



who we are



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Welcome to our third newsletter. We have found that the newsletters may be more widely read if we provide the editions in hard copy rather than asking schools to download it so please take time to read this and pass it on.

The expansion of the CAST team was backed by the Scottish Arts Council in May 2007, however in light of the immediate withdrawal of project funds by the Government, we have had to revise our existing plan. We have been able to increase our team personnel by appointing Mary Hughes, a part time project support worker to help us carry on the good work and further develop meaningful cultural input into Argyll & Bute schools within Curriculum for Excellence. The overarching experiences for the expressive arts shape the aims of the existing cultural coordinator programme. They are at present being met by our schools and the cultural coordinator working in partnership to provide a high quality programme of creative and cultural opportunities. As part of the campaign to sustain CAST we have collated some interesting facts about our activities since the programme started in Argyll & Bute

in 2006. The Cultural Coordinator programme in Argyll and Bute has enabled over 53 projects with the following themes literacy, heritage, built environment, craft, environmental art, drama, music (classical, traditional, samba and rock), eco awareness, dance, visual art and design. All schools have had the opportunity to participate in several projects and every primary school has opted into at least one project with some schools having participated in as many as 5 projects. All the secondary schools have been involved in several projects. 12430 pupil sessions, employing 99 artists/musicians and 24 external cultural organisations have worked in partnership with CAST.

We have been busy writing up recent project reports and if you go to the CAST web site (Past Projects section) you can download/view two page reports on some of the latest work. We are very keen to be informed if you have any visits or projects happening in your school so that we can build up an Argyll wide picture of cultural activity, so please drop us an e-mail and keep us up to speed.

what we do

create

and co-ordinate arts projects that relate directly to the curriculum.

attract

funding for a range of visits, performances and productions.

source

arts practitioners to deliver the projects to the highest standards.

transmit

information and knowledge about ideas and resources.

Don't forget to check the CAST web pages which have information and images about each past project.

<http://tinyurl.com/2692k5>

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recent projects

primary classics



CAST recently contracted the Scottish Ensemble Quintet to perform twice in Helensburgh on 14th May of this year for an audience of more than 400 early years children. The Scottish Ensemble commissioned Paul Rissmann to write a piece of music for the quintet, designed specifically for early years. The piece featured songs for the children to sing, based on traditional Scottish stories, and involving both English and Gaelic lyrics. The Scottish Ensemble is a dynamic group of string musicians, formed from some of the most highly respected classical players in Europe. The group performs without a conductor, led from the violin by Artistic Director Jonathan Morton and is passionately committed to creating musical opportunities of the highest quality throughout Scotland. After their visit to Helensburgh, the quintet travelled to Mull to perform for children in association with An Tobar Arts Centre and CAST.

recent projects

the big draw

The Big Draw is a UK wide project aimed at encouraging children and adults of all ages to engage with their environment and heritage through drawing. This year thousands of venues throughout Britain, from large national institutions to small village halls, joined in to offer more than 350,000 people the chance to discover that drawing is enjoyable, liberating and at everyone's fingertips.

In Argyll, The Big Draw 07 saw 764 pupils from 26 schools spend a day with professional artists. Last year's artists were Lesley Burr, Jenny Soep and Jessica Wolfson.



The primary schools involved were: Iona, Bunesan, Dervaig, Easdale, Barcaldine, Archattan, Park (Oban), Kilchrenan, Tarbert, Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, Tighnabruich, Rothesay, Carradale, Skipness, Port Charlotte, Castlehill, St Andrew's (Rothesay), Dunoon, Innellan, Toward, Luss, Rhu, Arrochar, Strachur, Inverary. This year, 67 schools have registered.

recent projects

In collaboration with Eileen Rae (Argyll & Bute Arts Development Officer) CAST contracted artist Lesley Burr to work with 35 pupils from Drumlemble Primary for a day in September 2007. Located for the day in the Campbeltown library, the children produced drawings for artwork to be projected during the 'PREY' eagle installation in Campbeltown. The Council's spokesperson for Social Services said of the 15-foot high steel eagle, "This is a wonderful idea and a great way for the whole community

campbeltown 'prey'

to become involved in interpretive art. This type of street theatre is becoming increasingly popular throughout Scotland. A lot of time and effort has gone into the project, particularly by local school children."

