



**NOR  
DAF** NEWS  
Summer 2002

Tactile art classes at the Laing Art Gallery

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, however, this will be done in consultation with the author.

The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of NorDAF.

## Northern Disability Arts Forum

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Cover photograph by Claire Judge

## Join the NorDAF committee

NorDAF is entering an exciting phase in its development, with major projects in the pipeline and a central role in strategic planning for Disability Arts and access to the arts for Disabled people in the region.

To address these issues effectively, NorDAF is looking to broaden and strengthen its committee and invites applications from Disabled people with an interest in Disability arts and culture and the social model of Disability.

Acceptance is subject to interview and successful applicants will be given induction training. The committee meets quarterly.

primarily aimed at learning providers, the plain English and illustrations also make it a useful reference work for Deaf students, potential students and other readers.

## productionbase.co.uk

One of the barriers to the employment of disabled people in broadcasting is that producers and others who hire staff don't know how to find disabled people. Increasingly those looking for staff use a database called **productionbase.co.uk**. This is free to those employing staff, but those seeking work pay a subscription fee.

The Broadcasters' Disability Network (BDN) is now able to sponsor 100 disabled people (with funding from the Disability Rights

# ROUND AND ABOUT

## www.dllp.org.uk

The Deaf Lifelong Learning Project has launched its new website funded by the Tyne and Wear Learning & Skills Council and developed and hosted for the DLLP by SignPost, Tyne Tees Television's BSL translation and Interpretation Unit, along with Granada Learning.

The website aims to be a basic but comprehensive reference/electronic Deaf Equality and Awareness pack for learning providers wishing to attract and provide appropriate access for Deaf students. This is thought to be the first of its kind in the UK.

The site boasts easy navigation and is written in plain English. The DLLP Report is also available online, plus Links to many other useful Deaf-related sites. While

Commission, BSkyB and Carlton Television) on **productionbase.co.uk** so that employers will be able to search this online database specifically for disabled talent.

Send your cv together with a covering letter indicating the job category/ies for which you are applying (maximum of 4), the nature of your disability, what adjustments (if any) you require and your email address to;

BDN Database Sponsorship, Broadcasters' Disability Network, c/o Employers' Forum on Disability, Nutmeg House, 60 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2N or email it to [bdndatabase@employers-forum.co.uk](mailto:bdndatabase@employers-forum.co.uk)

More info from the EFD website:  
<http://www.employers-forum.co.uk>

*(reprinted from Ndaf's Etcetera)*

# Action: Disability A

## the ambassadors are in!

All four of Nordaf's ambassadors are currently on placement with their host organisations, attending meetings, arranging training and making recommendations to improve access for disabled people.

Starting with physical access and customer care issues, they are then moving through their hosts to look at marketing, education and outreach activities and then onto employment and programming issues. So we caught up with one of them to find out how the placement is going and what they've been up to.

**“You can't just impose access solutions on an organisation without understanding the processes.”**

**Irene Fisher** is on placement with Northern Print Studio based on North Shields Fish Quay. They have regular exhibitions, workshops and courses and masses of original prints for you to see and buy!

Irene was one of the first ambassadors to start her placement and so will be one of the first to finish. Being an experienced access auditor for Disability North, I asked her if she had anything that she had learned from this process.

“One thing that I have learnt is that you really do need to understand the processes used within the art forms themselves, you can't just impose access solutions on an organisation without understanding the processes.”

Irene has had to undertake printing sessions herself so that she can see exactly how the equipment is used and therefore understand the barriers that may be presented to disabled people coming along to sessions. She is particularly proud of her print of a prawn!

As well as getting involved in a hands-on fashion, Irene has also been involved in the selection process for architects at the Studio. (The studio doesn't currently offer great physical access - wheelchair access is only available to the print workshop on the ground floor - but this is due to change shortly).

“It's interesting looking at the language used by people designing services, it's very indicative of their attitude towards disabled people. We have also been looking to see at what stage they suggest consulting with disabled people directly.”

Northern Print Studio have regular exhibitions and workshops in etching, screen printing, drypoint, monoprinting, collagraphs and photoetching, and if you decide that printing is for you, you can become a member and use their equipment and expert

# y Arts



Gathering around the etching press at a recent Northern Print Studio open day.

tutelage to improve and perfect your skills. You never know, you may well bump into Irene there, as she now has a passion for print!

