



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

Kalamunda Artist Tells AWESOME Stories

3 November 2009

Kalamunda filmmaker Mat de Koning is fresh back from a two-week residency in Roebourne where he shared his filmmaking skills with young people to make a visual 'book' to reflect their stories, ideas and identity.

Mr de Koning collaborated with Melbourne artist Danielle Goronszy to create puppets and characters and then shot two short films with the young people of Roebourne District High School as part of the AWESOME Arts Creative Challenge 'OPEN BOOK' a contemporary story-telling project for young people, supported by Woodside. Throughout the residency, Mat and Danielle facilitated workshops to explore story and character ideas, write scripts and discover the Roebourne community and environment.

"Our book transpired in the form of a film, with the central characters being finger puppets made by the students. The students did a fantastic job of making their puppets and then creating voices to go with each character," said Mr de Koning.

"The kids have wild imaginations and our stories included aliens and spaceships, dinosaurs in the pre-historic age and robots called Milly and Dilly," he said.

"We made a second film where two puppets take the audience on a tour of Roebourne District High School so this is a fantastic opportunity for people at the Festival in Perth to see Roebourne through a kid's-eye-view," he said.

AWESOME's Community Development Manager Li-anne Carroll said Mat is a fantastic young artist to watch out for.

"Mat is a very inspiring and passionate film maker and we're thrilled that he's been a part of the Creative Challenge this year," said Ms Carroll.

"He really connects with young people and is always welcomed with open arms into the communities because he genuinely wants to hear people's stories and experience their culture and lifestyle," she said.

"With Mat, the proof is in the pudding, as his films are always an enchanting and delightful experience for young and old alike, so he has a bright future ahead," she said.

The 'book' was unveiled last week at a celebration at Roebourne District High School, where teachers and families were invited to enjoy the works created by the students.

In addition to an inspiring array of international, national and local artworks, AWESOME will be showcasing the 'OPEN BOOK' Creative Challenge Installation and Photographic Exhibition which includes artwork from the budding young artists of Roebourne District High School and ten other regional and remote Western Australian communities. The artworks of regional young people will offer metropolitan festival-goers a unique insight into each community.

The AWESOME Festival is on in the Perth CBD from 22 - 29 November and boasts the latest and greatest contemporary arts from France, Netherlands, the UK, Australia and of course, the best from the West!

AWESOME Arts inspires and encourages 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, high resolution images or artist interviews please contact:

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MAT DE KONING BIO

Mat de Koning took his dad's camera to go skateboarding in 1998 and never gave it back. Several cameras later he has now created a large body of work consisting of short films, documentaries, skate videos, experimental films and music videos.

Mat's work has screened in Europe, U.K, New York and right around Australia. Many of his films use a mix of mediums, blending HD, Super 8, Photography, and art works into the one film. His work has a large youth focus and often aims to bring out people's personality on camera. While he does work with actors his mission statement as a filmmaker is to 'make cinema vérité beautiful'.



Creative Challenge is proudly supported by Woodside.



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