

Newsletter no'1 July 2009

Contents

[Rotherham Summer Schools](#)

[Kirklees Summer Arts College 2009](#)

[Kids Can Do – Positive Activities for Young People Sheffield](#)

[Sheffield Libraries – From My Place to Our Space](#)

[Trash](#)

[Quest 11th – 12th June 2009](#)

[Young Peoples Participatory Theatre - Youth Circus Network](#)

[Trustee Profile](#)

[Tutor Profile](#)

[Internship](#)

[Volunteers](#)

[Vacancies](#)

[Marketing Manager/Administrator](#)

[Board / Trustee / Directors](#)

[Recruitment – Interns](#)

[Recruitment – Volunteers](#)

[Case Study – Rotherham Youth Circus](#)



Welcome to this **1st edition of Swamp's Newsletter**. It contains a flavour of what we are doing over the summer and coming months as well as providing a snapshot of completed projects. We will over the course of the next few editions introduce you to the Staff Team, the Board, Interns, Volunteers and Freelancers etc as well as highlighting some of our beneficiaries, clients and interesting pieces of work.

Hope you enjoy it? We would welcome your feedback, thoughts and ideas.

Cheers

Peter

peter@swamptrust.org.uk

Rotherham Summer Schools

We have secured funding from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Extended Service Team to run three weeks of Summer Schools in the forthcoming holidays. We will be concentrating on 'children in transition' and are running the weeks at four different locations in the borough.

Our Summer School will give a taster of a selection of circus apparatus including balls, diabolo, flower / devil sticks, spinning plates, stilts, hats, rola bola, pedal-goes, scarves, peacock feathers, rings, clubs and hula hoops. The final day of each Summer School will incorporate a performance and family learning session for all the family.

27–31 July 09	Kimberworth Community Primary School	9.30 – 12.30	ages 5-7
27–31 July 09	Meadowview Community Primary School	1.00 – 4.00	ages 5-7
3–7 Aug 09	Brinsworth Comprehensive School	9.30 – 3.00	ages 7- 11
17–21 Aug 09	Canklow Woods Primary School	9.30 – 3.30	ages 6-10



For further information, please contact Nic at Swamp Circus on 01709 828477 or nic@swamptrust.org.uk

Kirklees Summer Arts College 2009

Artists from Swamp Circus Trust and Serendipity Art are working together on a commission from the Youth Justice Board to produce a fun and dynamic short film packed with energy, to challenge the audience about the decisions we make in life, with a working title of: "Where is your Journey Taking you?"

Swamp Circus will provide workshops to create the story and content, teaching skills in contemporary circus and the final production of a performance produced by the young people. Serendipity Art will provide photography and animation workshops that will be used as the projected backdrop to the final performance. The filming of the final production will be edited to produce a DVD that can go on and become part of a peer education campaign about choices.

Kids Can Do – Positive Activities for Young People

We are currently delivering this exciting project for Sheffield City Council as part of a creative consortium of arts focussed partners to provide young people between 8 and 13 years the opportunity to have access to new activities. So far between April and June 350 young people have participated in circus workshops and the aim is to deliver 300 hours of activity before March 2010.

Over the forthcoming Summer and Half-term holidays, Swamp will be delivering a series of three day residencies around different locations in Sheffield that will explore four themes, Arts and Crafts, Environment, Heritage and Culture and Performance. These will be intensive workshops that will combine circus and theatre skills that lead to short showcase performances. These themes will provide the basis for the development of activities and performances that Swamp will explore over the next few years.

There are ongoing opportunities for Sheffield groups who would like to host a taster workshop in the Autumn or if there is any other aspect of this project you would like further information on then please contact Peter. 01709 828477 or peter@swamptrust.org.uk

For more info about Kids Can Do and other activities www.asksid.net or kidscando@sheffield.gov.uk
For useful links to juggling/circus websites visit www.swamptrust.org.uk/kidscando



Sheffield Libraries – From My Place to Our Space

Swamp has been commissioned to deliver some circus theatre workshops in libraries across Sheffield during the week beginning 10th August as part of the Positive Activities for Young People. Keep an eye on local publicity for details of times and venues.

This project will use circus and theatre to help participants to think and feel differently about their relationship with their moving body and how they explore and use the space around them. The activity will incorporate journeys that are physical and emotional as well as skills based. This project could be delivered both indoors or outdoors and help to break down some of the walls between the two, thereby attracting people in from out and helping to create ownership of space. Circus has a pedigree in children's literature inspiring creativity and firing an imagination that brings storytelling alive and relates to many of the books found in the library. Circus theatre as an art form expresses stories physically through movement, dance, stunts and the creation of patterns in a way that is not found in the virtual, digital world.

