



9 November 2005

GROUNDBREAKING PROJECT RELEASES TALENT

A groundbreaking project which empowers inner city young people is to launch an interactive CD-Rom featuring the achievements of its participants at Leeds Central Library on Wednesday 9th November 2005.

The CD-Rom is the culmination of two years of intense work by its young participants on the **Studio 12** project, who have been allowed to be creative and experiment with new technology to realise hidden talent, reach personal goals and explore new professional and creative avenues which they may not have dreamed possible.

The project is a partnership between Pavilion and Leeds Library and Information Service, and has seen the young people take up university and college places, and employment where they would not previously have expected to achieve.

Studio 12 is a dynamic audio visual media initiative which provides free access to production studio facilities, accredited industry qualifications and the expertise of a panel of creative industry professionals. It is aimed at 16-25 year olds from inner-city Leeds.

The project is part-funded by the Leeds Equal e-Employability Development Partnership led by Leeds City Council Jobs and Skills Service as part of a city-wide employability programme tackling social and economic exclusion in Leeds.

Said Debra Klomp, Director of Pavilion: "There are five key components to the **Studio 12** project - participants have access to a well equipped studio with one-to-one tuition, they have the opportunity to showcase their work at events including festivals and screenings, access to a panel of creative industry professionals, there is a website and there are outreach sessions.

"This is a ground-breaking initiative which has continued well beyond the two years it was initially set to run. Leeds Library and Information Service and Pavilion are now drafting a three-year plan to determine how the project can be sustained and developed, with investment from key stakeholders. We need to be able to identify potential investors from both the public and private sector to ensure the continuation of this worthwhile work."

The CD-Rom includes a show-reel featuring work made by participants. It includes works by Alex Willats (24), with her "*Sun DJ*" animation, who took part in the project from September 2003 until July 2004. She is now undertaking a Visualisation and Animation Foundation Degree (arts) at Ravensbourne College of Design and Communications, in London. She achieved a Level 3 OCN and was awarded an Outstanding Achievement accolade by the Women into Technology from Leeds City Council.

Studio 1 2/2

Tom Wroe's (21) "*Kloop*" earned him a Level 2 OCN and he is now undertaking BA (Hons) in Music Production at Leeds College of Music.

And Marek Szczepk (25) produced "*Some Thing Chains*" which earned a Level 2 OCN. He is still participating in the project and using the studio while working in a bike shop.

Said Leeds City Council Executive Member for Leisure, Councillor John Proctor "This has been a tremendously successful project which has been of great benefit to the young people who took part. They all showed great enthusiasm to learn new skills and develop their talents, and the fact they have achieved awards, outstanding qualifications, and secured jobs, is a great reward for their efforts and the staff who guided them. Everyone involved should be very proud of themselves."

Ends

