



**COMING SOON**  
KNIGHT-KRAWLERS  
Watch this space!



**LABAN & LIPA  
EDUCATIONAL VISITS**

This term the National Diploma Performing Arts students have taken part in two university taster days at the two of the UK's leading conservatoires for dance and the performing arts. These invaluable visits allowed the students to meet professional artists from the industry and take dance classes lead by top dance specialists, helping each student to make an informed decision about their futures.



**National Dance Company  
of Wales & Beyond Repair  
Dance Associates**

This year a large number of NPTC's dance students have been offered places in the above contemporary dance company associate schemes. Both companies offer a high level of training for the young dancers and we are very proud of their successes.



**NPTC &  
COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA**

ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS WELCOME  
(Grade 4-5 standard and up)  
EVERY TUESDAY 4:30-6pm  
NEATH CAMPUS, ROOM ND025  
(OLD THEATRE)  
Contact: carolyn.davies@nptc.ac.uk  
Also: Soul/Function Band, Jazz Ensemble, Choir & Brass Group

**ORCHESTRA**

**Tuesdays 4-30-6pm**  
**Starting back on January 26th  
due to 'Hairspray' rehearsals.**  
**Also NPTC Function Band**  
**Thursdays 12.30pm**

**Media Students Berlin Visit**

A Level Media Students will be travelling to Berlin in January 2010 to experience European media industries and to introduce them to some of the most eminent creatives in the field of film, broadcasting and animation. At the 'Pencil to Pixel' event, speakers will offer invaluable advice for those seeking a career in this exciting field. Berlin, with its filmatic history stretching from 'Nosferatu' and Fritz Lang's 'Metropolis' to current Hollywood big budget films such as 'V for Vendetta', 'Black Book' and Tom Cruise's 'Valkyrie', provides the perfect location for this event. Students will visit the Axel Springer Publishing House, Babelsberg Film Studios, Berlin Film Museum and Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (RBB).



**Media Industry Professional Visits**

Kevin McDonagh and Luke Rufo from the independent film production company Rotunda Films will be visiting NPTC in the New Year in order to screen their latest film 'Wasters' at the Canolfan Nidum Centre. 'Wasters' won the Tinsel Town award for Best Film on its debut at the Heart of England Film Festival. Luke, the writer and director of 'Wasters', will be on hand to answer any questions about the film or the industry in general.

**ACADEMI+**

SKILLSET

**A2 Media Students** will be attending the Skillset Academy 'Take 12 Panel Session - Film, The Internet and Wales' at the Atrium, Cardiff on December 15th. Here, students will learn about the impact of the internet and the digital age on the film industry, and how it is effecting film in Wales now and in the near future. Students who have applied to university will also have a chance to experience a sample of the type of seminars which will be available to them at H.E.



Welcome to the third 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](http://www.nptc.ac.uk) or contact Admissions on 01639 648000.

**Artist in Residence**

CVP now has an Artist in Residence who will be working with students on our A Level and Vocational Art and Design courses. Anna Hale is an ex-student of NPTC who completed A Levels in Fine Art, 3D Design and Psychology in 2005. She has since graduated from University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC) with a BA(Hons) in Ceramics and is currently studying for a MA in Arts and Health at University of Glamorgan. Anna's work is inspired by the rocky landscape and she manipulates her hand built forms to add movement and then applies lead glaze to highlight this movement. The residency runs for a period of one academic year, giving Anna sole use of a studio space on the Afan campus and access to all college facilities and accommodation. In return for this, Anna facilitates a number of classes per week and gives master classes and presentations throughout the year. We have received very positive feedback from our students, who are enjoying the experience of working alongside a practicing artist. Anna is so far enjoying her role and said "this has been a fantastic opportunity to start my professional practice and I have also enjoyed working with others with in the college and seeing the new ideas and work of the students."



**WJEC Award for NPTC Art and Design Student**

NPTC A Level Art and Design student Danielle Pursey has been congratulated by the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) for her excellent A Level results. Danielle received 6000 UMS marks, the highest of all of the candidates who studied Art and Design with WJEC this year. This is an outstanding achievement and in recognition of this, the WJEC have awarded Danielle with a certificate and a prize of £50.



Danielle (above, left) came to NPTC in 2007, having achieved eleven A\* grade GCSEs and an A grade in AS Level Fine Art from Sandfields Comprehensive School. Whilst at NPTC, she studied A Levels in Textiles, Photography and 3D Design (Ceramics) and achieved top A grades in all three. Danielle is now studying Ba (Hons) Surface Pattern at Swansea Metropolitan University. She will be formally presented with the award in a ceremony in the Main Hall on the Neath campus on Wednesday 16th December.