Trash

Swamp Circus traditional creates educational circus shows to communicate educational messages in a fun and engaging way and Swamp Circus' Theatre-in-Education Show about litter was commissioned by Street Force, as part of the Sheffield City Council's Wicked Waste programme. This litter awareness show deals with issues including litter, pollution, health & safety and re-cycling. It was called "Wicked Waste" during 2008 but the show is now called Trash and available from Summer 2009 to visit your school or community centre. Click on the link for more details. www.swampcircustrust.org.uk

Reports

Quest 11th – 12th June 2009

Working in partnership with The Faceless Company, Promenade Promotions and the Bradford Mela, Swamp Circus Trust was involved in the planning and event management of Quest. Convened within a tented village and initiated by Arts Council England, Yorkshire, Quest was a two day exploration of the following key questions:

- What are the influences of, and the linkages made, by Outdoor Artists and their work?
- How do the various practices influence and affect a change in the lives of its audience?
- How do we encourage feedback and effectively use critical opinion to develop the art form?

Speakers included Andy Carver, Executive Director ACE, Helga Henry, Fierce Earth, Ali Pretty, Artistic Director, Kinetika, Richard Sobey, Executive Director, IOU, Bev Adams, Artistic Director, Faceless, Alice Bayliss, Lecturer in Applied Theatre (Educational, Community and Interventionist Contexts, University of Leeds). Hilary Westlake, Performance Writer and Director, Mike Lister, Avanti Display and John Fox, Founder & Artistic Director of Welfare State 1968-2006 & Director (with Sue Gill) of Dead Good Guides

We found our involvement in the event a positive learning experience and we intend to get more involved in event management in the future. Attending the event was also a valuable and enjoyable learning experience for the Swamp team. Our thanks go to Arts Council England who funded the event and to Faceless, Bradford Mela and Promenade Promotions.

Young Peoples Participatory Theatre - Youth Circus Network

During 2007/2008 Swamp delivered one of the Dept' for Culture Media & Sport / Arts Council England, Young Peoples Participatory Theatre (YPPT) pilot projects. This was the only pilot project that was primarily a youth circus initiative and was as much about the experience of devising and delivering the Youth Circus Network as it was about the experience of end users, the young people themselves. Through this project three parallel youth circus projects in York, Nottingham and Rotherham were set up which included a circus theatre and multimedia project called Miss Sarajevo.

As with any youth project a key objective of both Swamp and the Funder was to recruit a diverse range of young people. It is pleasing to report that both the Nottingham and Rotherham strands were if anything overrepresented by young people from a range of minority backgrounds, including ethnic, social, and educational.



In all three locations the project was successful in introducing young people to theatre spaces, practitioners, shows, and methods that they would not otherwise have encountered. One participant from Nottingham is already working as a stilt walker and four of the volunteers engaged in the project went on to receive further circus theatre training on the Greentop Circus In Performance course. Two have subsequently been employed by Swamp as circus workshop tutors.

There was obvious and notable excitement from the participants about the opportunity they had to perform alongside our volunteers and partner organisations in Miss Sarajevo. Swamp believes this kind of excitement and anticipation to be key to young people's perception of their enjoyment of a project and will seek in future to find as many of these Wow! moments as they can.

With funding from RMBC and Coalfields Regeneration Trust we have been able to build on the success of this project with further circus taster sessions and a regular Youth Circus on Wednesday evenings. We are currently looking for further funding to maintain our Rotherham Youth Circus and to re-start our groups in Nottingham and York. We hope to connect these groups to Cultural Olympiad projects and performances over the next three years

We would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution made to this project by Rotherham College of Art and Technology, The Theatre Royal in York, Third Nail Theatre, Open Minds Theatre and Nottingham City Arts and thank them for their contributions to this project.

Further details can be found on Swamp's website www.swamptrust.org.uk/community/YPPT.htm

Trustee Profile

We are delighted to welcome Emma Brown to our Board of Trustees. Emma is an experienced drama teacher and lecturer. She is currently the External Examiner for both the PGCE Drama course run by Manchester Metropolitan University and B Ed Primary Education course at Derby University. In addition to her experience as a teacher, arts education advocate and manager she has also gained experience in the design and delivery of CPD courses for teachers and cultural sector practitioners. "I am passionate about understanding and enhancing how people learn, and my experience of working across sectors has given me the opportunity to explore pedagogy and practice in this area".

