



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

Kalgoorlie Open to AWESOME Books

17 August 2009

The AWESOME Arts Creative Challenge kicks off at Kalgoorlie this week with 'OPEN BOOK', a contemporary story-telling project for young people, supported by BHP Billiton Nickel West. Over the next two weeks, the bright young things of North Kalgoorlie Primary School will be challenged to create their own version of a 'book'.

AWESOME artists in residence Jeffery Jay Fowler and Tania Ferrier will be facilitating workshops to explore the stories, ideas and identity of the young people to then create a 'book' that reflects the culture and environment of the Kalgoorlie community.

AWESOME Arts CEO, Jenny Simpson, said she was excited to see what Kalgoorlie's bright young things will create this year.

"2009 is the third year in a row Creative Challenge has visited North Kalgoorlie Primary School through the ongoing support of BHP Billiton Nickel West," said Ms Simpson.

"The last few years have shown that there is a very talented bunch of budding young artists in Kalgoorlie and we are thrilled to be returning this year to see how they interpret and create their own books," she said.

As the OPEN BOOK project is open to interpretation, the 'book' could take form as an animation, podcast, sculpture, sound recording, installation, performance or all of these.

The 'book' will be unveiled at a celebration next week at North Kalgoorlie Primary School, where teachers and parents are invited to enjoy the works created by the students.

The Creative Challenge 'OPEN BOOK' project will travel to ten regional and remote communities in 2009 with each residency culminating in a local celebration of the works created. These artworks will then be showcased in an exhibition at the *AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things* held in the Perth CBD in November.

AWESOME Arts works to inspire and encourage creativity amongst young people and aims to be the catalyst in developing creative, open-minded, young Western Australians who are engaged with the world.

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For more information, images or artist interviews please contact:

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TANIA FERRIER BIO

Born 1958 and raised in Perth, Tania Ferrier's art practiced has focused on painting, having majored in this area at Curtin University. Concurrent to her art practice she has worked in the film industry, as a set decorator, both locally and in New York, where she lived from 1988 to 1992. While overseas her "Angry Underwear" fashion project, painting on woman's long line bras, garnered international press and her first solo exhibition in Perth in 1989.

Besides a feminist theme in her work, she has also made strong statements through her exhibitions, "The Bicentennial Series", "Penal/Pleasure Island" and "Rottnest, light and dark", which look at local, colonial history through researching texts and interpreting them through painting and drawing. These and other works are now in major local and regional collections and in the Art Gallery of Western Australia. She has also received numerous grants, awards and residencies and will participate in Awesome Open Book in August, 2009.

JEFFERY JAY FOWLER

Jeffery Jay Fowler is a writer, director, deviser and composer with a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary Performance from Edith Cowan University. Jeffery's previous work with young people has included "Eye Opening", a performance piece created with Mount Lawley Senior High School year 9's and 10's representing the way young people see beauty.

In 2008 Jeffery worked with Propel Youth Arts on the ArtsMAP Campaign, travelling around Western Australia researching what young people want from the arts, which he describes as an insightful experience. Jeffery has also worked on a slew of theatre productions as a writer, director and composer, including *Duck, Duck, Goose!*, *The Rusalka Thread*, *Red Lashes*, *Hope is the Saddest* and *Zen's Red Mouth*. Jeffery can also be spotted on various TV ads including HBF.



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