To find out more, check out their website [www.northernprint.org.uk](http://www.northernprint.org.uk). They welcome any disabled person visiting the studios to take part or simply look around, despite the current physical limitations of the building.

To arrange a visit you can phone 0191 259 1996, fax 0191 259 1699 or email [office@norprint.demon.co.uk](mailto:office@norprint.demon.co.uk).

Northern Print Studio  
42-47 Fish Quay  
North Shields  
Tyne & Wear  
NE30 1JA





## The Newcastle Society for Blind People with funding from NorDAF and the Royal Victoria Trust for the Blind

# TACTILE ART CLASSES AT THE

**D**uring the early part of the year, The Newcastle Society for Blind People received funding from NorDAF's Strategic Disability Fund and the Royal Victoria Trust for the Blind for an introductory course in Tactile Art for visually impaired people.

Organised by NSBP Director Heather Niven, the course proved extremely popular and, as places were limited, there were inevitably some disappointed people. The success of the course, though, means that they can take part in future classes.

Eight successful applicants gathered in the Laing Art Gallery's teaching room. Some were nervous about the challenge, others looking forward to extending their skills.

Tutor Jenny Speirs began with the construction of simple three-dimensional shapes using a range of manipulative materials, moving on to the tools available for use in tactile art. Most students were soon using rasps and chisels very confidently.

NSBP's Rehabilitation Officer attended the course to give her professional support and two volunteers worked with individual students with the tutor's direction and provided some guiding support around the building.

The group gelled well and all the students responded to the challenge, discovering hidden skills worthy of further development.

Creative discussions between students, volunteers, tutors, and the Education Officer at the Laing Art Gallery, Julie Watson, have resulted in students becoming a reference point for ensuring the inclusion of visually impaired people during the planning stage of future exhibitions.

Since then the students have attended meetings that Julie has arranged, giving their views and suggestions on aspects of current exhibitions and on future planning.

Consequently all the students who have been involved are now continuing and developing their new-found interest and skills, but with the added interest and recognition that they are being asked to contribute their personal knowledge and experience to the planning of future exhibitions from the view point of someone with a visual impairment.

All this has resulted in a very satisfactory outcome of the original funding made available through the Royal Victoria Trust for the Blind and the Northern Disability Arts Forum.

# T THE LAING

Julie has secured additional funding to continue the sessions once a week with the same tutor, giving the opportunity to develop the group's interests and skills further - and to offer places to those disappointed earlier.

The Laing Art Gallery is planning more exhibitions which will encourage participation. One of these, Art in the Urban Landscape, is due to start in October 2002.

It is hoped that this group will make a contribution to this project by developing tactile items for inclusion in NSBP's Community Sensory Garden, which is currently being constructed as part of the refurbishment of Exhibition Park.

Twenty-six of NSBP's service users have contributed their ideas into a design brief for the landscape architect. The garden should be open by the time you read this.

**The Newcastle Society for Blind People**  
**MEA House**  
**Ellison Place**  
**Newcastle upon Tyne**  
**NE1 8XS**  
**Phone 0191 232 7292**  
**Fax 0191 233 0419**



# FECKLESS Get Off Our Backs

Tyneside Disability Arts; Buddle Arts Centre, Wallsend; Friday 14th June 2002



## REVIEW

This is the first full length production devised and acted by Get Off Our Backs. The story is rooted in genetics, sexuality, reproduction and power.

Stella Martin is a disabled young woman at war with convention, family restrictions and societies limitations. She is played brilliantly by ex-Invisible Cabaret Lynn Paterson, who at short notice replaced Lisa Dennis (also ex-Invisible Cabaret) who was advised to take bed rest in the final months of her pregnancy. Ironic in the context of this play!

Lynn Paterson herself had spent many previous months banished to bed because of her own health but triumphed in this role.

Stella has to confront her mother Primrose (played by the inestimable Pauline Heath) who in between ironing and her vital trips to

the bingo ignores Stella's relationship with her boyfriend and her aspirations.

We are introduced to a geneticist who goes through the medical/psychological problems of the surrounding community with doom and warnings against sexual relationships between such partners or, heaven forbid, having children.

