



The catalyst in developing creative, open-minded young Western Australians who are engaged with the world

All Things AWESOME in 2009!

29 September 2009

The 2009 AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things is set to be bigger and better than ever, showcasing the latest and greatest new media, contemporary dance, far-out theatre, sculpture, street theatre and quirky films.

In addition to preparing the annual Festival, the AWESOME Team has been hard at work in 2009 working with artists from all over Australia on the regional 'Creative Challenge' Program with a project called 'OPEN BOOK'. Conceived by Western Australian based artist Amanda Barrett Hayes, 'OPEN BOOK' asks young people to create a contemporary 'book' to tell their stories and offers a kids-eye-view of what life is like in the regions.

The 2009 AWESOME Festival will showcase a selection of the 'books' created by bright young things from the communities of Exmouth, Mt Magnet, Wiluna, Mullewa, Karratha, Pandanus Park, Kalgoorlie, Jarlmadangah Burru, Leonora and Roebourne as well as Medina in Kwinana. AWESOME's Community Development Manager Li-anne Carroll said the outcomes were diverse and intriguing.

"Our collection of books ranges from animations, to sound recordings, to photographic installations and images cast in resin," said Ms Carroll.

"The stories that have transpired from Open Book are beautiful, inspiring and really paint a picture of how young people living in regional and remotes areas of Western Australia view their communities," she said.

In the lead up to the Festival, AWESOME's CEO Jenny Simpson says it has been a wonderful and exciting year for AWESOME.

"AWESOME continues to broaden its reach in WA with more and more young people getting involved in our programs," said Ms Simpson.

"Right now we are working with City of Perth on a fantastic School Holiday Program in Forrest Place entitled 'A City Within a City'. Next week we'll launch our 2009 AWESOME Festival Program, closely followed by our new website, whilst finishing off our Creative Challenge residencies in Roebourne and Medina," she said.

While the AWESOME Team can't reveal too much about the upcoming program, Ms Simpson says there are a few AWESOME artworks not to miss.

"Festival-goers will be treated to an array of artistic delights including a film and theatre performance inside a sea container, an enormous labyrinth of creative wonders in Forrest Place, a collection of international animations and of course the 'OPEN BOOK' Installation," said Ms Simpson.

The AWESOME Festival is on in the Perth CBD from 22-29 November and boasts inspiring and amazing artists from France, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Australia and of course, the best from the West!

AWESOME works to be the catalyst in developing creative, open-minded, young Western Australians who are engaged with the world.

2009 marks BHP Billiton Nickel West's third year as Principal Partner to the AWESOME Festival. This unique partnership was recognised at the 2008 Australia Business and the Arts Foundation Awards, winning the national Qantaslink Regional Award.

For more information on the 2009 AWESOME Festival, wicked workshops and other great activities for bright young things, visit www.awesomearts.com and get in on all the creative action!

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The AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things is proudly supported by BHP Billiton Nickel West as the Principal Partner for 2007 – 2009.