



MediaNet News

January 2006

Keeping you up to date with the latest developments in media education.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the first ever edition of the MediaNet News – an email bulletin for the West Midlands media education community. I hope you find it useful and interesting.

This is an evolving process, as is everything in the MediaNet project, so I'd really welcome any feedback on what we should be covering in these bulletins - as well as the wider focus for MediaNet. MediaNet will soon have been in place for six months. It is a network for you so please tell me where I should be focussing my attention.

It's been a busy few months for MediaNet, setting up the website www.medianetonline.org, and trying to get out to meet as many of you as possible. We are also holding our first forum in February and a second in March, running a teachers workshop at the Borderlines Film Festival and planning the YOU-TV4 conference for the summer – so it continues to be a busy time for me! I hope to get to meet those of you who I haven't yet met at the coming Forum meetings or arrange to come and see you soon.

All the best, Lou

Project News

MediaNet Online goes LIVE!

The website for the MediaNet network www.medianetonline.org went live at the start of January. The site is very much still in development so do get in touch with any feedback.

With the structure in place we will be seeking content to fill the events, organisations and case studies sections of the site. If you have news or events you would like to be included or a project to feature as a case study please send details to Lou.

It's important that MediaNet represents a whole spectrum of projects, large and small and from all areas of the region and all aspects of media education practice - so the more the merrier! A format for reporting case studies is being developed; contact Lou for more information.

MediaNet Forum

The first of our termly MediaNet forum meetings will be held on the 9th February at The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton.

The forum meetings are an opportunity for sharing information and ideas and gives MediaNet member the chance to network with other providers and practitioners.

As well as an update on news from the region and presentations on projects, Mark Reid, Teacher Development Officer from the BFI, will introduce the Media Literacy Charter and talk about its potential impact on media education.

If you'd like to attend the meeting please contact Lou for more details. A copy of the [agenda](#) can also be found on the MediaNet website.

Kathryn Beattie has kindly agreed to run a tour of The Light House after the meeting. Please let Lou know if you would like to go on the tour.

Media Literacy Charter

Has your school or organisation signed up to The Charter for Media Literacy yet?

The Charter was launched by the Media Literacy Task Force in December 2005. It advocates the importance of media literacy in educational, cultural, political, social and economic policy and supports the principle that every UK citizen should have the opportunity to improve his/her media literacy skills.

The full text of the charter can be viewed at the [UK Film Council website](#). Mark Reid from the BFI will be talking in more detail about the Media Literacy Charter at the MediaNet Forum on 9th February at The Light House.

MediaNet *The Home of Media Education For The West Midlands.*

Project Coordinator: Lou Llewellyn

The Rural Media Company, Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh St, Hereford, HR4 9HG.

Tel: 01432 344039, www.medianetonline.org email: info@medianetonline.org

MediaNet is UK Film Council funded through the Screen West Midlands Access Fund.



MediaNet News

January 2006

Keeping you up to date with the latest developments in media education.

Events and Dates for your diary

7th February Tune In, ALISS event, 4.30pm – 7pm, Mac, Birmingham. £10. For more info click [here](#).
9th February MediaNet Forum Meeting, 11am – 2pm, The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton. Free. To book call Lou Llewellyn on 01432 344039.
11th February The Archive and You, all day, Birmingham Central Library and Chamberlain Square. For more info contact mace@nottingham.ac.uk
11th, 12th, 18th, 25th February Introduction to Screenwriting course, 10am - 4.30pm, The Courtyard Arts Centre, Hereford. 0870 1122330. £80/£60.
20th February Primary Schools Media Conference, Thomas Adams Media Arts College, Wem.
24th February Screen Rootz application deadline
8th March Media Careers Information Day, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff. For more info click [here](#).
16th March MediaNet Forum Meeting, 2pm – 4.30pm, Holy Trinity Media Arts College, Small Heath. Free. To book call Lou Llewellyn on 01432 344039.
27th March Make A Film In A Day, Teachers Workshop, Courtyard Arts Centre, Hereford. Free to Herefordshire Council teachers. For more details call Lou Llewellyn on 01432 344039.
28th March Herefordshire Local TV Seminar, 11am – 1pm, Courtyard Arts Centre, Hereford. For more info contact The Rural Media Company on 01432 344039.
25th May MediaNet Forum Meeting, 2pm – 4.30pm, Thomas Adams Media Arts College, Wem. Free. To book call Lou Llewellyn on 01432 344039.
5th, 6th, 7th July Thomas Adams Media Arts Fair, Wem. For more info contact Frances Ayres: 01939 237069, media@thomasadams.net.