The event was presented by Arts in Motion. Arts in Motion is a multi arts company based in Evanton, Ross-shire, which specialises in the use of new technology and media with a wide range of art forms particularly the performance and public arts.

news

The Education Unit of Historic Scotland launched an exciting initiative. Historic Scotland has a duty to support learning and teaching in Scottish schools and strives, through its Education Unit, to facilitate visits to historic sites and provide activities designed for schools which help to bring the past to life. However, the unit believed many schools were unaware of the full range of services and free resources available and to address this they have started to send a free monthly 1 page eNewsletter to every school or teacher who demonstrates an interest. In it they highlight any forthcoming activities, any new resource materials and other special events or projects that may be of interest to schools. HS would like to invite you to subscribe to the newsletter. Visit www.historic-scotland.gov.uk and if you have any questions regarding the eNewsletter please contact Rod.Spark@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

recent projects

scottish opera workshop

In the Pavillion, Rothesay on Tuesday 2nd October 2007, Scottish Opera held a workshop for pupils in Rothesay Academy. The workshop/performance study programme for music students was linked to the 2007 tour of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* staged by Opera Go Round. The workshop, organized by CAST was designed to be informative but fun and stimulate interest in seeing the whole show and covered drama skills, directing skills, singing, and musical concepts.

The singers worked with pupils exploring plot, characters and music of the opera and they got the opportunity to hear short extracts from the opera sung by the cover cast members to help illustrate key character aspects or plot twists. *Cinderella* is one of the most popular fairy tales ever written. In Rossini's 1817 version *La Cenerentola*, the heart of the much-loved story remains, though much of the familiar magical fantasy is replaced with social satire. Vanity is rebuked, pomposity punished, hypocrisy unveiled, and snobbery upturned. One of the leading bel canto operas of the nineteenth century, *Cinderella* is a showcase for vocal fireworks and the great final aria, 'Sad no longer among the cinders...' is one of the most dynamic in any of Rossini's operas.

"Excellent outreach, enjoyed by all students. Pupils had not expected to enjoy it because of word 'opera'!"
Music Teacher, Rothesay Academy.

recent projects

feille chaluim cille

In June 2007 Iona & Bunessan primary pupils took part in an Irish / Scottish celebration of the links between Argyll and Ireland. They worked with musician Donald Shaw, singing in Iona Abbey as part of a weekend long celebration.



recent projects

literature conference

Working with QIO Elliot Morrison and teacher Judith Schafer, CAST helped to organize an advanced higher writing course which was held on 12 Feb in Lochgilphead High. The conference for 26 pupils and several invited professional contributing writers covered an introduction by the visiting authors to their work, warm up activities, a series of workshops on different writing skills and follow-up discussions, questions and answers.

The visiting authors were Tariq Latif (poet), Marian Pallister (social historian and tutor of journalism), Donna Franceschild (screen writer), Lisa Tuttle (novelist), Colin Murray (novelist and editor) and Robert Low (historical novelist).

recent projects

'hands on' helensburgh

CAST invited Anne Wallace from Kelvingrove Museum to spend a day in Helensburgh in February with 20 P4/5 teachers. They held a day long session focusing on the SMC 'Hands On' publication.

