics and disability, which could be used as set design for the performances. Sculptures must have surfaces that could be projected onto or illuminated in some manner to cast shadows.'

Digital art and animations have focused on the past, present and future of prosthetics and informed and inspired the choreography and narrative for the performances. A large articulated puppet has been made which will be assembled on stage by the performers.

A choreographer is working with three schools to develop devised pieces for the performances. To inspire students they attended workshops by a contemporary disabled/non-disabled dance company, CandoCo and a number of students went to a performance by CandoCo at Chester Gateway Theatre. Two students have visited Salford University's gait lab to produce some skeletal videos which will become part of the multimedia live projections.

Lectures from scientists on topics such as stem cell research and cell genetics have been arranged for the autumn term. Jamie Andrew, a quadrilateral amputee who lost his limbs through frostbite, has given an inspiring talk which was held at Discovery CLC. Stelarc, who thinks he is more robot than human and is presently growing an extra ear on his forearm, will also visit. Talks will culminate in a live debate about disability, corrective surgery and replacement body parts chaired by Mat Fraser an outspoken comedian who was affected by thalidomide.

**If you are interested in booking for the performances or any of the lectures – contact Andrea at the learning lighthouse on 678 2509.**

## WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FILM FESTIVAL

The third annual 'Wirral Schools' Film Festival' was held on Wednesday, 28th June 2006 at Weatherhead High School Media Arts College in conjunction with the Learning Lighthouse and Wirral's Gifted & Talented Strand. This year's festival involved 26 schools, 62 films and over 5.5 hours of film.

The film festival has become a very popular event in the Wirral School Calendar. The festival was attended by the Mayor, Councillor Peter Johnson and Mayoress and many proud parents and teachers who watched the rolling programme of films with young filmmakers.

If you are involved in making a film this year or in the planning stages then make sure that you enquire about next year's festival.



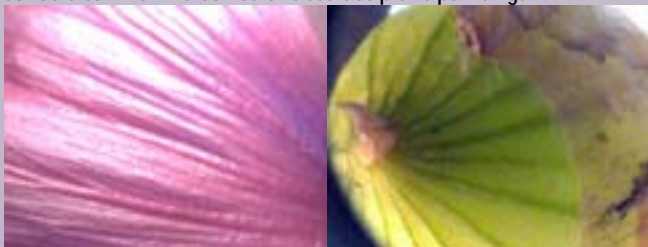
### Images from In vivo, In vitro, In form



# Flashback

## SCI-ART

Pupils from Mendell and Brackenwood Primary Schools came to the Learning Lighthouse CLC for a project bringing together science and art: 'Sci-Art'. They briefly looked at a number of artists who use abstract plant-forms in their paintings before completing their own investigations of flowering plants. They used digital microscopes to photograph close-up shots of plant sections and parts and then digitally changed these using filters in PhotoShop. The project had the support of a local artist and scientist Mary Green. The resultant images will be used in schools to inform a series of abstract plant paintings.



## Multimedia Materials

Over 2000 students from secondary and primary schools watched Steve Allman's interactive science lecture on 'Materials' at the Floral Pavilion. The Learning Lighthouse supported the event by mixing images, from two on-stage cameras, using portable video mixing equipment and projecting them onto a large screen. This allowed the audience to watch close-up shots of fast-moving demonstrations and experience the thrill of the exciting experiments.



## Music Workshop for Year 9's

Year 9 students from Wirral Grammar for Girls have used the video and music facilities to support their 'Music for Film' module as part of their music curriculum. All students were given an illustrated talk on the use of music in film. The groups then split into two, some learnt how to add music and sound effects to video and cut video to the beat of music and others learnt how to compose their own music for a scene from Dracula using Cubase VST.

**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.**

## Lighthouse Productions

### Storyline keeps you guessing

Year two of the film partnership has started with a film called 'Convolution' – a short film which leads the audience down 'the garden path' and reveals a twist to the storyline in the closing scenes. This is in now in post production. This film was made with St Anselm's College and Upton Hall School.

### Digging deep into the heap

A second film is currently in the filming phase. It will be the sequel to Underfoot Safari and will be informative as well as entertaining, the main theme being 'sustainable development' with a view to raising young people's awareness to the importance of waste management & recycling. Underfoot Safari 2 is being made with pupils from Thingwall Primary School, Stanley School and Pensby High School for Girls. Both of these films are being made in conjunction with Marc Gee, a local scriptwriter. Recently, Rebecca Hosking, a BBC wildlife macro camerawoman visited the Wirral to work with the students to film extreme close-ups of the animals which had been scripted into the film. The majority of this film will be made using green screen technology and the students also worked with Rebecca to produce 'backplates' for the actors to appear to be in the middle of a compost heap.



## Film & Literacy Workshops

Lighthouse Productions have run Key Stage 1 and 2 Film and Literacy workshops during the summer term. The workshops used 'Starting Stories' and 'Story Shorts' from Film Education which explore and demonstrate the richness of short films as texts to support the development of children's literacy and cineliteracy.

## Video Conferencing

Five Wallasey Secondary Schools have made a successful link using Click2Meet video conferencing software for the sixth form consortium. The Learning Lighthouse CLC is currently also conducting extensive hardware and software testing with 10 primary schools within the locality. Sandbrook and Christchurch have used it to conduct a modern foreign language workshop between the two schools. Other primary schools have used the video conferencing facilities to enhance different areas of the curriculum.