



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

Karratha and Roebourne celebrate their HOME GROUNDS!

20 August 2010

Budding young artists from Karratha Senior High School and Roebourne District High School have been hard at work this fortnight on the AWESOME Arts *Creative Challenge* "HOME GROUND" project, supported by Woodside. The young people have been working with professional artists Nadia Fragnito and Michael Wise to create an inspiring array of artworks that explore their idea of 'home'.

Over a two-week residency, the artists and young people worked together to discover the kinds of dwellings and houses people live in and create artworks that reflect their home and community.

AWESOME artist Nadia Fragnito says the project was well received and saw the students creating their own dioramas of settings or places that reflect their identity, as well as performances about life in Karratha.

"We attached cameras to the dioramas and the images created by this were projected as the backdrop for a theatre performance," said Ms Fragnito.

"We played around with different physical theatre and playmaking techniques like stop-start pacing and tableaux to tell stories and some of the kids chose to have dialogue where others chose to use movement and sound tracks," she said.

In Roebourne, artists Amanda Barrett Hayes and Amber Onat Gregory have been running similar workshops with Roebourne students and had diverse and wonderful outcomes.

"We started off the project by building shelters and a cubby house and from this, we got ideas of what the kids would like to build in their very own home sculptures," said Ms Hayes.

"We made objects that we can put inside the 'home' structures and we created most of these sculptures from recycled materials like cardboard boxes, plastic and insulation foam and we created TV's, a fridge, a table tennis set, a computer and even disco balls!" she said.

The artworks and performances created were unveiled at community celebrations in Karratha and Roebourne at the end of the fortnight, where teachers, parents and community members were invited to enjoy the home-inspired creations. The two groups also had the chance to get together and share their ideas of home and their communities.

"The Karratha students came out for the Roebourne celebration to see what had been created and were able to share their artworks and insights about life in each place with each other," said Ms Hayes.

"The Roebourne kids travel to Karratha often but it's a bit rarer that the Karratha kids will travel to Roebourne so this was a really special opportunity for both communities to have a different experience," she said.

After the celebrations, a selection of the artworks created will then be showcased in an exhibition at the 2010 *AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things* held in the Perth CBD this November.

Creative Challenge is AWESOME's year-round regional program that visits ten regional and remote communities in Western Australia with a different arts project each year. *HOME GROUND* was devised by Lead Artist Louise Snook and is delivered by a team of twenty artists from all over Australia, including performers, filmmakers, new media artists, dancers, sound artists, photographers and visual artists.

AWESOME's programs and events inspire and encourage creativity amongst young people throughout Western Australia.

(ENDS)

For more information, high resolution images and artist interviews, please contact:

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NADIA FRAGNITO BIO

Nadia is a Creative Director and Mentor for all things Drama and is currently based in Melbourne where she has recently launched her own business, *Red Eight Creations*, running workshops and various theatre projects. She is enthusiastic about theatre arts and is passionate about the benefits of acting techniques for non-actors. Nadia studied at Flinders University, The Victorian College of the Arts, National Theatre Drama School, Deakin University and The University of South Australia. During this time, she performed in and coordinated a range of unique theatre projects, including The 24 Hour Fix, Music Clip Theatre, The Short Theatre Project and Adelaide Fringe Festival shows. She has also taught within secondary education, including rewarding positions at Murray Bridge High School (SA) and Ocean Forest Lutheran College (WA). Nadia is now committed to exploring Drama beyond the 'curriculum' in delivering unique and exciting theatre experiences for both adults and young people.

MICHAEL WISE BIO

Michael Wise has a Masters Degree in Art and works for Curtin University of Technology in Margaret River. He works with contemporary art processes of sculpture/installation, multi-media, aerosol stencil painting, and relational art. His experimentation with relational art, engages the viewer to become actively involved in the outcome of the art process. His studio practice is experimenting with the heat transference of colour images from aluminum cans to create paintings (paintings without paint). Also, an interactive artwork that was recently on exhibition at the Bunbury Regional Galleries, South West Survey 2010 explores the notion of unseen environments through the lens of a surveillance camera.

AMANDA BARRETT HAYES BIO

Originally from the USA, Amanda arrived in Perth in 2006 after a 3-year stint in London. She holds an M.A. in Movement Studies from Central School of Speech and Drama in London as well as a B.A. in Theatre Performance from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. For the past two years, Amanda has worked as an artist on AWESOME's Creative Challenge project. In approaching OPEN BOOK, Amanda set out to create the mold for a project that gave the potential for innovation and creativity within each regional WA town we visit. Amanda enjoys teaching young aspirants as each class is an exciting learning experience. When working instead with more mature students, she finds the most useful exercises are those that unlock the imagination and creativity of youth. For the past three years she has worked as a movement tutor for the WA Opera's Young Artist Program. She has also directed many shows for the company including the PEET Young Artist Series and Opera in the Park. In 2009 Amanda was the lead artist on the OPEN BOOK project for AWESOME Arts' Creative Challenge program.



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