



Undercurrents Media Education/BeyondTV
AS/A Level Media Studies students are attending Undercurrents Media Education screenings as part of November's BeyondTV festival in Swansea. BeyondTV is an annual alternative media festival held in Swansea, with a full programme of short movies, workshops, documentaries, music videos and animation from inspiring media producers. This year, BeyondTV is dedicating an entire day to media education and on Wednesday, November 29th, will deliver a three-hour presentation to NPTC students. This presentation is geared specifically toward media students and aims to inspire through exposure to alternative and independent media, currently unavailable through mainstream channels.



Professional Dance Workshops

Performing Arts Dance students have been working with a number of dance professionals through a series of workshops and master-classes. During this term, the students have worked with Ballet Independent Wales, Hip Hop artists from Harnisch-Lacey Dance Theatre and Welsh Independent Dance.



Dance Feast

Students on the National Diploma Performing Arts and A Level Dance courses presented a series of dance works to their friends and family before the October half-term. This was an opportunity for the students to give the audience an insight to the first six weeks of their course. Year 2 National Diploma students also performed their solos in preparation for their degree auditions.



We Will Rock You

Auditions for Ovation Musical Theatre took place on Saturday 11th October for their forthcoming production of We Will Rock You. Students were put through their paces with Craig Ryder, original member of the West End cast. This was followed up with a visit to see the West End show and a backstage tour.

Lift Dance Company

The College Dance Company looks forward to seeing you at their next performance on Tuesday 16th December at the Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea University. This will be a showcase of musical theatre, contemporary and jazz dance, featuring LIFT Dance Company and students from the National Diploma Performing Arts and A Level Dance. The show kicks off at 7pm and tickets cost £7 and £5 concessions.

For further information/tickets contact Craig Coombs on 01639 648327 or craig.coombs@nptc.ac.uk.



Issue No.1

Welcome to the first edition of NPTC's School of Creative, Visual and Performing Arts (CVP) termly newsletter. Here you will find details of all the creative activities and events that are taking place in Art and Design, Media and Performing Arts this term and next. Our school is a dynamic, lively place where there is always lots to see and do; from live projects to live performances – you'll find it all here at Creative Central!

If you would like any information about the courses we run at Neath Port Talbot College please visit our website www.nptc.ac.uk or contact Admissions on 01639 648000

Glan-yr-Afon Arts Centre

A new £2 million performing arts centre has recently been opened at the Neath Campus and includes a purpose-built theatre with a 170 seat auditorium. Other features include a cinema screen, high specification lighting and sound equipment and a suspension tower with state of the art flying equipment. Glan-yr-Afon Arts Centre is a centre of excellence for students in drama, dance, musical theatre and music performance. The Arts Centre also houses two multi-purpose studios for practical performance sessions and will be used for regular exhibitions of art and design, photography and multi-media work.



Glan-yr-Afon Arts Centre



Set Design/Animation Project

Second year BTEC National Diploma Art and Design students from both the Neath and Afan campuses are currently designing and creating small scale set designs for a BTEC National Diploma Media Production project. The sets range from bus-stops to fantasy forests and will act as a

starting-point for the Media students when they begin writing their animation scripts. The Media students will then film their animations using the sets and we hope to screen the completed animations in the Glan-Yr-Afon Arts Centre later in the academic year.

BTEC National Diploma in Art and Design – London or Paris?

BTEC National Diploma students from the Neath and Afan campuses have been given the option of travelling to either London or Paris for a four-day educational visit in February 2009. Last February we spent four days in London, during which time we visited the British Museum, the V&A Museum, The National Gallery, Tate Modern, Tate Britain and The Design Museum. We even managed a meal in Chinatown, an evening of ice-skating and an afternoon of shopping at Camden Market. Students and staff had both an enjoyable and profitable time, as students kept visual diaries of their experiences, which acted as the basis for project work when we returned to college.



Clothes Show Live

A range of students from across all Art and Design courses will be attending Clothes Show Live at the NEC Birmingham on Monday 8th December. This is the largest fashion and beauty event in the world, including fashion, hair, beauty, make-up, models, celebrities and an famously breathtaking fashion show. This is a unique opportunity for NPTC students to experience the fashion industry up close, whilst gathering invaluable primary research for their art and design projects.