My initial response of hearing the geneticists listing the supposed genetic failings of the group worried me greatly and I felt a disabled character should have been holding up cards challenging his presumptions.

However I need not have worried, the exploration of the prejudices of family, neighbours and medical professionals merely showed their powerful ignorance.



## by Paula Greenwell

Bryn Davies, who plays Matty, Stella's boyfriend, also feels unable to confront psychologists' judgements and threats of enforced medication/hospitalisation.

Craig Barrass, the wonderfully sleazy amorous neighbour is just part of a wonderful cast. This play is interspersed with many insightful poems and hilarious songs beautifully sung. Stella eventually brings up a child whose future is glowing and proves everybody wrong.

**This is a production which deserves to be seen nationwide. I hope TDA can work out a budget to allow it to be toured widely. Well done Get Off Our Backs.**

Paula Greenwell  
Photographs by Andrew Kerr

**“Cos we're feckless  
They say we're  
completely reckless  
We want to live  
We want to love  
If only they would  
respect us”**

**Original music and songs from The  
Challengers**

**Directed by Martine d'Elland  
Devised and produced by Ron Moule**



# MY LIFE WITH THE JAM

Between encores at the Michael Sobel Centre

## Neill Tinning, aka Twink, returns to the limelight with rarely seen Jam photos

In his new online exhibition [www.thejamarchive.com](http://www.thejamarchive.com) Neill's photographs reveal much more of The Jam than has previously ever been seen. The 50 photographs show a Side of the band only insiders have witnessed.

As a survivor of clinical depression with suicidal tendencies - a condition which has incapacitated him for the last seven years - Neill, once official band photographer for The Jam, is experiencing a remarkable upturn in interest in his rare images of the band.

He is using this opportunity to highlight the fight for destigmatising mental health issues. "The whole area of breaking down barriers is something I feel very strongly about," he says.

In his recent 20 minute candid BBC Radio on air interview and two-page feature in The Chronical he has talked openly and honestly about his own manic depression. He gives

hope to those who survive this terrible disabling condition.

"I don't think I'm out of the woods as my mood swings are being monitored by my CPN," he says "but this year has been the most successful for publications - Classic Rock, Music Week, All Mod Icons, The Evening Chronicle as well as BBC Radio Newcastle. As we speak I'm waiting to be interviewed by Uncut magazine."

"I feel that the press I've achieved has lifted some of the demons that still trouble me."

Neill has been involved with NorDAF for many years. "Disability arts has given me some hope for the future. Mental illness seems to be the dunghill of disabling conditions but it grows beautiful roses!"

Neill was born in Newcastle in 1961 and the family moved to the Surrey/Hampshire border in 1971. He started taking photographs aged 15 and won a photographic competition judged by Sir David English.

# LIFE H JAM

He worked as a photographer and through a combination of circumstances “ended up as The Jam’s official photographer” - his words!

That was followed by 12 years working in direct sales, starting as a trainee and ending up as divisional sales manager.

Then in 1995 came burn out, and he hasn’t worked since, diagnosed as manic depressive and spending up to 20 hours a day in a darkened room.

Then came the call from Polydor to use his photographs for two new Jam albums. That got him out of bed, and inspired him to set up an on-line gallery of a selection of some of his 2000 images of the band.

“It shows a rock & roll band at the very pinnacle of their success; it doesn’t glamourise fame, it gives you an insight.”



Classic Weller action shot Birmingham, UK 1982

It seems to be working too; in his first day he had over 5000 hits

To see what the exhibition’s all about get online and point your browser to <http://www.thejamarchive.com>

Relive your youth seeing what its like to be famous “when you’re young”.

# in brief

## Independence Festival 2002

This year's Independence Festival will be in Newcastle and Gateshead with the main venue being the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

NorDAF is assuming the mantle of organisers after successful festivals in Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds.

Taking place over the weekend of Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September, the programme will include stalls, music, street theatre, workshops, music, discussion, film matinees in the Baltic Studio and trips to regional landmarks.

There will be a Disability Arts cabaret on the Saturday evening.

## Call for artists

The National Deaf Children's Society Scotland is calling for artists to work with Deaf children and their families.

