

BLUECOAT

LIVERPOOL'S CENTRE FOR THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS

SPRING 2006

**OUT
OF
THE
BLUE
COAT**



1 New Bluecoat CEO, Alastair Upton
2 Excavations in the gallery
3 The Concert Hall
Photos 2&3 by Brian Harvey



NEW FACES...

Bluecoat took another step towards realising its vision for the building and the organisation when it recently announced a key appointment to its staff, Alastair Upton, who joins us as Chief Executive.

Bluecoat Chairman **Simon Ryder** said, "I am delighted that Alastair is joining us. The Board is tremendously excited about the prospects for Bluecoat over the next few years, not least with Liverpool's position as European Capital of Culture in 2008. We are confident his appointment will secure and expand Bluecoat's position within the local and regional cultural infrastructure."

Alastair, who takes up his post in March, said, "I'm delighted to be moving to Bluecoat, an arts centre with almost a hundred years of history that is cherished by both the people of Liverpool and those who visit the city. The current transformation, the largest development since Bluecoat opened, will prepare it for 2008 and beyond".

The appointment will enable existing Bluecoat Director **Bryan Biggs** to focus on the creative programmes in his new role as Artistic Director. He says, "I look forward to being able to concentrate fully on the important job of developing Bluecoat's gallery, performance and arts participation activities, as well as strengthening our staff teams to deliver them."

Martha Hawkins has also recently joined Bluecoat as Head of Marketing. Of her new role she says, "I am extremely pleased to be part of the Bluecoat team re-launching the arts centre during this exciting time for the city of Liverpool. I look forward to building on Bluecoat's fine tradition and helping to shape its future."

Whilst the arts centre is closed for a £10 million development, Bluecoat is continuing with off site activities, outlined in this brochure. The development will expand and improve existing facilities, create a new arts wing and restore the historic fabric of the building, which will re-open in 2007.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Bluecoat's exciting revitalisation continued with completion of the enabling works by Chester Masonry under the direction of Donald Insall Associates, Chester, and temporary relocation of the Bluecoat offices. Further investigative works and surveys are being carried out in preparation for the main contract starting on site in early Spring. Chris Wilson from Donald Insall reports on progress:

Demolition of the 1950s South West brick wing revealed the grand scale of the site, in which the new performance wing will be sited. Over 10,000 bricks were salvaged, these to be used in repairs to the existing building and works to the rear courtyard.

Internal excavations and investigations offered up historical evidence of the development of the curved wall to the rear of the central hub, as well as clearly showing the chronological order of the construction of the floors, dating from the building's earliest history.

Historic lime plasters were exposed, complete with original animal hair, to both the North West wing and throughout the central hub. Only partial fragments of the likely original oak flooring were found, with most areas replaced by the more locally prevalent Baltic pine. Despite this, the floorboards remain in good condition and will form a major part of the historic repairs to the building as a whole.

This brochure is available in alternative formats on request. Contact **Bec Jones** with your requirements and we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.
Email: beccy@bluecoatartscentre.com
Fax: 0151 707 0048
Phone: 0151 703 9248

OUT OF THE BLUE COAT

NEW SPACE

We are pleased to announce Bluecoat's temporary space, Out of the Bluecoat, at 51-53 Paradise Street, next door to BBC Radio Merseyside. Till the Summer our Connect team will be based here. The space will be used for occasional Connect exhibitions and other events, starting with the following:

LIVERPOOL READS... MILLIONS WORLD BOOK DAY EVENT THURSDAY 2 MARCH

Liverpool Reads... celebrates World Book Day with a marathon read of Frank Cottrell Boyce's award winning Millions involving local readers. Contact Bea Colley at Liverpool Reads... on 0151 794 2291 or email b.colley@liverpool.ac.uk.

MANDY ROMERO THE MAKE-OVER QUEEN ON THE GREAT MAKE-OVER:

THE TUESDAY ACTION DAYTIMES IN MARCH AND APRIL

Located at the epicentre of Liverpool's regeneration, Out Of The Bluecoat is

perfectly placed for commentary on the changing city. Former Bluecoat Associate Artist Mandy Romero takes over the shop window for a series of live art actions, commenting on these changes. Details from the venue.