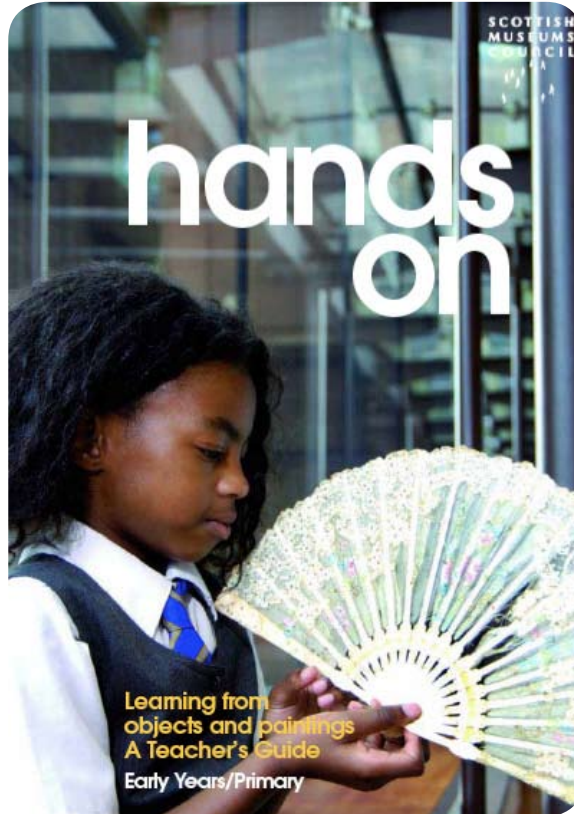
Poet Brian Whittingham also contributed to the day concentrating on writing poetry about paintings held within the national galleries. Produced by SMC in collaboration with Glasgow Museums, 'Hands On' is a step-by-step guide aimed at helping early years and primary school educators to working with everyday and museum objects and paintings to promote enjoyment and develop learning skills in young people.

The rich and diverse collections in Scotland's museums and galleries offer a unique resource for teachers and children. They range from everyday

objects to the obscure or rare including household items, instruments of scientific discovery and technical invention, cars and buses, paintings by famous painters and new artists. These objects can

unlock the stories of the nation's past and present; they fire the imagination and stimulate children's desire to learn. Links are made throughout between object-based learning activities and the Curriculum for Excellence. "Hands On" encourages educators to forge links with museums and to make the most of Scotland's fascinating heritage within the context of the new curriculum.

P1-3 teachers also had a twilight cpd session on 'learning through objects' with Anne leading the event as a follow on from recent active learning and numeracy sessions.



news

The Council for Scottish Archaeology are planning to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding to promote and improve their outreach programme of resources and workshops. They are proposing to provide case studies for two areas of Scotland, Midlothian and Argyll and Bute (the latter as a follow-up to the education and archaeology workshop held in Oban in June). The CSA has a wonderful range of outreach activities and workshops (see www.scottisharchaeology.org.uk for a small selection of those available) that they would like to develop and extend the use of. It is hoped that individuals outside the education department will be willing to take part in training sessions (this willingness has already been demonstrated for parts of Argyll), and then be available to be of assistance to schools.



recent projects

crafts cpd

As part of the annual course calendar CAST organized a crafts CPD at Kilmartin House Museum on 4th December 2007. Practitioners Morag and Duff Sheilagh Galbraith presented opportunities to learn new skills for weaving, printing, jewellery and papermaking. The workshops were run on a half day basis to allow teachers to experience both the fun of the craft and how best to transmit this fun and skill to their pupils.

"The art teachers' craft course was fantastic. The venue was great too and the whole day was most useful."

Teacher of Art, Tiree High School

current projects

bookstart rhymetime

Bookstart Rhymetime sessions have been running for nine years in Scotland and have evolved out of the Bookstart book gifting programme, which provides every baby, toddler and three-year-old in the country with free packs of books. The sessions are about bringing parents together in an informal setting (usually the local public library) to experience songs, rhymes and stories with their children. The activities positively reinforce the message that sharing books with your child is fun, enjoyable and beneficial right from the start. Because of the great demand for these sessions the Scottish Arts Council's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) and Bookstart Scotland are working in partnership with Youth Music to develop a national training programme for library staff with a new musical resource for the baby book packs, funded by the Scottish Arts Council. "I love Book-

start Rhymetimes because they are great fun, everybody can do it no matter what their singing ability and it makes the library seem vibrant and alive. It also encourages everybody to borrow books and read to their child. If you've never been, go see one and find out how much happiness and joy a Bookstart Rhymetime brings to babies/toddlers and parents/carers with different backgrounds singing their hearts out and having fun with books. It's life-changing!" Kate King, Bookstart project worker, Sighthill.

The main training elements began in August 2007. Along with Children and Families staff, Fiona Blakey (Cultural Co-ordinator) attended 2 residential sessions and was trained by National Youth Choir of Scotland and Experiential Play. She has been co-delivering a first series of sessions in Oban library and is working with the Children and Families Depart-

news

The BBC has created a downloadable pdf focusing on simple animation techniques for children with tips to get them started on their film making journey! CBBC's 'Me and my movie' pack covers all the basics from basic ideas to final editing.

