

NOR DAF NEWS

Spring 2002

EMMA AMSDEN - photographer
LLOYDS-TSB FOUNDATION
ACTION - DISABILITY ARTS
LET LOOSE LETS FLY
ON THE RAZZ with *mainstream*

WALL A WAY
Emma Amsden

northern disability arts forum
empowerment through disability arts and culture



NorDAF

news

NorDAF is an arts development service staffed and managed by a majority of Disabled people. It aims to empower Disabled people in Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Teesside and Tyne & Wear, through the promotion of Disability arts and culture.

NorDAF News promotes and discusses all aspects of Disability arts and culture, and welcomes unsolicited articles, reviews and letters for publication by Disabled and Deaf people. We cannot guarantee publication and the Editor reserves the right to edit contributions. Whenever possible this will be done in consultation with the author.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of NorDAF.

IN THIS ISSUE

Round and about	3
Spotlight on the funders - Lloyds TSB	4
<i>Community Foundation,</i>	
<i>Community Chest & First Light</i>	5
Action - Disability Arts	6
Apply to NorDAF for money	6
Emma Amsden - photographer	8
Let Loose lets fly	10
In brief	12
Another perspective by Paula Greenwell	13
On the Razz with <i>mainstream</i>	14
What's on	16

Northern Disability Arts Forum
MEA House
Ellison Place
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8XS

Tel/Fax: 0191 222 0708

Text: 0191 261 2238

email: nordaf@nordaf.org

NorDAF News: db@nordaf.org

Website: www.nordaf.org

Registered Charity no. 1046912

round and about

CALLING ALL DISABLED ARTISTS AND WRITERS

If you are a creative artist - photographer, painter, sculptor, writer - then NorDAF News needs you.

We want NorDAF News to be a showcase for Disabled artists and writers, and we are looking for creative writing, articles, reviews or original art works to publish in the magazine.

The deadline for the next issue is April 30th, so why not put pen to paper or brush to canvas and submit work for publication?

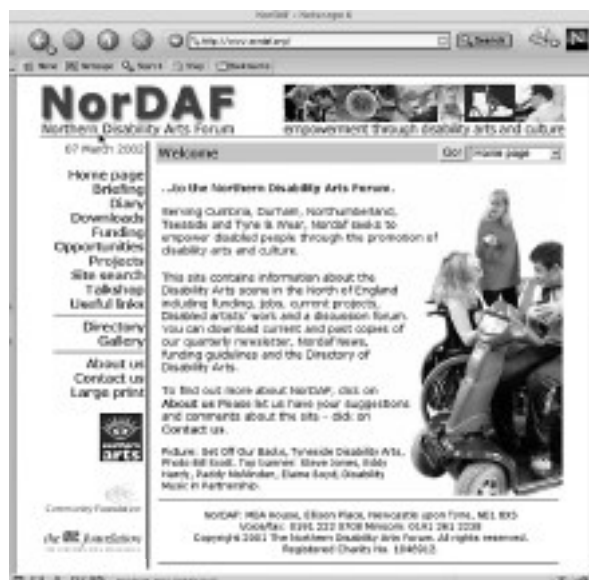
We can't promise to publish everything, and we reserve the right to edit contributions, but we'll do that in cooperation with the author. For further information contact Dave Baker on 0191 222 0708 or email him at db@nordaf.org.

<http://www.nordaf.org>

NorDAF's new web site is now up and running and can be accessed at the above address.

The site features a completely new design optimised to run as fast as possible across multiple platforms

and browsers, although it will work best on the latest versions of all the major browsers.



Besides all the usual features, the site now boasts a searchable on-line database of Disabled arts practitioners; a new and improved searchable gallery of Disabled artists; downloads of back issues of NorDAF News, guidelines and, shortly, application forms for NorDAF funds. A new bulletin board will stimulate discussion.

Still under construction is a project update section which will carry up-to-date reports and pictures of all NorDAF projects.

Why not visit the site, and better still, let us know what you think - your suggestions are welcome.

SPOTLIGHT on the FUNDERS



The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England & Wales is a grant-making trust and makes donations to charities. Its mission is to support and work in partnership with charitable organisations which help people, especially those who are disadvantaged or disabled, to play a fuller role in communities throughout England and Wales.

The Trustees' policy is to target support to underfunded charities working in that area.

Their funding goes mainly to charities working in two fields: **social and community needs** and **education and training**.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Foundation supports a wide range of activities including advice services, community services, working with Disabled people, mental health, Disabled people in the arts.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The aim is to improve learning opportunities for Disabled and disadvantaged people of all ages.