NCDS Scotland is piloting a three-strand arts project focusing on drama, creative writing and visual arts. Over the next two years they will be developing work with deaf children and young people aged between 5 and 16 years in Glasgow, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirlingshire.

They are looking for artists with enthusiasm and drive to lead workshops. Experience of working with deaf children and a knowledge

of BSL would be helpful but not essential, as training will be available.

If you're interested send your CV with a covering letter to Janet Tucker, Arts Officer Scotland, National Deaf Children's Society, Suite 187-189, Central Chambers, 93, Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6LD.

Tel. 0141 248 2429 text 0141 248 4457  
Fax 0141 248 2597 or email them at  
jtucker@ncds.org.uk

Visit [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk) for more information about the society.

## Placements with BBC Extend

**E**xtend is a BBC wide work placement scheme offering appropriately qualified disabled people an opportunity to gain four months paid work placement within the BBC.

They are offering both programme-making and non-programme-making placements starting late October 2002 across the whole of the BBC throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, although, guess what, the bulk of the placements will be in London. If this interests you write to

### **BBC Diversity Centre (Extend)**

**Room 7020**

**BBC Television Centre**

**Wood Lane**

**London W12 7RJ**

Deadline 30th August 2002

### Disabled Artists Into Work

**N**orth West Disability Arts Forum is running a course for Deaf and Disabled artists in arts business skills training.

This is a specially designed course offering credits to NVQ level 3 and is specially suited to arts practitioners, workshop leaders and arts administrators who want business skills to augment their artform.

The course runs for fifteen sessions starting on the 2nd September in central Liverpool.

Training is free and NWDAF will pay for access needs such as personal assistance, software and interpreters.

Contact Mickey Fellowes  
North West Disability Arts Forum  
CADT Building  
2a, Franceys Street  
Liverpool L3 5YQ  
Phone 0151 707 1733 Fax 0151 708 9355  
Minicom 0151 706 0365 or email  
training@nwdaf.co.uk

### Disability Arts - connecting the region

**T**hursday 25th July at Northern Arts, Central Square, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Disabled people involved in the arts are invited to attend this seminar, organised by NorDAF in conjunction with Northern Arts.

Places are limited and must be booked in

### Disability Arts Northumberland

**D**o you live in Northumberland and do you have skills as an artist, management committee member or an interest in the arts?

NorDAF is looking for Disabled people interested in supporting the establishment of Disability Arts Northumberland

Disability Arts Northumberland is the latest and most northern Disability Arts Forum to be established as part of the 3-year Northumberland project.

Consisting of Disabled and Deaf people and artists from across Northumberland, future work includes developing a comprehensive 3-year Arts programme for Disabled and Deaf people in Northumberland, securing funding support and premises. This marks an exciting period and step forward for us and we look forward to your involvement, suggestions and support.

Disability Arts Northumberland is currently working on a constitution, business plan and funding proposals to be set up by January 2002.

Contact Alison Smith at Nordaf for more information:

Tel/minicom 0191 261 2238,  
fax 0191 222 0708  
or email [alison@nordaf.org](mailto:alison@nordaf.org)

# OPPORTUNITIES

## North Tyneside Disability Forum

### Development Worker to Community Arts Project Group

25 hours per week £19101 pro rata

To work with users and management of the Community Arts Project Group towards effective implementation of projects as defined by the constitution and in on-going consultation with members.

Duties of the post include

- Efficient day-to-day running of the Community Arts Project;
- Establishing and maintaining a data base;
- Liaison with all service providers;
- Promotion of the aims and objectives;
- Monitoring and reporting back on all aspects of the project;
- Constantly evaluating and assessing changing needs and directions.

The successful candidate must have experience of developing community initiatives and supporting groups towards ownership and direction. Also useful would be IT skills, a relevant qualification and a commitment to equal opportunities.

For more information or to discuss the post ring Sue Adams on 0191 200 6427.

## The Outlookers Theatre Drama Group

require a  
**Co-ordinator**

18.5 hours; £ 18,969 pro rata Scale 6

Due to a successful funding application to the Northern Rock Foundation we wish to recruit a co-ordinator on a two-year fixed-term contract. The successful candidate will have a relevant qualification and or considerable experience of working within the creative and performing arts sector, and also of working with people with a disability. The co-ordinator will be responsible for working with the group to develop our Puppet Theatre, our Drama Group, our Creative Writers project and a Woodwork, Scenery and Carpentry initiative.

