

'Making the Links' is a unique series of presentations for anyone interested in both the arts and their relevance to society. It is jointly promoted by the Community Arts Support Agency (CASA) and the School of Creative & Performing Arts at Newcastle Polytechnic.

The series is about making the links between community activity, the arts and the world of education.

Both practical arts approaches and the broader social issues will be a feature of the series.

The presentations will be of interest to a wide cross section of people from community and voluntary organisations, County and District councils, and in fact anyone interested in and involved in the arts.

The presentations will be much more than just 'talking heads'; each will involve the use of a variety of audio-visual aids and a range of back-up material will be available, including books, magazines and periodicals. There will be opportunities for questions at all four presentations and in some cases small group discussion will be an option.

MAKING THE LINKS : THE PRESENTATIONS

No. 1 TUESDAY OCTOBER 23rd 1984

COMMUNITY VIDEO: WHAT COMMUNITY?

TONY DOWMUNT of Albany Video

Using the case studies and screenings, the presentation will look at problems of working with video, from both the video worker's and the group's point of view. Excerpts from 3 videos: a teenagers' 'movie', a 'promo video' made with a self-help group of deaf young people, and a tape of a multi-ethnic carnival will be shown.

Some of the questions raised for debate will be: Who is the audience? Who makes the video and why? How can video be used in the community? What is the role of the video workers?

It will include screenings on the topics mentioned above. It will be of particular interest to: Youth Workers; I.T. Workers;



Social Workers; Film, Communication and Media Students; Community Workers and any voluntary or community organisation interested in either promoting their concerns or using video as a communication aid within their groups.

TONY DOWMUNT was a founder member of Walworth and Aylesbury Community Arts Trust in 1975. He is a regular contributor to many periodicals and is author of Video with Young People (1980) in the Interaction Inprint Series. He has been a video worker at Albany Video in Deptford since 1979. The Albany is one of several Channel 4 supported workshops.

No.2 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1984

BANNERS AND BROADSIDES

GRAHAM MARSDEN of Bannerworks

Making public statements, campaigning and protesting are part of the lives of many people: parents wanting somewhere for children to play; unemployed youths; a local carnival committee or a Trade Union. Banners are part of the Northern Trade Union tradition; they are also a creative way of making community statements.

Self help groups, campaigners, social historians, trade unionists, rights workers - anyone keen to make a colourful statement - will pick up practical advice and ideas. Anyone using silkscreen, appliqué or textiles will gain useful insights into their application.

This presentation is a joint production with the Newcastle Centre Against Unemployment and the Tyneside Unemployed Workers Movement Banner project. There will also be a display of banners at the presentation.

GRAHAM MARSDEN founded Bannerworks in 1982 with Jean Compton. He joined Telford Community Arts in 1976, where he worked on banners, community celebration, theatre projects, puppets and murals. Bannerworks works on commissions for groups as well as working alongside them as co-authors. They have produced several trade union banners for NUPE, NALGO and TGWU.

No.3 TUESDAY JANUARY 22 1985

MURALS AND PEOPLE

KAREN MERKEL of Cultural Partnerships Limited

"Muralists... tend to be a self righteous lot and whilst they are adept in inventing quasi-democratic plays, such as getting the 'local kids' to paint in the easy bits, the fact is murals reek of condescension".

NEW STATESMAN 1984

Some community arts projects have recognised this and have moved out from just 'paint on walls' to what could now be described as 'creative environmental improvements' designed and directed in partnership with local people.

This presentation will use slides, exercises and case studies to explore some of the problems of community involvement and participation in planning. The issues of

authorship and ownership will be highlighted.

This presentation will be of particular interest to: Town Planners; Architects; Residents' Associations; Tenants' Groups; Community Workers; Visual Artists; Students/Lecturers in Art and Design/ Creative Arts; Teachers and Students of Environmental Studies.

KAREN MERKEL is one of the members of Cultural Partnership Limited, a members of Cultural Partnership Limited, a Community Arts Project based in Hackney. Before C.P.L., she was a worker at Free Form Arts Trust for seven years. She is also a director of the Shelton Trust, the National Community Arts charity. In 1981 she became a member of the Greater London Arts Association Community Arts Panel.

No.4 TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26 1985

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

JOHN FOX of Welfare State International

"In our existing cultural pattern, there is a King and a Jester, and the King is no fool. His sharp knives will readily sever the Jester's tongue should the latter become too outspoken. One of our Western diseases is that too many decisions are made by people who can't think with their hands. We've handed over our heritage to professional thinkers and entertainment stars."

Community celebration can take place anywhere at any time. It could be a theatre show, a carnival, or a playscheme concert. It could be presented by amateurs or professionals, or both. The presentation will also be of interest to:

Community Groups, Community Workers, Theatre Workers, Actors, Teachers and Students of English and Drama, Poets and Writers and any voluntary organisation that organises public events.

JOHN FOX founded Welfare State International in 1968. Welfare State uses a unique form of celebratory theatre that reaches popular audiences and local communities. Their strange blend of music, spectacle, sculpture and performance has taken place in streets and parks, on hills and beaches.

W.S.I. has worked in Poland and Japan as well as touring Britain, Europe and North America.