The foundation identifies specific areas they want to focus on within their overall objectives. Currently, these are;

Family support - to improve the quality of family life.

Challenging disadvantage and discrimination - to promote understanding and encourage solutions which deal with disadvantage and discrimination

Helping the voluntary sector - to support the development of regional voluntary sector networks and encourage people to communicate and work together.

Projects that fall within these areas of special interest can apply for up to £10,000. If your project falls outside of these areas, you can apply for up to £5,000.

If you're unsure where your project fits, or would like more information, contact Peter Ellis or Maria Hallett on 0191 261 8433.

You can also visit their web site at www.lloydstsbfoundation.org.uk

LOCAL MONEY FOR LOCAL GROUPS

Newcastle Community Chest is on stream now - you need to apply as soon as possible to catch this year's money!

Newcastle Community Chest is part of the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. It is run by the Community Foundation in partnership with Newcastle CVS.

With a 3-year rolling programme, grants of between £50 and £5000 are available to local voluntary and community groups.

Telephone 0191 232 7445 for more information, advice and application forms.

**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS
LOOKING FOR PANEL MEMBERS TO
AWARD NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY
CHEST GRANTS FROM APRIL 2002
ONWARDS.**

**IF YOU HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING
OR EXPERIENCE OF VOLUNTARY
AND COMMUNITY GROUPS, CALL
NCVS ON 0191 232 7445 NOW FOR
AN APPLICATION FORM.**

FULL TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN.

FIRST LIGHT 2002

First Light was launched in 2001 to give children and young people 8-18 in the UK the opportunity to make short films on video. NorDAF's Let Loose Productions film project was amongst the first to receive a grant. The funding scheme for 2002 has now been announced.

The First Light Pilot Award

Open to any constituted youth-focused organisation. Grants of up to £5000 per application are available to make one or two films of 1-5 minutes long. You have to provide a minimum of 30% of the total project cost.

The First Light Studio Award

For organisations with a track record of filmmaking with young people. Grants of £6000 per film are on offer for 3-6 films lasting 5-10 minutes. You will have to find a minimum of 50% of the total project costs.

The First Light Executive Award

Covers training and support running alongside the two schemes above.

Full information and application details from the Web site at <http://www.firstlightmovies.com>, or call 0870 770 3245.

ACTION - DISABILITY ARTS 2002

Four mainstream arts organisations are joining forces with NorDAF to improve Disabled people's access to and involvement with the arts. Funded by a £35,000 grant from Northern Arts, the scheme is co-ordinated by freelance disability arts consultant Jo Verrant.

Each organisation will host a Disabled ambassador on a 30-day placement, to look at all areas of the operation including physical access, customer care, education, outreach, programming and employment.

The Northern Print Studio in North Shields will host **Irene Fisher**. Irene is an access consultant for Disability North, and has extensive experience of delivering disability equality training based around the Disability Discrimination Act.

Anna Wilkinson is the Senior Executive. "Northern Print Studios is the only printmaking resource in the region," she said, "so we should ensure that we are accessible to everyone who wants to use our facilities or take part in our projects."

Denise Armstrong (pictured) is to work with Sunderland's **Northern Gallery of Contemporary Art**.

Denise is a Deaf performer and choreographer who works creatively throughout the UK and abroad.

Marketing Officer for the gallery, Joanna Rowlands, said "We will be working with Denise to raise awareness within the organisation about Deafness and the arts. We would



Ambassador Denise Armstrong

like her to help with making activities such as artists' talks more accessible to Deaf people, and the rebranding of the gallery through the building's signage and orientation."

Susie Rutherford is Vice Chair of the Northern Disability Forum and has worked for multinational organisations in the marketing and community arts sectors.

Susie will be working with **Tyne & Wear Museums**.

Helen Sinclair, Head of Education at Tyne & Wear Museums and Chair of Tyne and Wear Museums Access Working Party said, "We are delighted to have Susie Rutherford working with us at Tyne & Wear Museums. We have an excellent reputation for working with Disabled visitors, however there are always areas we know we can improve on and her input will be invaluable."

Ambassador for the **Theatre Royal** (Newcastle upon Tyne) will be **Clarence Adoo**. As a professional trumpet player of twenty years standing, Clarence has performed for both theatre and television. He now works in education and outreach for the Northern Sinfonia.

Peter Sarah, General Manager of the Theatre Royal, said "We are looking forward to hosting Clarence Adoo. This project contributes to our ongoing long-term plan to upgrade our facilities for people with disabilities, to which we are very committed."