For further details, or an application pack, please contact Dorothy Ballantyne or Tom Casling on Tel 0191 3882467

Minicom 0191 3882418 or write to The Outlookers. c/o Disability Outlook. Bullion Hall. South Approach, Chester le Street. County Durham. DH2 2DW

Information is also available in the following formats: tape, large print, and Braille.

**Closing date for applications is 5th July 2002**

Interviews on 12th JULY 2002.

# TIES

**Sounds of Progress** are looking for writers, actors, musicians and songwriters to participate in the creation of their new comedy radio show.

'The Glen Hoddle Show' is a co-production with BBC Scotland and will be a comedy sketch show which promises to challenge taboos and shatter preconceptions about disability using hard-edged humour - "doing for people with disabilities what Goodness Gracious Me did for ethnic minorities". Previous experience is not necessary.

Please contact Claire Cunningham at Sounds of Progress, 3rd floor, 18 Albion St Glasgow G1 1LH. Tel: 0141 552 3575

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### **Wanted: images that are 'disability cool'.**

The BBC invite you to send in photos that you have in your collection or to get out there and get snapping. When they were putting together their new website they found very few interesting and attractively shot images of disabled people.

They are now looking for some non-tragic images of disabled people. They have two whizzy new digital cameras to give away to their favourite two entries to be in by Monday 16 September, 2002.

Contact, Ouch! Room 2525, BBC White City, 201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS, <ouch@bbc.co.uk>, or visit the great new website at [www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/yourspace/competition.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/yourspace/competition.shtml)

# DEAF FILM & TV FESTIVAL 2002

This year's Deaf Film & TV Festival marks the seventh festival held in the UK which last year attracted over 2000 visitors.

The festival, organised by the British Deaf Association, is free of charge and takes place from the 15th - 17th November 2002.

The venue is the Light House in Wolverhampton and they are currently seeking film and video entries from deaf filmmakers.

Last year's festival highlighted the works of those from the UK, Poland, Norway, North America, Canada and South Africa. Many filmmakers went on to have their work screened at other film festivals.

If you have made a film you would like to submit, please contact the BDA for an entry form. All accepted entries will be mentioned in the festival programme and screened in the 250 seater cinema.

Contact: Lucy Franklin  
Production Coordinator  
British Deaf Association  
1 Worship Street  
London  
EC2A 2AB

Tel text: 0207 588 3528  
Tel voice: 0207 614 3142  
Fax: 0207 588 3526

**Deadline for submissions 30th August**

**MIDDLESBROUGH** 16th and 17th July: 7pm

Earthbeat Theatre Company presents **West Side Story** at the Middlesbrough Theatre

For more details contact Tony Galuidi at the Skelton Social Skills Centre, Skelton, Saltburn, Cleveland, TS12 3LE. Telephone 01287 652333 or 01287 654728

**ASHINGTON** 22nd July - 2nd August; **HEXHAM** 22nd July - 2nd August

**Let Loose** - a 10-day film production training courses for up to 15 young Deaf people aged 16-18. Participants will gain the NCFE qualification "Using Video: A certificate in Basic Competence".

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.

If you're interested or have a school or group who would like to be involved, ring Alison Smith on 0191 261 2238 or fax 0191 222 0708 or email [alison@nordaf.org](mailto:alison@nordaf.org)

**EDINBURGH** 24th-31st August

**Share Music** residential course at the Trefoil Centre, Edinburgh

Share Music provides opportunities for young Disabled people to take an active part in music and performing arts. They are looking for Disabled students who might be interested, and for non-disabled volunteers to share their musical skills and provide help where needed. The fee is £400, some bursaries are available. For further details visit the web site [www.sharemusic.org.uk](http://www.sharemusic.org.uk)

**DARLINGTON** 6th September: 7.30pm

Earthbeat Theatre Company presents **West Side Story** at the Darlington Civic Theatre

For more details contact Tony Galuidi at the Skelton Social Skills Centre, Skelton, Saltburn, Cleveland, TS12 3LE. Telephone 01287 652333 or 01287 654728