Download the pack from - bbc.co.uk/cbbc/meandmymovie

ment towards sustaining these popular occasions. This project links to the Scottish Government's Birth to Three document, which highlights the importance of what children experience in the first three years of life. Providing stimulation and creativity in the form of high-quality music and story sessions, alongside the Rhymetime resources, makes a real difference to children's lives. The project addresses a key area identified for development in the National Youth Music Strategy.



recent projects

ydance corrievreckan

In October and December CAST contracted two dancers from ydance (Scottish youth dance) who toured throughout Mull and Kintyre covering 13 schools including Tobermory High, Campbeltown Grammar and Tarbert Academy. Their dynamic street dance lessons were well received as usual by staff and pupils alike. They also undertook teachers cpd which proved useful and informative. Prior to those visits, CAST collaborated with Active Schools to bring about follow-up sessions for a week in the Oban area in September 07.

"Lots of positive feedback from the boys in particular."

"The two dancers were absolutely superb - great with the kids and terrific models for the children. And as for their level of fitness - well!!!!"

"It's a long time since I've seen the children bursting with such enthusiasm. They are still practising some of the moves!"

"Children who are not normally good at physical activity found that they could shine at Y Dance."

recent projects

Lorn weavers

Primary schools in the Lorn area received weaving workshops with an Argyll weaver 'Louise Oppenheimer' held between January and March.

This new CAST project was part of a new cultural enterprise initiative created by one of our secondary teacher of Art & Design and adopted by us called "Young, Gifted and Local". By working with local arts practitioners we aim to deliver high quality tuition as well as encouraging the notion that artists can work and stay within Argyll and don't necessarily have to contribute to the drain of talent experienced in recent years.



To augment Louise's visit she brought along a small weaving frame and yarn for each pupil which was left with the schools as a legacy of the project and to encourage furthering the skills picked up during the workshop. Her lesson was structured to include a short talk about her own work and the history of weaving as well as practical help in starting a real piece of work, to be continued after her visit ends. She is a practicing weaver has had extensive experience in working with primary pupils and the classroom environment as well as commercial and exhibition experience.

We hope that the pupils had a worthwhile experience as young 'achieving artists'.

news

The Lighthouse, Scotland's centre for architecture, design and the city, offers a wide range of professional development courses for teachers. The courses are based on the expertise developed through Lighthouse education projects and draw on their extensive network of professionals working in the creative industries and the education sector.

The Lighthouse Education Programme comprises on and off-site as well as virtual learning opportunities for students and teachers from both the formal and informal education sectors. It is Scotland-wide and European in scale and reach. By engaging participants in the design process and raising awareness of new themes and directions in architecture, design and the creative industries, issues which are fundamental social, economic and cultural concerns, the programme aims to support learners in becoming more confident, creative and enterprising individuals. It aims to develop skills and talent for the 21st century and ultimately to impact on the quality of the built and designed environment.

The Lighthouse has a strong focus on lifelong learning and the origination of new content. They try to find novel ways of interacting with design professionals to create residencies, workshops and digital learning tools. They act as a facilitator of change through programmes such as Design for Learning: 21st Century Schools which looks at improving school design and provide consultancy services in the field of built environment and creative industries education.

The Lighthouse was commissioned by the Glasgow School of Art to create the Mack Pack, which has been designed for primary teachers and pupils to find out more about Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the wonderful building he created for The Glasgow School of Art. Whether you are making a visit to the Mackintosh Building, discovering his work in the classroom or at home, children and teachers alike become graphic designers, furniture makers, architects, interior designers, historians and artists through the different activities contained in the Mack Pack.



artists in schools

The aim of the residency at Cove Park was to create a unique opportunity for school pupils in Argyll and Bute to work with professional artists. The participating artists devised art projects that were delivered over two days on site at Cove Park and continued over two days at the secondary schools. Through this experience young people were introduced to contemporary art, challenged as to what they think about art and offered space to work in new ways in an unusual context. Fundamentally, the project was designed to address the acute lack of opportunity for young people in the region to visit galleries, meet artists, learn about contemporary art and experience at first hand the techniques, materials and approaches employed in current artistic practice. The teachers have confirmed that the opportunity for students to work directly with artists is invaluable. This builds upon classroom experience and allows the young people to work on innovative projects that enhance the subjects already being taught.



