



Young people from Thurrock are setting the stage for a career in the arts – Creative Careers Fair 12 March 2008

On **12 March**, young people from schools and colleges in Thurrock will be taking part in a **Creative Careers Fair** being held at **Lakeside** shopping centre.

Specialists will be on hand to offer advice on training and careers, and the young people will get the chance to take part in practical activities like theatrical make-up, lighting and set-design. The Fair will culminate in an informal performance that will allow the students to put into practice the skills developed during the day, on a set that will be specially designed by students from Palmer's College.

Members of the public will be able to observe the work taking place throughout the day in the Central Atrium at Lakeside, and will be able to take part themselves between 6-7pm and 8-9pm, so if you fancy turning your hand to wig making or costume design, come along and meet the experts.

Live music and performing arts contribute billions of pounds to the UK economy every year, but great performances need great technicians and backstage staff, and there is a growing shortage of skilled workers to fill these roles. The Royal Opera House Production Park, which will open it for business in Purfleet in 2009, will bring unprecedented opportunities for young people from this area to train and work in this sector.

The relocation of the Royal Opera House's production facilities to the Production Park will enable it to expand its training and youth apprenticeship programme and continue to play a central role in providing education opportunities to the local community. In addition, it is anticipated that the Park will become home to a new National Skills Academy for the Creative and Cultural Sector. This, combined with the new courses that South East Essex College and partners will be introducing, following their successful bid to the Learning and Skills Council's

open competition at the end of last year, mean that there has never been a better time for young people to develop their skills for successful careers behind the scenes of some of the world's most prestigious stages.

The Creative Careers Fair is being organised by the Royal Opera House, Thurrock Learning Partnership and Arts Council East. The young people who have been invited to take part in activities during the day are from schools and colleges in Thurrock that are already working with the ROH Education. In the run up to the Fair, 16 design students from Palmer's College have been working with ROH Education to plan the activities, design the layout and create backdrops and sets for the final performance.

Specialist career advisors will be on hand during the day to provide information, advice and guidance on learning opportunities. Representatives from local FE/ colleges, Connexions and MOVE and University of East London will be on hand at the Lakeside Training Centre.

Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive of Thurrock Council said:

"We are delighted that this collaborative event is happening in Thurrock. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to gain an insight into what goes on behind the scenes to enable 'the show to go on' and find out about the opportunities available for them to gain new knowledge and skills.

"With the opening of the Royal Opera House Production park in 2009, and the related work that is happening to support it, Thurrock is set to become a centre of excellence for technical skills and training in backstage crafts, this Creative Careers Fair is juts the start"

Ends

Notes to editors

Press Enquiries

For further information relating to the Creative Careers Fairs or to arrange a visit to take photography or meet some of the participants, please contact:

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Royal Opera House

In 2009, the Royal Opera House will relocate its production workshop to a brand new purpose-built facility in Purfleet, Thurrock. It will be sited on the Royal Opera House Production Park, a national centre of excellence for technical production skills in the live music and performing arts' sectors. The Creative Careers Fair is part of the Royal Opera House's ongoing community engagement programme

in Thurrock, showcasing the backstage careers on offer within the creative industries with a particular focus on technical skills like carpentry, set-building, scenic painting, theatrical make-up, costume and wig making.

www.royaloperahouse.org

Thurrock Learning Partnership

Thurrock Learning Partnership is an exceptionally inclusive body of schools, colleges, private training providers, business, Connexions, Voluntary Sector, Thurrock Council, jobcentreplus and Thurrock Primary Care Trust. By working together, sharing knowledge, research and strategies, they aim to widen participation and raise achievement.

www.thurrocklearningpartnership.org.uk

Thurrock Council

Information needed

www.thurrockcouncil.gov.uk

Arts Council England

Arts Council England works to get great art to more people in more places. Between 2008 and 2011, we will invest £1.6 billion of public money from government and the National Lottery in supporting the arts. This is the bedrock of support for the arts in England. We believe that the arts have the power to change lives and communities, and to create opportunities for people throughout the country.

www.artscouncil.org.uk