



From Saturday 19th January Collage Voices will start to introduce weekend sessions in drama and movement, film and music production and writing and production skills to young people aged 8-18 years old. The aim is to create a range of pathways that will help each young person to explore their skills and interests through the arts.

## **Everybody has a story to tell. Collage Voices aims to create multiple platforms in which young people can tell theirs...**

Steve Medlin, the artistic director of the Collage Voices programme has over 25 years of experience running community and youth activity as well as being an experienced performer and movement director.

Collage Voices gives children and young people the opportunity to take part in fun, informative, learning experiences. The participants will be a combination of young people wanting to experience the opportunity to work alongside industry professionals, and young people who need some additional structured activities in their lives to keep them engaged socially and educationally. Voices has started to explore how it can play a role in supporting attainment with pupils currently under-performing, helping to relieve social housing challenges and addressing the youth crime crisis in the borough.

Collage Voices is different from your usual stage school:

- It offers full and part bursaries to ensure ability to pay is not a barrier to participation (sessions are £10 a week before sibling discounts and bursaries)
- Collage Voices is run by a not for profit organization, so its income is re-invested in creative programmes in the borough
- It celebrates diversity in the text, genres and tutors that make up the programme
- It has around 200 guest artists who will work alongside the regular tutors to share their experiences of stage, screen and broadcast media
- It is driven by ideas emerging from the young people themselves and areas they want to explore and stories they want to tell
- It offers a wide range of genres including drama, directing, vocals/songwriting, dance, script writing and music technology
- Has clear performance contracts with the young people, designed to create a safe and inclusive space based on mutual respect and support

Sharing of work will emerge from the programme, as and when young people are ready, with young people deciding what is shared and when.

Collage Voices is based at the McQueens Theatre in Collage Artspace 1, Coburg Road, N22 6UJ. It will run for 3 terms of 11 weeks from January 19<sup>th</sup>. Sessions are 1 hour 30 minutes and cost £10.

We believe:

- There is a need for more artistic and affordable opportunities for young people in the borough, particularly in light of Mountview Academy leaving
- That developing provision within the thriving Wood Green Cultural Quarter makes it possible for young people can co-create new work with local resident companies and professional
- That Collage Voices will find a place for every young person to be involved from performers to music technicians, to writers, to choreographers
- That we can build young people's contacts and expand their networks so that in the years to come they can enter the creative industries with the best start to advance their careers, or that the confidence that these interactions will give people will help them with whatever career path they choose.

Collage Arts want to ensure that young people are able to access to a wide range of creative opportunities that can give them a voice.

Collage Arts has been supporting creativity in Wood Green for over 30 years. Through its skills programme it has helped thousands of young people to find employment utilizing their creativity. Collage Voices is a different programme. We will work with industry professionals from a range of artforms, but this is an inclusive programme. For some this may be a chance to gain the skills to set them on a path to a profession in the creative sector, others may want to explore creative ideas, make friends and gain transferable skills in a fun and accepting environment.

Central to our vision is ensuring that ability to pay is not a barrier and we will be exploring a bursary scheme designed to help young people from the London Borough of Haringey and beyond.

Currently if you reside or study in Haringey you can access a full or part bursary.

Collage Voices programme will support our vision that every young person should have access to a safe, inclusive space where they are free to find their own voice.

**We are very excited for Collage Voices to begin and we hope you can join us on its journey.**