Cove Park is an international centre based in Scotland for the arts and creative industries. Founded in 1999 by Eileen and Peter Jacobs, Cove Park runs an annual programme of residencies for artists working in all art forms. Cove Park supports and promotes the work of the artists on residency and creates opportunities for public participation through a related events programme. The site itself has a varied history. Initially farm land, it was used during the Second World War to store ammunition. Subsequently it became a Conservation Park, devoted to the preservation of indigenous plants, flowers and wildlife. Cove Park is located on a fifty-acre site overlooking Loch Long on the Rosneath peninsula. Its location within Argyll and Bute, the site and the professional work/studio spaces mean that Cove Park is ideally placed to coordinate and host the Artists in Schools project. CAST helped Cove park co-ordinate the visit by the secondary pupils. After being picked up by their very own contracted 'Art Bus' they spent three nights at Loch Lomond Youth hostel with daily visits to Cove. The experience culminated in an evening dinner with the artists and Cove staff. There were 45 pupils from 3 schools (Campbelltown Grammar, Islay High School and Tarbert Academy) involved in the project. The funding for this project came from The Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Scottish Arts Council, The Ernest Cook Foundation, Cove Park and CAST.

"The creative arts must have their place in a modern Scottish curriculum", Education Secretary, Fiona Hyslop, said in September. Speaking as she opened the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama's digital hub, Ms Hyslop stressed the importance of freeing up time in the school day to allow pupils to pursue the arts. Ms Hyslop said, "We want Scotland to be a culturally cosmopolitan country. I've met today some of the young people who will help to make this happen and was impressed by their talent, passion and enthusiasm. It's vital that there are opportunities for all youngsters to get involved in art, music, dance or drama, to ensure that they can realise their creative potential and perhaps follow in the footsteps of the students I have met today. By freeing up time in the curriculum, through the ongoing curriculum review, it will give pupils more time to get involved in the arts, sport or volunteering. The creative industries already generate more than £5 billion for the Scottish economy, but this could grow, with the right support and opportunities which this Scottish Government is determined to provide."

During the current parliamentary year, the government will introduce a Creative Scotland Bill which will establish a new cultural development body, Creative Scotland, by amalgamating the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen.

recent projects

puppet animation festival

The Puppet Animation Festival is the UK's oldest and largest annual performing arts event for children and young people. From its origins as a week of 12 shows during the Easter holidays at the Netherbow in Edinburgh in 1984 the Festival now lasts for over a month presenting more than 250 performances workshops and films throughout Scotland, provided by leading companies from the UK, Europe and the rest of the world. Each year more than 16,000 children young people and their families enjoy events in the programme. The 2007 Puppet Animation Festival was the 23rd annual celebration of puppetry and animation in Scotland. Last year the Festival lasted for six weeks, presenting 312 events provided by 27 companies in 158 venues throughout Scotland to 19,258 people. The Festival is the largest and oldest performing arts event for children and young people in the UK. Performance spaces range from schools, city centre theatres, urban community and arts centres, to the smallest village halls. The Festival has a network of partnerships with 25 local authorities, as well as a wide range of venues throughout the country, each of whom programmes what is most appropriate for its audiences.

Over the past eight years, the Festival has increased:

The number of local authority partners from 11 in 1999 to 25 in 2007, a growth of 136%;

The number of events from 165 in 1999 to 312 in 2007, a growth of 89%;

The number of venues from 76 in 1999 to 158 in 2007, a growth of 107%;

Attendances from 10,627 in 1999 to 19,258 in 2007, a growth of 81%

Since 1999 the Puppet Animation Festival has also annually requested information from Scottish puppeteers about how many performances and workshops they present each year through-

out the UK. Since 1999 Scottish puppeteers have presented 13,650 performances and workshops for 1,081,622 people in the UK (figures courtesy of PAS: Annual Surveys 1999-2006)

