

UK update

Highlights from this term have included the large scale project, 'Trees of Life' where we decorated three trees on the Winstanley Estate in Battersea. The multi coloured leaves brought hope and life during the winter months and caused a real stir in the local community. At Eastlea school, West Ham, we have just completed the second phase of a project exploring the theme of bullying. We have been working with children from the Special Needs Centre and children, who have been affected by bullying, from the mainstream school. This project concludes with a week-long intensive drama and music programme, integrating the two groups.

We are very excited as a second team of artists head off to China in May to work in partnership with Handicap International. From this trip we will gather photographs to display in a photography exhibition, which will show the reality of those living with disability in China. The work will reflect some of the hope, dignity and joy that has begun to emerge over the last decade. Epic wants to raise awareness of the changes occurring in China, but also to show the untapped potential that lies within millions of people living with disabilities in China – watch this space.

It's been a rollercoaster of creativity in these last few months and we are thrilled about the future. The UK office continues to grow and we are further developing our international work, as we know Epic can have such an enormous impact on people's lives where there has been limited or no creative provision.

Juliet Hadden



A quick snapshot of some projects coming up over the summer months:

Drama: Working with Eastlea School on an integrated project tackling the issues surrounding bullying.

China Photography Exhibition: Expected venues in London, New York, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Beijing, Dates t.b.c.

Greenbelt Festival: 22nd – 25th August 2008 – performance, workshops and seminars.

CAMBODIA update

2008

has been an exciting time for Epic Arts in Cambodia. Thanks to generous funding from The Nippon Foundation, Epic Arts was able to host the first Asian Festival of Inclusive Arts to be held in Cambodia - SPOTLIGHT. We invited acclaimed professional artists and inclusive youth groups from across Asia to be involved in a fabulous week of performances, art exhibitions and workshops held in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. The event attracted much media attention; each performance was sold out, and exhibition openings were full. The workshops were an ideal environment for skill sharing between the different groups attending, and also a great place for young Cambodians to meet strong role models from other Asian countries. Many people were moved by what they saw during the festival and with such a thrilling line-up of high quality entertainment, the message 'see ability not disability' was clear.

Huge thanks to Hannah Stevens the Producer of the festival and her team, to Hallam Goad for his continuous work on the art centre, and also to all the staff at Epic Arts in Cambodia who have kept the work moving forward while I have been peacefully swinging Ben in his hammock!

Katie Goad



Up and coming events

EPIC ARTS ANNUAL SHOWCASE

9th July 2008

at Eagle-Kestrel Suite, Baden Powell House,
65-67 Queen's Gate, London. 7-9pm

A celebration of Epic's achievements during 2007

In Kampot, construction is underway for Phase One of the new accessible arts centre - the first of its kind in SE Asia. The Angus Lawson Performance Building will be completed by November 2008, but we are currently fundraising for Phase Two, which is hoped, will be completed by April '09. Land and building costs have suddenly escalated in the last few months so any assistance in this area would be so very welcome. The SPOTLIGHT festival made us realise how needed and used this space will be... so bring it on...

The new addition of Derek and Danny to the Epic team has got us thinking about how we can support them financially without affecting their social benefits. One way of assisting them and appreciating all the great work that they do for us is the idea of a holiday fund for them both. Anyone who would like to contribute to this can send a donation and mark it out for this very specific and special pot. Thanks.

Rachel Duncombe-Anderson

Equipment needed at this time at Epic: Donations received from:

Digital cameras for projects
Digital SLR camera
Professional Masks

St. Paul's Hammersmith
Christchurch Fulham
Deo Gloria Trust
Nancy Kenyon Charitable Trust
Nippon Foundation
US Bank
Karen Millen



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