Aziz Zeria of Northern Arts is equally enthusiastic. "Action - Disability Arts is an opportunity... to create an innovative new model of good practice through the placement of Disabled ambassadors."

COULD YOUR GROUP USE UP TO £2000?

Why not apply NOW to NorDAF for up to £2000 to help towards your group's Disability arts project?

Lots of groups benefit from NorDAF's twice-yearly funding round, getting money for projects that otherwise might not happen.

During the last round, **Skills for People**, for example, received £2000 towards their *Lifetime of Stories to Tell* storytelling project for adults with learning disabilities who are particularly vulnerable as tenants.

Sherburn House Arts Workshops received £2000 to help elderly Disabled people participate in workshops and visits to arts exhibitions.

Many smaller grants were awarded, helping to get arts projects off the ground. NorDAF has up to £30,000 a year to distribute.

The next deadline is June, so start thinking *now* how NorDAF could help you. You can view the guidelines at our web site www.nordaf.org or phone or fax the office for a copy. Ring 0191 222 0708 (voice or fax) or 0191 261 2238 (minicom).

EMMA AMS

Emma Amsden is a profoundly deaf photographer living and working in the Yorkshire Dales. Her stunning pictures of sweeping, empty landscapes, people and animals, with their haunting atmosphere and beautiful monochrome imagery, seem to share with the viewer a sense of silence and isolation.

Emma first became interested in photography through her dad's hobby, but she soon developed her own style - moody monochrome landscapes and intense studies of people, using natural light to emphasise textures and patterns.

She studied photography at Cleveland College of Art & Design and went on to develop her documentary work with "a strong impression of shade and contrast, using textures to create effects. A world without sound," she says. Her beloved Yorkshire Dales are silent, but her camera captures every mood, and her pictures speak eloquently of the countryside.



Wall a way by Emma Amsden

Emma has exhibited widely, and her work has earned widespread recognition and won major awards.

Through her photography, she has overcome the isolation of a deaf person working alone in a rural community, especially from other artists.

DEN PHOTOGRAPHER



Captivated



Going Solo



Gate into unknown

She is the subject of a moving video recording by photographer Jim Moran, himself dyslexic. It documents “a relationship between two very different professionals at work: a photographic artist who exists in a world of total silence, and a photojournalist who suffers from word blindness.”

Although her heart will always be in the Dales, Emma’s sights are global. “My aim is to continue to develop and widen my photography career,” she says, “through opportunities for commissions and travel.”

Emma is also gaining a reputation as an inspirational workshop leader. She recently ran a Deaf photography project at Blyth Resource Initiative Centre with Lee Jordan, teaching young Deaf people basic photography skills. “It was brilliant,” she says, “really good fun. It was a supportive and friendly environment which helped build self-confidence. It is very important for young Deaf people to support each other and develop new skills.” Now there’s a challenge...

LET LOOSE LETS FLY!

NorDAF ventures into celluloid with its latest project enabling young Disabled and Deaf people to make their own short films.

NorDAF is delighted to announce Let Loose Productions will be taking place in Northumberland in July and August 2002.

Let Loose consists of two 10-day film production training courses for 30 young Disabled and Deaf people aged 16-18. Participants will gain the NCFE qualification "Using Video: A certificate in Basic Competence".

With a budget of £63,000 - the project is one of the largest undertaken by NorDAF. We are the only Disabled arts organisation to receive such a large amount from the Film Council (£20,000). Northern Rock have just awarded us £7,504. The Readman Foundation and Northern Arts have contributed £2,000 each.

Northumberland College is providing us with major sponsorship in kind through the free use of cameras, sound and editing equipment, training space and tutors' fees.

SIGNPOST, the North East digital translation service based at Tyne

Tees Television and the Independent Television Facilities Centre (ITFC) are supplying free subtitling and BSL translation of each film.

Led by Visual Motions, a Deaf production company based in Bradford, and Raina Haig, a renowned partially sighted film Director, participants will experience the whole process, from developing ideas into a script to editing the final piece for screening.

The training will take place in Hexham and Ashington - one Disabled and one Deaf. Each group will produce 2 short films in either fiction or creative documentary.



The MidNAG *Northumberland Young Filmmakers Festival 2002* takes place from Monday 4th to Saturday 9th November.

The films will be screened at Mid-Northumberland Art Group's (MidNAG's) Northumberland Young Filmmakers Festival in November 2002 and tour regional and national festivals across the UK.

The films will also be available to Disabled and Deaf groups and individuals in VHS and DVD formats.

