



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

Leonora in an AWESOME Spotlight!

30 September 2009

The creative talents of bright young things living in the Goldfields will be celebrated in Perth next week at the Program Launch of the *2009 AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things*.

In addition to an inspiring array of international, national and local artworks, AWESOME will launch the 'OPEN BOOK' Creative Challenge Installation and Photographic Exhibition which includes artwork from young people in Wiluna, Kalgoorlie and Leonora. The artworks of regional young people will offer Metropolitan Festival-goers a unique kids-eye-view into each community.

'OPEN BOOK' visited ten regional and remote communities in 2009 and asked young people to tell their stories through the creation of a contemporary 'book'.

The latest Goldfields OPEN BOOK residency was held at Leonora District High School, where AWESOME artists in residence Roly Skender and Liam Wood ran workshops to explore the stories, ideas and identity of Leonora's bright young things. After two weeks of creative musing, the 'book' turned out to be a choose-your-own-adventure DVD.

"The project organically developed into part fantasy, part tour of Leonora. By having the kids think about and interact with the camera as if it were a new kid from the city they created a narrative that places the viewer inside the lives of the kids, rather than just being a passive observer," said Mr Wood.

"The choose-your-own-adventure style will give viewers at the Festival the chance to actively participate in the story," he said.

The 'book' was unveiled at a celebration at Leonora District High School, where teachers and parents were invited to enjoy the works created by the students. AWESOME's CEO, Jenny Simpson said the 'OPEN BOOK' project has been a huge success so far.

"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," said Ms Simpson.

While the AWESOME Team can't reveal too much about the upcoming program, Ms Simpson said 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 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.

(ends)

For more information, images or artist interviews please contact:

Tegan Thorogood
Communications & Marketing Manager
AWESOME Arts

Tel: (08) 9485 0560
Email: tegan@awesomearts.com
Web: www.awesomearts.com



Creative Challenge is proudly supported by BHP Billiton Nickel West.



Creative Challenge is proudly supported by Healthway promoting the Smarter than Smoking health message.