"An important feature of the programming process for each Festival with existing partners - particularly local authorities - is the need for constant vigilance as their strategic objectives and accompanying funding streams consistently evolve and change. As a result, our ability to respond quickly and efficiently to create new symbiotic relationships and financial arrangements is vital to the success of each event. One increasingly noteworthy - and positive aspect - of this constantly shifting picture is the growing influence of the network of Creative Links Officers and Cultural Co-ordinators teams across Scotland." (PAF annual report 2007)

This year CAST sent out an information sheet with details of puppet events and performances throughout Argyll & Bute, in schools and local venues. We asked for this to be distributed to each pupil as an awareness raising exercise. CAST also organised 5 performances and workshops for 8 schools in Argyll & Bute throughout March 2008 ensuring accessibility for all pupils to a show in their area.



news

On the Scottish Poetry Library web site you will find a collection of ideas that promote a fascination with language, how it works, sounds and feels, as well as encouraging curiosity about life and the things around us. These are

important first steps towards becoming a poet.

Use these ideas to experiment with words and build creative confidence:

Word hunting - a great way to develop vocabulary.

Sensing - using our senses to

create pictures in words.

Five favourite words - exploring what words mean to us.

For full and comprehensive information on using the ideas go to;

http://www.spl.org.uk/ed_ideas/index.html

recent projects

live literature tour

Cast was awarded a grant from the Scottish Book Trust through their Live Literature Scotland scheme to cover most of the costs of sending author Alan Bissett on tour throughout Argyll & Bute for s3 in 8 secondary schools. The theme of the tour linked to a large scale secondary schools project (An Argyll Rhapsody) we have been running as part of 'Highland Year of Culture' which looks at our cultural heritage and links with modern youth culture. The 16 workshops were a combination of a reading, a discussion and some practical tasks with the emphasis on creative writing rather than academic literacy. Alan is very inspiring for youngsters as his approach is contemporary whilst being an expert in his craft. The main outcome was for Alan to inspire secondary pupils to develop the literacy skills they will need to make the most of their individual talent and potential. We also wanted to instill a belief in their own talents and writing abilities and, where necessary, to change our young peoples attitude to literature and contemporary culture. Alan has recently taken a break from his lectureship position at Glasgow University to allow him time to concentrate on writing his third novel. His first book 'Boy Racers' was hailed as a roaring success and his second 'The Incredible Adam Spark' is a moving, hilarious, fantastical adventure – a story about having to choose between good and evil in a world which makes it hard to tell the difference.

Here are what some reviewers think about it:

"A simplistically brilliant stream-of-consciousness ... A book for anyone who wants to be humorously reminded how lucky they are."

Buzz

"Adam Spark is a virtuoso literary creation... Bissett is taking his animated and emotionally raw prose to another level. Sparky is a wonderfully unique character who manages to evoke both great sympathy and, at times, revulsion. This is a fresh and exciting read."

Scotland on Sunday

Every page treads a fine line between belly chuckle and tear-jerker. Bissett's colloquial mastery sucker-punches you with effortless style. Bizarre, hilarious and moving." (5 out of 5 stars)

The Big Issue

"There's nothing quite like Alan Bissett's fizzy, upbeat fiction in the republic of Scottish letters... He totally inhabits the mind of his main characters, and he does so with wit and panache and a huge sugar-rush of energy."

The Scotsman

"Adam is the creation of the extraordinary Alan Bissett ... brilliant and poignant. You can't put a barcode on a character like Adam Spark"

Sydney Morning Herald

"An energetic stream of consciousness narrative... Sparky is engaging and refreshingly ambiguous... An interesting and thought-provoking novel that makes for an intriguing addition to the panoply of emerging Scottish fiction."

The Glasgow Herald

recent projects

half life

CAST enabled 80 secondary pupils from Oban High and Tarbert Academy to attend the NVA performance 'Half Life' in Kilmartin Glen in September 2007. NVA paid for tickets and transport for the visit which included a visit with hospitality (hot Chocolate) to Kilmartin House Museum prior to the performances.

HALF LIFE, a co-production with the National Theatre of Scotland and a flagship event for Highland 2007, proved to be a remarkable night-time performance that celebrated the extraordinarily rich heritage of Mid Argyll and its landscape. No equivalent nationally led arts project has been undertaken in the region before and it remains pioneering on a UK wide level.