The programme is confirmed as:

22nd July - 2 August 2002

Northumberland College, Ashington for Deaf participants

5th-16th August

Hexham (venue to be confirmed) for Disabled participants

BSL/English interpreters and Personal Assistants will be available, lunch is provided and it's TOTALLY FREE! All training material will be designed specifically to meet participants' needs.

The tutors:

RAINA HAIG

Filmmaker/writer/director. Her most recent work includes *Blind Sensations*, a series of 3 impressionist films inspired by the experience of blindness and partial sight as part of Channel 4's *Blinded Season*, screened during July and August last year.

She had her debut as a TV drama director last year with *Gettin Off*, for Channel 4's *Dogma* TV series. Her acclaimed drama debut *Drive* (97) was the first audio-described film to be screened in the UK.

VISUAL MOTIONS

Their most recent work includes the *My Dream, Your Dream* video for young, Deaf people from ethnic minorities. Check out the web site www.mydream-yourdream.co.uk

Previous productions include *Hands of Time*, a visual documentary of the history of Deaf people and Doug Alker's video book *Really not interested in the Deaf*.

Visual Motions comprises two experienced Deaf film and video makers.

GOHAR NISAR trained at Tyne Tees TV working for *Listening Eye* followed by *Sign On* and set up the first Deaf production company in the North East, 'Deaf Owl', in the 90s.

RANJIT SINGH previously worked with NorDAF on 'Deaf Dimensions' photography course in Blyth in 1997.

GETTING INVOLVED

If you are 16-18, Disabled or Deaf and are interested please get in touch with Alison at Nordaf.

Voice or minicom: 0191 261 2238

Fax: 0191 222 0708

Email alison@nordaf.org or visit our website www.nordaf.org

VEE-TV IS BACK ON C4

VEE-TV, the innovative magazine series for young Deaf people is back on Channel 4 from Saturday 30th March 2002 at 12 midday.

When VEE-TV was launched early in 2001, it broke new ground with its diverse content, striking visual style and strong commitment to contemporary Deaf youth culture.



Aimed at 18-25 year olds, VEE-TV is a dynamic magazine show that tackles powerful and relevant issues, in a format fusing documentary, drama, discussion and debate.

Popular presenters Ahmed Mudawi, Nikki Stratton and Rebecca Tadman return, taking the show on the road to internet cafes across the UK.

Pulse, the new directors' strand, is back to give more aspiring film-makers their first chance to realise their vision in short experimental films.

Starting out in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, VEE-TV moves on to visit internet cafes in Bristol and Brighton over the 12 week run.

Each week, VEE-TV explores issues as diverse as genetic engineering, political apathy, mixed Deaf-hearing relationships and Deaf people in the criminal justice system.

The VEE-TV production team brings Deaf and hearing people together in close collaboration. This series, producer Norma McGilp and director Ramon Woolfe are back on a team that includes first-time researchers Matt Hearn and Caroline O'Neill, and many Deaf contributors, actors and participants.

The new series is a co-production for Channel 4 between two independent production companies - Birmingham-based Maverick Television and Resource Base in Southampton.

MERCHANT OF VENICE

The RSC's fully accessible version of Merchant of Venice is coming to Middlesbrough.

"...one of the best RSC touring productions since Terry Hands set up Theatreground 30-odd years ago...don't miss it if it comes your way." Sunday Times

An audio-described and captioned performance of *The Merchant of Venice* by the renowned Royal Shakespeare Company is at the Rainbow Leisure Centre, Parkway Centre, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough on Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm. This is a must for your diary!

Tickets start from £11.00. To book, please ring 01642 296208, mentioning that you are booking for the captioned and audio described performance.

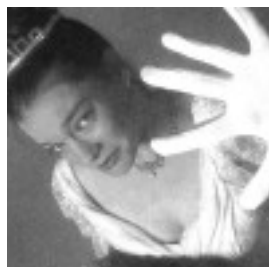
For more details ring Pat Collcutt on 020 738 27118, fax 020 738 27273 or email access@rsc.org.uk.

PYGMALION

A stylish new version of *Pygmalion* by the country's leading professional theatre company with an integrated cast of Disabled and non-disabled actors.

mind...the gap

reworks George Bernard Shaw's enduring story of Eliza Doolittle, the flower girl who becomes a lady by changing the way she speaks. An inventive and accessible version of Shaw's classic that is guaranteed to surprise, inspire and entertain.



At the Gulbenkian Studio Theatre, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 8pm on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th April, with a matinee at 1.30pm on the 19th.