Drama Performances

A Level Drama and BTEC National Diploma students will be performing 3 original pieces devised by the students themselves, in the Glan-yr-Afon Arts Centre Theatre on Thursday December 18th (6-8pm). Some of these students will also be performing stand-up comedy sets in December, exact dates and times to be confirmed.

For further information/tickets: contact Zoe Arrieta on 01639 648327 or zoe.arrieta@nptc.ac.uk.

AS/A Level Fine Art – Bristol Visit



On Tuesday 4th November AS/A Level Fine Art students visited the Arnolfini Art Gallery in Bristol, one of Europe's leading centres for the contemporary arts. Whilst there, students saw two exhibitions: 'On Purpose: Design Concepts', and 'The Need for Uncertainty' by Mircea Cantor. They also took part in artist workshops and gathered research for their projects through sketches, notes and photography. During the day they also visited the Watershed Media Centre and the Spike Island centre for contemporary art and design.

Touring Productions at Glan-yr-Afon Arts Centre

In September of this year Hijinx Theatre Company visited NPTC with their touring production of 'The Other Woman' by Paul Swift. This was the first drama performance in our brand new Glan-yr-Afon Arts Centre Theatre and proved to be a great success. Graduating students from Trinity College, Carmarthen's School of Theatre and Performance will be performing 'Little Certainties' by Barbara Colio on November 13th and 'Antigone' by Jean Anouilh on November 27th.



Ystradgynlais Media Trust Ltd

Ystrad TV Project

BTEC First/National Diploma Media students are currently working on a project with Ystrad TV, a community-based media production company whose mission is to 'enthuse, excite, educate and inform through the genre of media'. They are working together to develop a series of programmes based on topical issues in the South Wales area. The aim is to encourage media production management techniques and skill. The students meet every week to develop their ideas and are currently in the pre-production phase of the project.

Best of the 80s Charity Gig

On Thursday December the 11th there will be a charity gig entitled 'Best of the 80s' in the Glan-yr-Afon Arts Centre Theatre. This will involve performances inspired by music from the 1980s and will be performed by year 2 students of the BTEC National/Higher National Diploma in Music. This event will be in aid of a Parkinson's charity and will start at 7pm. For further information/tickets: **Contact Christian Carpenter (christian.carpenter@nptc.ac.uk) or Dave Jones (david.jones@nptc.ac.uk) or on 01639 648327**

NPTC Jazz Ensemble

NPTC Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay during December, exact date to be confirmed. They will be also be performing at a range of Arts Centres and Jazz Clubs throughout the coming year.

For further information, contact Dave Jones on 01639 648327 or david.jones@nptc.ac.uk.



Musicians Union Visit

Paul Gray from the Musicians Union visits NPTC a few times each year to talk to Music students about the music industry. Paul has a vast amount of knowledge and experience in this field, as he is a professional session musician and owns his own record label.



Music Live Event

BTEC Music students (First/National/Higher National Diploma) attended the 'Music Live' event at the NEC Birmingham on Friday the 7th of November. This is a huge music industry exhibition which gave students the opportunity to attend workshops and seminars, watch instrument demonstrations, try out new equipment and buy new musical equipment. Justin Hawkins from The Darkness performed with his new band Hot Leg and Dave Mustang, from Megadeth gave a guitar clinic with legendary blues guitarist Joe Bonamassa. There was so much to see and do at this event, students who attended returned to college motivated and inspired and said it was a hugely enjoyable experience.

1st Sounds Record Label

NPTC's own record label '1st Sounds' is run by students on the Higher National Diploma in Popular Music, with help from the Course Coordinator, Dave Jones. This runs as part of the Graduate Enterprise Programme and gives students the opportunity to experience the day to day running of a record label, including recording, mixing and producing.

National Diploma in Music Technology CD

BTEC National Diploma in Music Technology students are currently in the process of recording a compilation CD of original work. This will be recorded and mixed within NPTC and is expected to be released around Easter 2009. There will be an official CD launch, which will be covered and promoted by local radio.

Media Studies Master Classes at Atrium

AS/A Level Media Studies students attended several master classes at Cardiff School of Creative and Cultural Industries (Atrium) on Wednesday afternoons throughout October. These educational study workshops gave students an opportunity to further their studies and benefit from experiencing other practitioners work from within the media industry.