THE FRIDAY AUDIENCE LUNCHTIMES IN APRIL

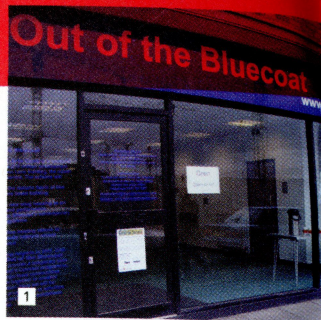
Join Mandy, self-appointed Liverpool Queen Of Culture, in this series of lunchtime breaks conversing with some of the people active in changing the city. Details from the venue.

ROGER HILL IMPROVISATION WORKSHOPS DAYTIME TUESDAYS IN MARCH

Roger Hill recently worked with celebrated improvisation artists Andrew Morrish and Al Wunder and is offering workshops in improvisation techniques - in this case the art of walking out on stage not knowing what you're going to do and then doing it - suitable for aspirant performers. Call for information.

TIDAL DREAMS IN PARADISE 13-27 MAY

See page 10, The Pool Project.



1 Bluecoat's temporary space on Paradise St
2 Mandy Romero
3 Pool of Sound exhibition at Out of the Bluecoat

CONNECT

Connect, Bluecoat's participation programme that brings together artists and communities in creative collaboration, continues while the building is closed for development, operating from our temporary Out of the Bluecoat space on Paradise Street. Participation Manager Bec Jones outlines latest developments:

POOL OF SOUND

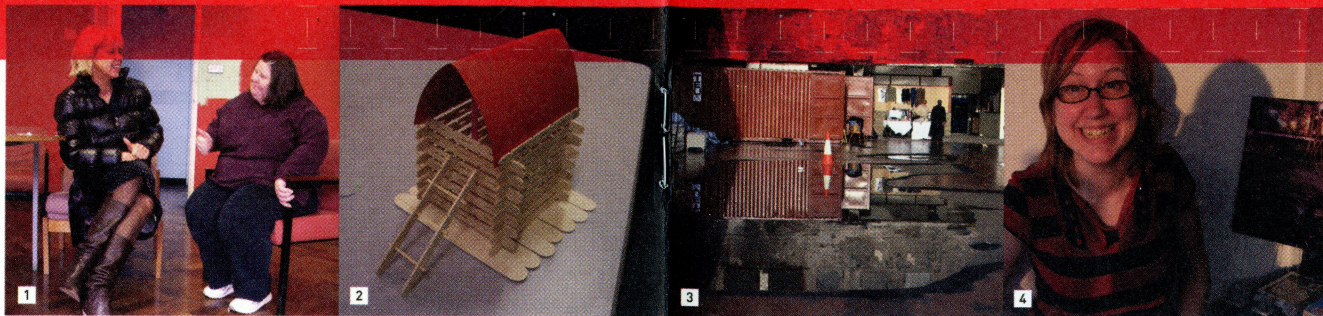
Pool of Sound raised awareness of the everyday sounds we hear during this period of intense change in Liverpool city centre. Thirteen young people aged 11-22 went on an adventure in sound around the city with acoustic ecologist Phil Morton, performance poet Trevor Gerard and sonic artist Alex Decoupigny. They created a surround-sound collage of city sounds, which was presented in January with artwork and poetry, inspired by what they had heard, in the first exhibition in our Out of the Bluecoat space, having been presented earlier in Liverpool Culture Company's 08 Place.

For the project's second phase Alex and Phil will work with the group and local musicians to compose a piece of music inspired by the sounds of the city. The week-long project will culminate in a performance on the evening of 2 June (details in next brochure).

Pool of Sound is organised by Bluecoat with Merseyside Youth Association, Fraktur, The Windows Project, with support from University of Liverpool Acoustic Research Unit. Participants were: Graeme Boardman, Jemma Rockliffe, Naomi Scott, Rebecca Duggan, Michael Quinn, Stacey McKeivitt, Samantha Allen, Erin Kearns, Sophie Brew, Aaron Scott, Lucinda Ross, Emma Wilcox and Abigail Wilcox. Project funded by Arts Council England and the Liverpool Culture Company and Urban Cultural Programme working together for European Capital of Culture 2008.