## Fine Art Visit to Birmingham



On the 1st of October AS and A2 Fine Art students from both the Neath and Afan campus visited Birmingham. The intention was to gather first hand information and visual research from art exhibitions. We first visited the Birmingham City Museum which had some interesting William Morris Designs and Pre-Raphaelite work and then we went to the Ikon Gallery which exhibited more 'conceptual' and contemporary art exhibitions.

## Neal Rock Exhibition New Art Gallery Walsall



Ex NPTC A Level Fine Art student Neal Rock, who is originally from Port Talbot but now living in Los Angeles, has recently held his first major solo art exhibition in a UK public Gallery. This show features entirely new work of sculptural compositions through the layering of pigmented silicon.

## National Museum Cardiff Visit

BTEC National Diploma in Art and Design students spent a day at the National Museum Cardiff on Tuesday 10th November, where they conducted research for the Historical and Contextual Studies part of their course. Students were given a number of tasks, mainly based around the Impressionist/Post-Impressionist artworks and the museum's extensive ceramics collection. Many students observed how different the Monet paintings looked in real-life, compared to in books and on the internet. The students took photographs and made sketches of the work they saw and answered questions set by their lecturers. These students will be returning to Cardiff on December 5th for a contemporary architecture and design visit to Cardiff Bay. Whilst there,

they will be taking a tour of the Senedd building designed by Richard Rogers, looking at the public sculptures in Cardiff Bay and completing a series of contemporary design tasks in IKEA.



## Make Your Mark Challenge

Earlier this term students from the Neath campus took part in the Make Your Mark Challenge, a one day enterprise competition organised by Enterprise UK. This involved students from schools and colleges across the UK coming up with a business idea in response to a secret brief revealed on the day. This year, over 60,000 students took part and were asked to come up with an innovative business idea that took its inspiration from something local. Teams were then asked to prepare a plan, outlining their business idea, their marketing strategy and the financial aspects of the business idea. At the end of the event the teams pitched their ideas to a panel of judges (Dragon's Den style) and faced some tough questioning from the judges. The winning team, 'Me, Myself and Ice-Cream' came from the BTEC National Diploma in Art and Design course. They took the 'cool creation' brief literally and came up with an eco-friendly ice cream company that produced ice cream made from locally sourced, organic ingredients. The students also decided they would use their design talents to come up with creative and innovative packaging that would assist in marketing their 'cool' products. Other ideas for the company included customised ice cream flavours (including Welshcake flavour!), letting customers make their own ice cream and ice cream eating competitions!



## A Level Media Studies – Competition success

This year A Level Media Studies students will be entering several production competitions including the The BBC Blast and BAFTA TV Craft Bursary (Screen-Skills). <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blast/> This allows students who have a passion for TV, the chance to submit a short programme (less than 5 minutes in length) focusing in particular on editing, scriptwriting, composing music, or DoP. They are given the opportunity to win a £3000 bursary to make their own programme. William Samuel (a current A level Student) is working on expanding a production of a video he submitted for his AS Media course work. This video extract was recognised by the author of the book 'Burgular Diarys', Danny King. His story has been adapted for video production and can be viewed on the authors web site at [www.dannykingbooks.com](http://www.dannykingbooks.com). Kristian Roosmalens' 'Nokia' advert got through to the final phase of judging for his entry at the 'Mofilm' competition who were the sponsors of this years London Film Festival. We wish all the media students luck with their competition entries and will keep you posted of any successes.

## New CVP Staff

This year has brought a number of new staff to CVP:

**Phil Broome** – Music Technology Lecturer  
**Nia Collier** – Ballet Lecturer  
**Steven Foster** – D&T: Product Design Lecturer  
**Bethan Griffiths** – Drama Lecturer  
**Debbie Lloyd-Jones**  
**Nick Lown** – D&T Technician  
**Ian Staples** – Drama Lecturer  
Here's a little more about them...

## Nick Lown – D&T Technician

Nic started work at the college in September and is the Design and Technology: Product Design technician. Nic's background is in art and design, furniture production and welding and fabrication and he will be putting all of these skills to good use by helping students with the technical making aspects of their projects. Nic has had a very busy first term at NPTC, helping to set-up the new Product Design studio on the ground floor of the ELC. Nic is looking forward to being part of the CVP team and the staff development and learning opportunities that this will bring and says he 'looks forward to making a difference at the college'.