Tutor Profile

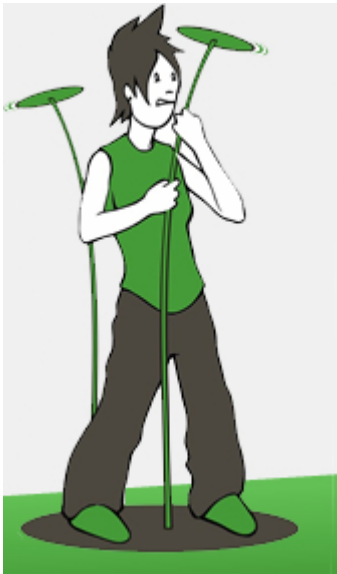
Sarah Platts has recently joined Swamp as a Core Artist /Tutor. Sarah is an experienced physical theatre performer / workshop tutor and her appointment supports the artistic vision of physical theatre incorporating circus to add spectacle and illustrate emotion.

Her key responsibilities will be to perform gigs and deliver workshops, direct community circus theatre performances, prop making and marketing. Her skills set is varied and is experienced in teaching drama at all levels covering performance, voice and stage craft. As well as this she brings to Swamp mask making and performance, forum theatre, movement & contact improvisation and performance experience as circus workshop tutoring. Sarah has also worked for a range of arts and drama companies around the UK and so brings knowledge and cross fertilisation of ideas to Swamp.

Internship

This year we will be working with four highly motivated young people who are ready to contribute to all aspects of the company's activity through our Internship programme. A number of volunteers with Swamp have gone on to find further employment in the arts field or onto further circus based training, so it can be a good stepping stone for the future! We hope to offer invaluable experience of the arts sector, both community arts and our commercial arm, to help our interns kick-start their professional careers.

The internship programme includes performing, teaching, and backstage roles in marketing, administration and fundraising - the exact balance being tailored to suit each intern. Each intern is expected to complete the Arts Award: Silver programme. The project is run in partnership with Point Blank Theatre Company, and if desired, volunteers can have the chance to contribute to the work of both organisations.



Our first intern this year is Laura Allen – look out for a profile of her in the next newsletter!

If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with the Volunteer Co-ordinator, Nic on 01709 828477 or nic@swamptrust.org.uk

Volunteers

Through ActiVate – Swamp's Volunteer Training Programme with [involved](#), the national youth volunteering programme, we offer a range of volunteering opportunities to young people aged 16-25, who want to gain more experience in the arts. Our placements range from one-day practical circus skills workshops, to longer-term office-based placements, to completing Arts Awards - giving young people the choice of how they can best develop their own skills and how best to contribute to the company and the community.

A number of our previous volunteers have gone onto employment in the arts and other fields so it proving to be an excellent stepping stone for career progression. Whether you want to gain insight into the arts sector as a whole, for your own career benefit; or would simply like to take part in training in aspects of circus skills and performing; we'll have something for you.

If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with the Volunteer Co-ordinator, Nic on 01709 828477 or nic@swamptrust.org.uk

Vacancies

Marketing Manager/Administrator

We are looking for a new Marketing Manager/Administrator. Application deadline Friday 24th July 2009

This is an exciting opportunity to join one of the UK's fastest growing contemporary circus organisations. Swamp Circus is England's longest serving contemporary circus company. You will have seen Swamp Circus artists on the BBC. We are looking for a skilled and dedicated marketer to join our team and help make Swamp Circus Trust achieve our ambition of becoming the biggest and most successful contemporary circus company in the UK.

Full details on our website www.swamptrust.org.uk or for informal chat contact Tim on 01709 828477 or tim@swamptrust.org.uk

Board / Trustee / Directors

Swamp Circus Trust is currently looking for people to join our Board of Trustees. We are looking for committed, dedicated, professionals with a passion for the arts and / or community development. Ideally trustees should have a background in at least one of the following area: management, marketing, finance, business administration, voluntary / community sector, regeneration or the arts. As a board member you will have the opportunity to play an active role in the development of a dynamic arts company that has already had a threefold increase in turnover and staff levels over the last three years. Board membership can be an excellent way of gaining valuable high level work experience or an opportunity to give something back.

