

Information for Immediate Publication

1st September 2011

FLOW: the Community Arts School

Launches 1st October

Running from 1st to 8th October 2011, *FLOW* is a unique autumn school for up to 30 young, aspiring and emergent community artists from Norway, Serbia and from the UK. The programme will take place in Folkmusic Centre in Sigdal, Buskerud County, Norway.

FLOW has been developed to introduce participants to the skills and exciting career opportunities in community arts practice across Europe. Throughout the course, under the guidance of a wide range of community arts practitioners, they will develop the practical skills they need to run workshops for a number of different client groups.

Dr Nick Owen, one of the organisers of the event, says: "In light of the tragic and appalling events in Norway this summer, we are absolutely delighted now to be working with Norwegian and Serbian partners to demonstrate that the spirit of multiculturalism is alive and well and living in the hearts, minds and abilities of our young people from Merseyside, Buskerud County and Obrenovac. The *FLOW* project is the result of a long standing relationship between all the partners and is a testament to the importance of understanding our common European homes and cultures."

Students will be able to participate in theatre, music, dance, multimedia and project management courses. The course will equip them with detailed knowledge of project planning, enterprise and social networking, to help them develop their career.

The programme has been designed around modules which have been validated as part of a Foundation Degree in Community Arts by the University of Chester in the UK. Successful completion of the week will provide students with the equivalent of 3 credits of a UK Foundation Degree. Every participant will also have the opportunity to gain a Youthpass, part of the European Commission strategy to recognise non-formal learning.

FLOW is an extension of the PASCOCO project, an international cultural development programme developed and produced by four European partners: Buskerud County, Norway; Midtjylland Teaterverksted (Midcounty Theatre Workshop), Norway; Obrenovac Municipality / Sport and Culture Centre Obrenovac, Serbia; Aspire Trust, Merseyside, UK.

PASCOCO has been running since June 2010 and will finish in April 2012. The project has focused particularly on the town of Obrenovac, near Belgrade in Serbia (although some aspects of the programme have also taken place in Ringerike, Norway). It has involved artist and teacher training; community play production and the development of local cultural and creative capacity through film making, arts workshops for disabled people and various other activities.

For further information about *FLOW: Community Arts Schools* or about the PASCOCO project, please contact Aspire Creative Enterprises at info.aspire@btconnect.com.

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Notes for Editors

Aspire Creative Enterprises

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Company Registration Number 7509585



Aspire Creative Enterprises (ACE) developed out of the work of the Aspire Trust, a Wallasey-based social enterprise and registered charity. As a trading company ACE is wholly owned by the Trust yet remains separate and independent.

Presently ACE is focused on two major projects: the development of the former caretaker's lodge at Oldershaw school into a creative digital hub and small business start-up space, and the management of international conferences and student exchange programmes. In 2011 ACE have organised two international education conferences: Opening Doors, held in Liverpool, and All Our Futures 2 at the University of Hull. ACE also ran the international student exchange programmes Chaperones, which took place in schools and cultural institutions across Liverpool and the North West.

Midcounty Theatre Workshop

Midfylket Teaterverksted (MidCounty Theater Workshop)

Working after a decentralized model, operated by state, county and municipal grants and own revenue - MidCounty Theater

Workshop exists to promote and develop amateur activities in 5 municipalities in, Buskerud County, Norway - a hub for theater culture, knowledge and creativity. We are part of our



umbrella organization Buskerud Theater, that consists of 3 other similar charities. We collaborate on several projects. Cultural strategy development, building network, exchange ideas and collaborative work is integral for our work. Theater Consultants assists groups and institutions through instruction, consulting services, supervision and training.

Sport and Culture Centre Obrenovac

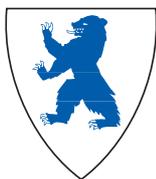
Sportsko Kulturni Centar Obrenovac
Kralja Aleksandra I 5
Obrenovac



The Sports and Culture Centre, sponsored by Obrenovac Municipality, was founded in the early 1980s. It now provides a 700-seat theatre/conference hall and one of the largest sports centres in Serbia. The centre is a venue for various indoors sports as well as hosting a diverse cultural and artistic programme.

With the support of

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**Buskerud
fylkeskommune**



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme



AKTIV UNGDOM