National News

14-19 Specialised Diploma

Following the Government White Paper on 14-19 Education and Skills, published in February 2005, Skillset are coordinating the development of a new 14-19 diploma in Creative and Media. By 2013 there will be 14 diplomas in place covering sector-based subjects. Creative and Media will be one of the first 5 to be launched and will be available for teaching in 2008. The diploma will be a national entitlement to every 14-19 year old in England by 2013.

The diploma will have two levels; at level 2 it will be equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C, and at level 3 it will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. The diploma will cover generic learning such as English, Maths, ICT and personal skills as well as broad learning about the creative and media sector. It is also planned that students will have the opportunity to pursue more detailed specialised learning in an area of the sector of their choice.

Through the first half of 2006 Skillset is consulting with stakeholders about how the diploma should shape up. This includes the creative and media industries, educators and parents. If you would like further information, or to share your views, contact Amy Thomas, Midlands Regional Manager: amyt@skillset.org

Have your say on Lottery funding

The government are consulting the public on how Lottery funding is allocated to arts, film, sport and heritage. At the moment 2% of funding is allocated to film; this percentage could change according to the views given in the consultation. To ensure the current level of funding is maintained or increased share your views in the [online consultation document](#). You have until the end of February to give your views on what the priorities for Lottery funding should be from 2009.

MediaNet *The Home of Media Education For The West Midlands.*

Project Coordinator: Lou Llewellyn

The Rural Media Company, Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh St, Hereford, HR4 9HG.

Tel: 01432 344039, www.medianetonline.org email: info@medianetonline.org

MediaNet is UK Film Council funded through the Screen West Midlands Access Fund.

Regional News

Calling all FE and HE providers...

Skillsset, the audio-visual sector skills council, have just secured funding to develop a further and higher education section for their regional website. They are seeking details of any course provision related to the audio-visual sector (film, broadcast, video, interactive media, radio and photo-imaging) taking place in the West Midlands.

The aim is to produce a rich site with articles on the range of provision available. Students wanting to take up the study of an audio-visual related discipline further will then be able to see the courses available to them. For more information on the project contact project researcher Caroline Davis on caroline.davis7@ntlworld.com. Similar pages have recently been developed for the East Midlands, to see their pages click [here](#).

Introduction to Screenwriting Course

[Script](#), the development agency for dramatic writers in the West Midlands, are running an introductory course for writing a short screen play. Using team workshops, lectures and discussion groups, the course explores stages of development, script format, genre and how to get your script made into a film. Spread over three weekends, the course offers a valuable opportunity for feedback on your own screenplay, with opportunities for rewrites in-between sessions.

Suitable for complete beginners, for those who have some experience of writing and for anybody who just needs the inspiration to get going! Age 16+

Screen Rootz deadline approaches

Screen Rootz, part of the BFI Blackworld initiative for Black and Asian film makers is currently seeking applications for its new scheme. Up to 15 short digital films by emerging and established filmmakers will be made. The successful applicants will receive professional mentoring from Coventry based Frontline AV.

Applications are welcomed from filmmakers of an Asian or Black background from the Warwickshire area. Experience is not necessary; just a well thought out idea and the vision and commitment to turn it into a reality. The deadline for applications is 24th February. For more information contact Fran Porter at Frontline AV on 024 7622 4221 or fran@frontlineav.com.

Primary Schools Media Conference

Thomas Adams Media Arts College in Wem will hold its first Media Conference on 20th February. The day will involve ten primary schools in the North Shropshire area who successfully bid for extra funding to support the creative use of ICT and media to enhance reading, writing and listening skills.

Participants will learn more about local and national opportunities and practice as well as taking part in workshops in filmmaking, animation and KarZouche. Mark Reid, teacher development officer from the British Film Institute, Lou Llewellyn from MediaNet and Tabetha Painten from BBC Shropshire Local TV will also contribute to the day.

