

NEWS RELEASE

Monday 9th November



YOUTH ARTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN KINGSTON

Applications to participate in 2010 festival now open!

After an incredibly successful launch year in 2009 the International Youth Arts Festival will be back in July 2010 with an even bigger programme showcasing the highest quality youth arts. The festival, which in 2010 runs from the 2nd – 11th July will showcase the very best in youth theatre, dance, music, visual arts, site specific work, mixed media, carnival, film and a variety of other art forms from around the world and will take over many venues in Kingston including the magnificent Rose Theatre.

The festival since its launch in 2009 has been created and produced by young people, giving young people opportunities not only as performers, but as event managers, producers, creators and innovators.

Aniela Zaba, the Festival Director, is in no doubt of the magnificent contribution made by the young people of Kingston in getting the project off the ground in 2009: *“I am so proud of the young people who have been working with me to develop the festival. They have proved that they can be involved at every level – as performers, co-ordinators, managers, publicists, producers and most importantly as the ones with the new and exciting ideas that are going to make this festival so unique.”*

It is a testament to the vision and hard work of all those involved that the festival in its first year secured the support of His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex KG KCVO as **President**. Other supporters include Kingston born actor, Chiké Okonkwo (*New Tricks*, *Lewis*), **Tom Chambers** (*Holby City*, *Strictly Come Dancing* Winner 2008), **Ben Barnes** (*The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*), **Connie Fisher** (*The Sound of Music*), **Sheridan Smith** (*Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps*) and **Hannah Yelland** (*Doctors*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*).

APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN IYAF 2010 ARE NOW OPEN!

Applications are open to any art form involving young people (0yrs - 26yrs). These may involve young people as performers, creators and artists or as producers and event managers. IYAF is also happy to receive applications for adult work which is specifically targeted at young people. The deadline for applications is the 31st January. IYAF is looking to select the highest quality in youth work from around the world and will work with young people in the borough to select the successful applications.

Guidelines, application forms and further information is available at www.iyafestival.org.uk

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