## Bethan Griffiths – Drama Lecturer

Bethan's background is mainly in comprehensive school teaching, as Head of Drama in schools in Newport and Bridgend. She has also taught with Stagecoach Theatre School and loves singing and performing. Bethan has been in various choirs/singing groups, as well as musicals such as Jesus Christ Superstar and West Side Story with Orbit Theatre. Bethan has just started SHOUT Drama Company here in college and says everyone is welcome, so if you're interested in drama, why not in get involved? Contact: [bethan.griffiths@nptc.ac.uk](mailto:bethan.griffiths@nptc.ac.uk)

## Nia Collier – Ballet Lecturer

Nia trained at The Arts Educational School, Chiswick (London) and went on to work as a singer, dancer and actress within the Performing Arts Industry. She has been fortunate enough to work with several West End producers and choreographers and is keen to share both her knowledge and experience with the students at Neath Port Talbot College.

## Phil Broome –

## Music Technology Lecturer

Phil was born in London but lived most of his life in Newcastle Upon Tyne, so he's fairly new to Wales. His background is mainly as a DJ/Producer and over the last 18 years he has DJ'd many places from the local boozer to Ministry Of Sound, Ibiza and beyond. He used to play bass and keys in bands too, but says he is 'a tad out of practice, so may get back into that'. He is also a house music producer, DJing and producing under the guises Phil England, Physikal E and Sunstitute. He has signings to Big In Ibiza and PR Recordings and has remixed for Warners, Universal and Pacha, to name a few. Phil has also taught Music Technology and DJ Skills at Northumbria Uni, Interactive Development Ltd and Co-Musica/North Music Trust, all in Newcastle Upon Tyne. Phil currently has his own show on Afan FM, which you can catch on Friday evenings from 6 til 8 or check him out on myspace.

[www.myspace.com/djphilengland](http://www.myspace.com/djphilengland)

[www.myspace.com/sunstitute](http://www.myspace.com/sunstitute)

[www.myspace.com/physikale](http://www.myspace.com/physikale)

## Hairspray



Ovation Musical Theatre Company is currently in major rehearsal for their forthcoming Blockbusting West End Hit show HAIRSPRAY. Over fifty students and twenty musicians are hard at work preparing for what is sure to be a smash hit. Hairspray is set in Baltimore, Maryland in 1962 and is based on the 1988 John Waters film. It features music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Scott Wittman/Shaiman and includes 1960s-style dance music and 'downtown' rhythm and blues. It is the story of plump teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream to dance on The Corny Collins Show, a local TV dance program based on the real-life Buddy Deane Show. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight and launches a campaign to integrate the show. Hairspray is a social commentary on the injustices of parts of American society in the 1960s.

## PERFORMANCE DATES:

**MONDAY 18TH – FRIDAY 22ND**

**JANUARY AT THE CANOLFAN**

**NIDUM CENTRE, NEATH PORT**

**TALBOT COLLEGE.**

**TICKETS £8 / £6 CONCESSION.**

**For tickets contact: 07530 291322**

## Product Design Studio

Design and Technology is now up and running with the newly developed Product Design Studio just about coming on line. Almost 30 students are presently following Product Design at AS level, developing projects ranging from adjustable guitar pick-up systems to children's toys. Additionally, there are over 30 students on the National Diploma Art and Design course following practical design units in the new studio. Clearly, as a new subject, there is still a lot more development needed but we already have some initiatives underway.



We have recently linked up with The Secure Letter Box Company in Neath and students are designing and developing a new product for their international market. Also, discussion is taking place to develop links with the nationally esteemed Product Design School at Swansea Metropolitan University and several students will be working there for a week later this term. If you are interested in knowing more about what we do or would like to know more about the course, feel free to call in anytime and speak to Steve or some of the students on the course.

## Making Men Matter

Since their debut performance earlier this year the male dancers of BLAST have grown from strength to strength under the creative direction of NPTC's dance lecturer Craig Coombs. The all male company are currently building dance material for their 2009/2010 tour and have already performed their latest dance works A Brother's Smile, Infusion of He and The Bar Men at a variety of venues including Taliesin Arts Centre, Wales Millennium Centre, The Gate and NIDUM Arts Centre. The Company have also been given a regular slot at Pontardawe Arts centre and are currently working on a brand new dance work for their professional showcase on Tuesday 12th January 2010 (tickets available on 01639 648327, £5). BLAST are to be featured on BBC Wales.



## LIFT Dance Company of NPTC

This year LIFT embarks upon its fifth consecutive year as one of Wales's leading further educational dance company. This year the company will perform one professional showcase on Thursday 1st April 2010 and it promises to be innovative, entertaining and technically mind blowing in every sense of the work. The company is made up of the elite dance students and will be choreographed by dance lecturers, Craig Coombs, Vicky Burroughs, Matthew Howells and newcomer Nia Collier.