Unfortunately the event is only open to participating schools, but if you are interested in attending similar events please register your interest with Frances Ayres on 01939 237069 media@thomasadams.net

The Archive and You

The Media Archive for Central England ([MACE](#)), the BBC and Birmingham Central Library are coming together on 11th February to present an event called The Archive and You. There will be two screenings of MACE's material in the cinema at the Library as well as MACE material showing on the BBC Big Screen in Chamberlain Square. In addition there will be two workshops about filmmaking and opportunities to talk to MACE about any film you may have. If you are interested in attending, or for more information, contact mace@nottingham.ac.uk

MediaNet *The Home of Media Education For The West Midlands.*

Project Coordinator: Lou Llewellyn
The Rural Media Company, Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh St, Hereford, HR4 9HG.
Tel: 01432 344039, www.medianetonline.org email: info@medianetonline.org

MediaNet is UK Film Council funded through the Screen West Midlands Access Fund.



MediaNet News

January 2006

Keeping you up to date with the latest developments in media education.

In Profile

Each month we will feature a profile of projects from members of MediaNet. If you have a project you would like to feature in a future issue please get in touch.

The Courtyard Film Club – HEarts Partnership, Hereford

The Courtyard Film Club runs on a Saturday morning for 8-12 year olds. It is run by Rachel Lambert, an experienced filmmaker and drama director. The project began in September 2004 and initially ran for 30 weeks over 3 terms. The project is funded by Screen West Midlands, initially for one year, although it is now continuing into a second year.

The participants in the Film Club learn about filmmaking, watch non-mainstream films and make films of their own. The first group to participate produced their own feature film, called Popcorn, in which they had an entirely hands-on role during pre-production and production. Screenings of the film have taken place for the children and their families and friends. This proved to be a truly inspirational for the young people involved. Two of the children who are now officially too old to continue attending have asked to stay on as peer mentors this year, adding a further dimension to the club.

The Courtyard Film Club has proved to be a great success. It provides a supportive environment where children can learn about filmmaking, make new friends, and have fun.

The Courtyard Education Department is keen to continue to offer this valuable opportunity, and is currently promoting the Film Club in the new brochure. The grant from Screen West Midlands has provided equipment and a good working model for the Film Club, a model that can be demonstrated to other centres in the area. It is hoped that the opportunity to take part in the Film Club will still be available to Herefordshire children in the future.

For more information on this project please contact Sarah Laws, Combined Arts Development Officer, sarah.laws@courtyard.org.uk, 01432 346526.

FLIP Animation Festival 27th-29th October 2005, The Light House, Wolverhampton

This year's FLIP animation festival took place at Light House Media Centre in Wolverhampton, with complementary events at the Custard Factory, Birmingham and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Now in its second year, the FLIP festival is going from strength to strength, with audiences up from 400 in 2004 to over 600 in 2005, with a big growth in visitors from outside the region. Visitors came from as far away as Scotland and London to be part of an exciting programme of animation events, which included premieres and exclusive previews. Top of the list was the animate! scheme, funded by Arts Council England and Channel 4, which for the past 15 years has been challenging the boundaries of animation and showcasing the results on television. FLIP was also the first to showcase this year's BBC Three New Animators awards finalists.

As well as this industry focus, there were lots of opportunities for families and young people to get involved in animation, from practical hands-on workshops to screenings of work produced by schools in the region. There was also nervous excitement and drama at the Student Animation Competition, where graduates could see their work on the big screen for the first time.

The festival is beginning to attract national attention and has a lot of potential, to show off the West Midlands as a creative and innovative centre. Peter McLuskie, festival director said:

'There is a great deal of talent in the West Midlands and FLIP is a fantastic opportunity to shout about it and to bring people into the region. In the long term, the festival can help consolidate an emerging but significant creative industries cluster in the Wolverhampton region'.

The Flip team is now preparing for the festival, which will take place in October 2006. For more info, contact Peter McLuskie, 01902 716055, peter@light-house.co.uk

MediaNet *The Home of Media Education For The West Midlands.*

Project Coordinator: Lou Llewellyn

The Rural Media Company, Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh St, Hereford, HR4 9HG.

Tel: 01432 344039, www.medianetonline.org email: info@medianetonline.org

MediaNet is UK Film Council funded through the Screen West Midlands Access Fund.