1 Jeanette Turpin with Biennial artist Sisset Tolaas
 2 Hermitage
 3 An image from DRIFT by Andrew Small
 4 Participation
 Coordinator Annie MacLean



BIENNIAL BURST EXHIBITION featuring work from Seen.2

Two Connect groups from resource centres in **Liverpool 8, Fazakerley and Halewood** are working with visual artist **Andy Weston** on Seen.2, which explores and responds to the work of one of the artists selected for the International 06 exhibition of the next Liverpool Biennial. The latest stage of our project is included in the second Biennial Burst exhibition, featuring other participatory work, at which the second edition of the Burst publication will be launched.

Exhibition 3 - 12 March, 10am - 4pm daily at Polished T, 85-89 Duke Street, Liverpool L1 5AP. Information www.polishedt.com.


Entry free, from the rear of the building on Parr St.



HERMITAGE

The Hermitage project is Connect's response to this year's Liverpool Reads book, Millions by Frank Cottrell Boyce. Pupils from **Lower Lee School** and service users from **Crown Street Mental Health Resource Centre** have worked with visual artist **Simon McKeown** to explore ideas from the book, including

the value of money, saintliness and hermitage. They aim to create a hermitage in their grounds during April. An exhibition of objects and photographs of the hermitages is displayed in The Pictor Room, Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street in May, open Mon to Fri 9am - 6pm, Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 12pm - 4pm.

Liverpool reads ... 

ROUTES AND ROOTS

Kensington residents have been working with visual artist **Andy Small** and photographer **John McDonald** to capture images and stories about their area. The project, undertaken in partnership with Metal, will result in a film and poster trail around the area with accompanying postcards. A city centre exhibition will follow, organised by Liverpool Culture Company, featuring work from six other projects taking place around Liverpool. Information: 0151 233 5604.

Routes and Roots is part of Four Corners of the City, an initiative run by Liverpool Culture Company working with the Neighbourhood Management Teams.



Metal Liverpool 
 EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

WAYFINDING

We are delighted that the Baring Foundation has awarded Bluecoat a grant of over £10,000 towards our Wayfinding project. Artists are now being recruited to work collaboratively with disabled people to suggest how Bluecoat can become more accessible in terms of its programming, marketing, signage and customer service. To get involved contact Bec or Annie, details below.

We are also keen to hear from disabled people interested in making a short film turning their dreams into reality, working with disabled filmmakers and other artists. Wayfinding artists **Max Zadow** and **Ross Clarke** are developing GHOSTS OF THE FUTURE, a programme of films to be projected onto buildings, including Bluecoat, and hoardings in the city. For information email work@rossclarkartist.co.uk, telephone 0151 709 0028 or fax 0870 132 3500.

NEW FACE...

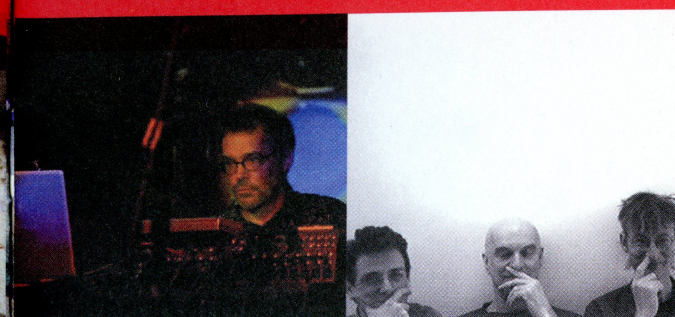
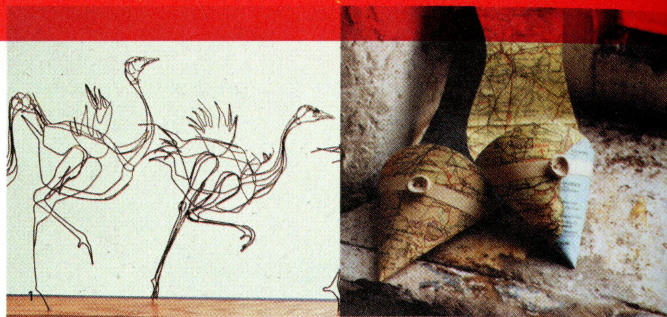
The Connect team has been strengthened by new Participation Coordinator **Annie MacLean**, who talks about joining Bluecoat:

Arriving last October, I brought with me experience of working and traveling abroad, being a student in the city and taking advantage of local arts development schemes. My first encounter with Bluecoat was as a volunteer, invigilating in the gallery and helping on a Connect project. Part of my new role is to develop participation, so when Bluecoat reopens we will offer a unique programme that encourages people to take part in, understand and enjoy different aspects of contemporary art. This will include some new classes, especially in the field of drawing, so I am interested in hearing from you if you would like to find out more about this.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Annie would like to hear from anyone interested in volunteering for Bluecoat, especially now our temporary space is open for workshops and exhibitions.