Alan Bissett

For more information about Alan, check out www.alanbissett.com

2007/2008 is the first year of an Inclusive Arts Training Programme bringing together the expertise of Giant and Creative Therapies to deliver a wide range of training initiatives for those interested in using the arts to develop their own skills and work with their client groups. It is aimed at artists, teachers, social workers, parents and carers and everyone in between.

The Companies

Both Giant and Creative Therapies are registered Continuing Professional Development (CPD) providers developing training which is related to the experience they have gained through delivering extensive projects over the years.

In 1996, Creative Therapies was started to work with children and young people aged 3-18 on the edges of society to make sustained, specialized therapeutic work possible in a culture where the creative arts therapies were not widely known about or commissioned.

Since its inception in 1989, Giant has been developing work with young people aged 3-11 and focuses on breaking down the barriers to attendance so that all children can participate together. This is primarily done through art form development.

Examples of courses available

Art from the Cupboard

Find exciting and new ways to use old materials, pen, paper, plasticine and paint, through stories, play and themed creative activities. Ideas and suggestions on how to get the most from the art resources in your cupboard through a series of expressive arts games, creative activities and multi-sensory approaches to working with children.

Making Story-time Interactive

A practical workshop helping participants to create and develop stories through a range of multi-sensory methods such as, the use of props, sound, scent and fabrics. Simple techniques including, gentle movement activities, interactive games and sensory ideas for all aspects of story-telling with children.

Making a Creative Space

Explore the use of different arts materials, fabrics, colour and light to make themed spaces to inspire story-telling, drama and visual arts activities with children. Ideas for transforming spaces into playful sensory environments with accompanying themed activities.

Introduction to Creating Inclusive Music Sessions

Experiment with instruments, rhythm and sounds to create music activities suitable for children of all abilities. Techniques for developing inclusive music sessions in a classroom

For more information here are the contact details.

Centre for Inclusive Arts
100 Beith Street
Glasgow
G11 6DQ

Tel: 0141 357 5000
Fax: 0141 357 4100

Email: info@giantproductions.org
www.giantproductions.org
www.creativetherapies.co.uk

recent projects

storytelling

Padraig MacNeil visited Coll Primary School in June 2007 to delight pupils with his storytelling. Paraig is committed to the lore and language of the highlands and to his vocation as a traditional storyteller. He tells stories in English, Scots and Gaelic – or a mixture of all three - including epic tales, clan legends, histories, genealogies and wonder tales.



recent projects

scottish poetry library tour

In 2007, Perthshire based poet Kenneth Stevens was invited to conduct an 8 day tour of several primary schools in Argyll & Bute. CAST contacted the Scottish Poetry Library and secured an agreement with Lorna Irvine, SPL Education Officer, to co-fund the tour. CAST received grant aid from the Scottish Arts Council towards this as well as a contribution from the schools involved. The schools were Coll, Colonsay, Mull, Iona, Kilninver, Easdale and Lismore. Kenneth made 10 separate ferry journeys to 5 different islands, sampled the hospitality of 7 different guest houses and involved 136 children in his workshops.

My Den

My den is damp, cool and sheltered.
I am excited when I go to my rusty
smelly den under the roots of an old
tree.
The nearest bush is a bramble bush.
Yummy, juicy, black and red.
My fingers are stained from picking
them.
Delicious bramble jelly on pancakes.

Malcolm, Iona Primary

Fishing Competition

We are on dad's boat,
I see a few Islands dotted around the bay,
Coll is not far away.

I hear waves splashing against the boat,
The sound of boat engines surrounding the bay,
Getting further and further away.

But we stay,
We have found a school of fish swimming around
in the boat.
We pick up the darrows and drop our lines in.

I smell the mackerel,
We pile them in the bucket in the middle of the
boat.
We continue to pull, drop and catch.

It feels great catching the fish, we are catching
loads,
We have over one hundred and twenty,
It's time to head back to shore.

Scott, Arinagour Primary

news

The new Expressive Arts outcomes have now been published on the Scottish Government website - <http://tinyurl.com/582fpt>.

Overarching experiences for expressive arts.