Tickets are £8, or £6 concession. For more information, ring the Box Office on 0191 230 5151.

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

I'm a jigsaw with no missing pieces but the board that keeps the picture stable is not there

So the picture seems damaged or imperfect but the care I have for the nature of life gives me a vivid view

My quick wits pick up irony
My perspective welcomes diversity
My heart enfolds all
My politics put society before self
My zaniness keeps me sane, and
My tenacity never diminishes

What picture do you see?

Paula Greenwell

Why not submit your poem or story for publication? See page 3 for more details.

On the Razz with mainstream

Jam-packed like sardines into the Queen's Hall Cafe and all with good reason! Over seventy Disabled people turned up to watch a wealth of creative Disabled talent gracing the stage in the 2nd Disability Arts Week held by *mainstream* Disability arts group in Tynedale at the end of February.

On the Razz cabaret was the climax of five days of workshops starting with printmaking, followed by movement, drama, sculpture, visual arts and music and ending with a mel-
lowing out of storytelling on the last



Workshop in action

day. It opened with Cleveland Arts' two short films from their 'Shoot your Mouth Off' project; we were then seduced by the Wandering Minstrels who got everyone going and enticed us further between acts.

Steve Jones's 'Track Art' dominated the stage; Bill Scott's 'Clear View' exhibition and work by Hexham ATC were also on show.



SEVEN STARS Theatre Company

Seven Stars Theatre Company, based at Headway Theatre in Blyth (who toured Tyne & Wear and Cumbria last October), kept the audience in stitches with two pieces; the first saw parents' acceptance of their children's secrets - burglary, pregnancy, cross-dressing and a son's determination to be a policeman in 'The Long Weekend' - no holds barred.

This was followed by 'The One that Got Away' reminiscent of the slapstick comedy of earlier times; a policeman's dilemma in identifying the culprit responsible for slapping a commuter at a train station - the only description being he was wearing a hat like everyone else on the platform. He gives up and each of the commuters take turns to see if they can solve the crime.

Lip Lee, whose photography exhibition 'Maoism to McDonaldism' is currently showing at The Discovery Museum, entertained everyone with the origins of Chinese New Year and the art of paper sculptures.



The Takeaway Band from Dilston

The Takeaway Band from Dilston College had everyone captivated with their musical tales of Africa and we all envied the band members going to Peru!

Action packed it certainly was - the floor spots threw up the talented poetry of Peter Dawson and even yours truly did a wee turn!

'Moving On' from Red Wine and Porcupine Drama Group (based at Hexham Adult Training Centre), dealt with the serious issue of how an adult with learning disabilities wanting to leave home does so against all the odds.

Inspired by Headway Theatre, this group has been meeting for the last

four years. Being a multi-talented lot, they have made a hard-hitting video, with Haltwhistle Film Project, called 'BEAT THE BULLIES'. This was premiered as well at the show.

The video is for sale, accompanied by a teacher's pack (contact Hexham ATC: phone 01434 605245 for more details).

Congratulations are in order for the seriously hard work put in by **main-stream** Disability Arts group and the Queen's Hall who produced such a magnificent week of events.



Thumbs up!

Reviewed by Alison Smith

mainstream welcome new members and are actively fundraising now for future events.

Contact Carole Anne Fleming 01434 607 765. Check with Queen's Hall 01434 652482 for their monthly workshops.

What's on at a glance

n o r d a f

Date Time Event/venue

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

3rd April 12.00 The Boardroom, 5th floor, MEA House, Ellison Place. Inaugural meeting of Disability Action North East's Disabled Women's Group. NB women only. Contact Denise on 0191 230 4009 or email dwdane@aol.com

MIDDLESBROUGH

19th April 7.30pm Royal Shakespeare Company's THE MERCHANT OF VENICE at the Rainbow Leisure Centre, Parkway Centre, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough.
Audio described and captioned performance.
To book, please ring 01642 296208. For more details ring 020 738 27118 or email access@rsc.org.uk

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

18th, 19th April 8.00pm **mind...the gap's** PYGMALION by George Bernard Shaw
19th matinee 1.30pm Gulbenkian Studio Theatre. Tickets £8 or £6 concession
A stylish new version of Pygmalion by the country's leading professional theatre company with an integrated cast of Disabled and non-disabled actors.
Ring the Box Office on 0191 230 5151

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

23rd April 7.30pm Newcastle Playhouse. NEWCASTLE SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL. Schools throughout Newcastle participate in a celebration of dance. Ring 0191 230 5151

northern disability arts forum
empowerment through disability arts and culture