Connect contact: 0151 703 9248 or email: annie@bluecoatartscentre.com



COMING NEXT

During **Architecture Week** (16-25 June) there will be an exhibition of work from the Hermitage project plus a chance for the public to take part in the creation of a hermitage. Talks and other events about the built environment and the Bluecoat development are also planned.

For the Capital of Culture's Liverpool Performs theme this year, Bluecoat is commissioning artists to create works in the city centre as part of the **City in Transition** programme. Curated by artist **Alan Dunn**, the events will take place this Summer, details in the next brochure or from the Bluecoat website.

Liverpool Arabic Arts Festival takes place across the city between 2-16 July. Based at Bluecoat, festival manager **Ngozi Ikoku** is coordinating the programme. Email her for information: arabicarts@bluecoatartscentre.com

1 Thomas Hill, Ostrich
2 Jennifer Collier, Map Shoes
3 RPM
4 Konk Pack

While we are closed, some of our partners and tenants are continuing to promote their work. Here are some events we hope you will be interested in:

BLUECOAT DISPLAY CENTRE
is open with access from College Lane at the rear of Bluecoat.
Phone 0151 709 4014

www.bluecoatdisplaycentre.com
Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 5.30pm
Closed Public Holidays. Admission Free

BLUECOAT DISPLAY CENTRE @ COLLECT
V & A MUSEUM, LONDON

For the third year, the Display Centre represented artists from the North West region at this prestigious international art fair in February, alongside 41 of the world's leading galleries showcasing work by over 350 artists.

WHERE THE HEART IS
Till 25 February

Exhibition for Valentines Day featuring textiles by **Jennifer Collier** and **Suzanne McCulloch** and jewelry by **Emma Jay**.

NORTHERN SOUL

25 March – 22 April
Exhibition of leading North West contemporary ceramic artists: **Kirsti Hanah Brown, Christine Cummings, John Kershaw, Julie Miles, Catrin Mostyn Jones, Anne & Philip Plant, Rosalind Rosenblatt** and **Simon Shaw**.

IN THE WINDOW SERIES

February **Betty Pepper**, embroidered jewelry. April **Poppy Treffry**, textiles.

FRAKTURE

Takes you to undiscovered sonic places. Their Spring programme features:

KONK PACK

TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 8.00PM £3
VIEW TWO GALLERY, 23 MATHEW ST
'One of the most exciting improv groups in the world' (the Wire).

EMILY HAY (L.A.) & CHAO-MING TUNG (Cologne)

FRIDAY 24 MARCH 8.00 PM £3
ST BRIDES CHURCH, CATHERINE ST
Traditional flute, vocal and Chinese zither meet electronics.

RPM & LOREN CHASSE

FRIDAY 14 APRIL 8.00PM £3
ST BRIDES CHURCH, CATHARINE ST
'Dark, twisting electronic sounds brooding with intensity'.

SPLASH

Local improvisation showcases:

SPLASH 6

MONDAY 13 MARCH 8.00PM £2
ALEXANDER'S, CHESTER

SPLASH 7

FRIDAY 31 MARCH 2.00PM £2
ST BRIDES CHURCH, CATHARINE ST

SPLASH 8

SATURDAY 1 APRIL 2.00PM £2
52A ROSCOE STREET

SPLASH 9

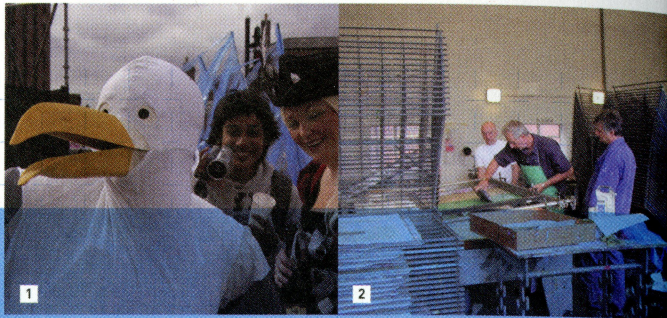
SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2.00PM £2
52A ROSCOE STREET