As we move through 2009, Swamp Circus Trust is in a strong position to grow its community and commercial activities and continue to raise the charity's reputation for its commitment to and delivery of arts based community cohesion and regeneration projects. The company is looking for someone with the passion, enthusiasm and creative nature to be a key player in making this happen. This is a fantastically rewarding opportunity to become part of England's longest serving contemporary circus company.

For further information please see www.swamptrust.org.uk or email Tim at tim@swamptrust.org.uk

Recruitment – Interns

We are currently recruiting for further interns to join our successful programme and are looking for a commitment of 30 hours per week for a 13 week period. This time can be tailored to the individual, but we expect the internship to take place at some point between now and March 2010. Interns will be based at our office at The Magna Centre, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

A contribution towards expenses of approximately £100 per week will be available to qualifying interns. All applicants must be aged between 16-25 at the start of the programme.

To apply, in the first instance, please send a CV and a covering letter (approx one side of A4) outlining why you would like to be an intern with Swamp Circus Trust, what you would bring to the programme, and what you would like to achieve. If you have any questions, Nic can be reached on 01709 828477.

Applications should be sent to Nic, Volunteer Co-ordinator at nic@swamptrust.org.uk

Recruitment – Volunteers

We have a number of opportunities for volunteers – read on for more details!

Volunteer Assistant Workshop Tutor

This opportunity will involve learning simple circus skills and helping teach them to young people. You will also assist with planning of workshop sessions with the core tutors, as well as assisting with maintenance and care of equipment. You may be required to prepare refreshments (juice and fruit) for session breaks if applicable. We are looking for volunteers to help us in both the Rotherham and Sheffield areas, and have a number of dates, times and venues to choose from.

Volunteer Administration Assistant

This opportunity will be based in our office at The Magna Centre. This will provide plenty of variety to any volunteer! We are looking for someone to help answer phones and to take messages, to help with inputting data, to assist with funding applications - essential to the running of Swamp! - to help collate data for monitoring purposes and to update records. Tasks will also probably involve some filing, photocopying, general housekeeping and office duties.

Volunteer Video Editor

We take a lot of footage of our projects and performers and we would like a volunteer who can edit the raw images (still and moving) into exciting, coherent short films which we can share with our participants, funders, potential funders and on our website. We have an excellent, powerful PC for this in our office at the Magna Centre which runs Adobe Premiere Pro.

Volunteer Website Developer

We are looking for a volunteer with flair and knowledge of websites to help make ours exciting, fun and up to date. The team will supply content, but we'd like you to take the basic text and make it look good on the internet. Knowledge of Dreamweaver would be useful.

Volunteer Marketing Assistant

Swamp Circus provides entertainers to many companies and organisations throughout the UK and further afield. It brings in revenue which helps support our community work, and we need a volunteer to help in publicising this aspect of our work. We need assistance in updating our client records, calling them to check their details are correct, preparing email shots, replying to queries (phone and email), writing copy, liaising with performers to check we have photos and details etc, preparing mailshots, and telephone follow up.

Volunteer Development Worker

Swamp uses circus in many ways in the community - previous projects have included working with young homeless people, developing a show called "Wicked Waste" which toured schools, and combining circus skills with community leadership on a NOCN course. We have other ideas in the pipeline but if you have an idea of your own, we will help you work it through from the initial idea to a ready to roll project - or you can help us with one of ours. You never know, this could possibly lead to paid employment as a Community Project Manager if your idea takes off!

If you are interested in any of the opportunities, please get in touch with the Volunteer Co-ordinator, Nic on 01709 828477 or nic@swamptrust.org.uk

Case Study – Rotherham Youth Circus

John (not real name) has Asperger’s Syndrome and finds it difficult to fit in socially. He is aware of his illness but doesn’t quite understand it yet. When he joined the group he was getting bullied from another young person both within the Youth Circus and in other groups they attended. This really knocked his confidence and he soon started to separate himself from the group.

The bullying was dealt with and once he knew he was ok to be himself, John started to join back in with the activities but still found it challenging as his skill levels weren’t as good as the other young people in the group. In reviewing the skills he did possess it was realised that he loved talking, he was funny and engaging and without the bully present he could really express himself.

John was offered the chance to be the Compere for the end of year Showcase a role which he embraced and really brought him out of his shell. He did the compering on stilts, put on a character with voice change, told jokes and did impressions. Everyone loved his performance and commented on how funny he was and he really felt like part of the group and quite important.

He had found a way to deal with his asperger’s interfering with his social skills by using a character to channel this energy and behaviour. This gave him the confidence to just go with his illness and be accepted for who he was, asperger’s and all.



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