"At all levels, my learning in, through and about the expressive arts:

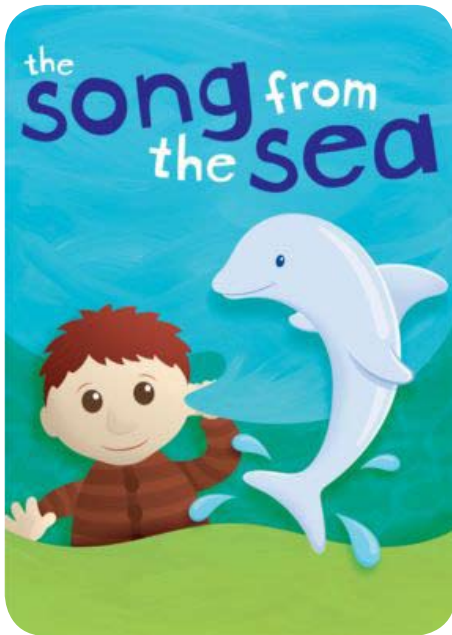
- enables me to experience the magic, wonder and power of the arts
- is enhanced and enriched through partnerships with professional arts companies, creative adults and cultural organizations
- recognises and nurtures my creative and aesthetic talents
- provides opportunities for me to deepen my understanding of culture in Scotland and the wider world."

A quote from the cover paper "The expressive arts are rich and stimulating, with the capacity to engage and fascinate learners of all ages, interests and levels of skill and achievement. It is therefore important that all teachers and educators look for opportunities within their own teaching approaches, through inter-disciplinary projects and studies and through fostering partnerships with professional arts companies, creative adults and cultural organisations. These opportunities can provide rich experiences and, where appropriate, give children and young people the opportunity to experience the energy and excitement of performing for different audiences and of being part of an audience for others."

current projects

song from the sea

CAST has hired Visible Fictions to visit Campbeltown at the end of June 2008 with this enchanting production by Mike Kenny for everyone aged three and over. A spellbinding blend of puppetry, music and visual storytelling, Song from the Sea tells the story of Josh, a little boy who lives in a noisy house with a busy family. One day, through the household din, he hears a faint yet beautiful sound calling out to him to explore its source. So begins Josh's incredible aquatic adventure as the story behind the song reveals a wonderful and moving tale full of hope.



"This is an unmissable production..."

The Scotsman

"I enjoyed this show because it had a brilliant story – it was funny, exciting, sad and happy...the bath was funny and rest was super."

Pupil, Primary School, Glasgow

recent projects

art weekend

CAST's second annual residential 'Art Weekend' for higher art & design pupils focussed minds on the higher written paper. Pupils from all over Argyll & Bute gathered at Loch Lomond Youth Hostel in March 2008. The purpose of the weekend was to increase the knowledge of the vocabulary of art and design to help with the written paper and was based on discussion and workshops led by two practising artists with an interest in education as well as using co-operative learning techniques and games. After the 2007 weekend, last year's participants showed an increase in their written exam results.

news

Kilmartin House and Auchindrain Museums have recently secured funding for an Education Officer and appointed Madeline Crawford to cover Auchindrain, Campbeltown and Kilmartin House. She will be working with CAST to ensure that a variety of resources for schools are available at all the museums and for more information on the above days email Madeline Crawford (madeline@kilmartin.org) and check out the web sites www.kilmartin.org or www.auchindrain-museum.org.uk Schools can visit the museum displays, which exhibit ancient artefacts found in the local area. These are supplemented by a collection of hands-on objects. To actually hold an unusual object can be a truly memorable experience. Children can feel the smoothness of a Stone Age axe-head, play music on a cow horn, smell the resin used to bind a harpoon head to its shaft. First hand, exciting learning experiences. Classes can have a guided tour around the gallery which can be focused to particular subjects or take a more general. All tours can include a handling session. Loans boxes are also available for schools and other organisations to borrow. Boxes contain replicas and hands-on activities, resources and teachers guides. All loan boxes are curriculum focused. Currently available: Early People Box, Dalriada Box and The Vikings Box.

In 2007 the art department of Oban High instigated a innovative transition project for P7. They provided each P7 pupil with a sketch book which they filled in over the summer and brought back to Oban High at the start of S1. Some pupils kept a visual diary of their summer and some used the book as an art sketch book.