SOUNDWALKS Free

THURSDAY 30 MARCH 6.07PM
SATURDAY 29 APRIL 11.06AM
MEET OTTERSPOOL PARK GATES,
AIGBURTH ROAD/JERICO LANE

Full programme details visit
www.frakture.org

Frakture hold monthly free improvised music workshops at Hope University at Everton for anyone interested in taking risks, developing their musical language and networking. Sessions usually 7.30pm first Monday of month. 0151 280 9628 for information.



EIGHT DAYS A WEEK NEWS

Bluecoat is a partner in Eight Day A Week, the ongoing cultural exchange programme between Liverpool and its German twin city of Cologne. Dave Bixter, artist and organiser of Liverpool artists project Dying Frog, has recently been appointed facilitator. He will coordinate existing projects and develop new ones, liaising with artists, venues and other interested groups, and lead on the development of a major Cologne/Liverpool event in 2008. This post is funded by Arts Council, England and the Liverpool Culture Company Creative Communities Project. Dave can be contacted at dave@dyingfrog.co.uk, or visit his website, www.dyingfrog.co.uk.

Current Eight Days A Week programme:

INJURED TEXT

PR1 Gallery, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, 1 - 31 March. The results of printmaking residencies by Cologne and Liverpool artists at Liverpool Art School, John Moores University, curated by Neil Morris, Head of Printmaking there, and artists from Cologne's Graphikwerkstatt.

IN EXPOSED AREAS

Kulturbunker, Cologne, from 11 March. Paintings, printmaking and video by Pete Clarke, Neil Morris, Margit Schoening (Liverpool), Georg Gartz, Tine Wille (Cologne). Reciprocal exhibition at Atkinson Art Gallery / Netherton Arts Centre 12 May - July 1.

COLLABORATIVE PAINTINGS

by Pete Clarke and Georg Gartz, Art Genossen Gallery, Cologne from 31 March.

THE POOL PROJECT

The Pool Project is an ongoing artist-led initiative celebrating the tidal inlet that used to run along Paradise Street and Whitechapel. Tidal Dreams In Paradise, an exhibition at Out of the Bluecoat (13-27 May) provides an opportunity to discover more about the hidden depths of our city.

Accompanying workshops will debate how the city was formed and what its future is. For details of these and a diary of other Pool events, including monthly walks on the wild side, urban picnics and the fifth annual Sea Cycles event on 17 September, visit www.poolproject.co.uk

- 1 The Pool Project, Sea Cycles event 2005
- 2 Eight Days A Week printmaking project, Injured Text

BLUECOAT

INFORMATION

Bluecoat Arts Centre, School Lane
Liverpool L1 3BX

The building is closed to the public whilst building work takes place, however you can contact us as follows:

Telephone: 0151 709 5297

Fax: 0151 707 0048

Email: admin@bluecoatartscentre.com

Website: www.bluecoatartscentre.com

Connect information:

Out of the Bluecoat

51-53 Paradise Street

Telephone: 0151 703 9248

Email: annie@bluecoatartscentre.com

BLUECOAT TENANTS

All our tenants except Bluecoat Display Centre have moved out of the building. Contact us if you require details of how to contact any of them.

PRINTMAKING CLASSES

Our printmaking classes continue at Liverpool School of Art. Contact Annie MacLean for details of the current term: Tues (10.30am-1.30pm) till 4 April, Thurs (5.30-8.30 pm) till 6 April, and the next ten-week term starting week beginning 24 April.

Bluecoat is supported by:



The Bluecoat Development is supported by:

The National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund
European Regional Development Fund
Northwest Development Agency

The Granada Foundation
PH Holt Charitable Trust
And donors who wish to remain anonymous



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

the objective one programme
eu&merseyside
European Funding is Creating New Opportunities



We are grateful to Bruntwood for their help during closure



To find out more about how you can help support the development, contact Charlotte Myhrum on 0151 709 5297 ext 16.



BLUECOAT

www.bluecoatartscentre.com 0151 709 5297

Cover image: Empty Bluecoat. Photo by Brian Harvey