

PR 8959

Draft

09 November 2009

Hip Hop Hooray for Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire's 13-19 year olds are getting the chance to learn to perform and run their own talent showcases with leading Hip Hop experts.

A series of workshops will be starting across the county in January, thanks to a £42,000 grant to Hertfordshire County Council from Arts Council England.

The County Council's Music Service has joined forces with Hertfordshire based theatre company THEATRE IS... to run a programme of training in performance for young people and encourage them to be creative entrepreneurs.

The free workshops will be run by some of the UK's leading young professional Hip Hop artists and offer young people the chance to learn skills from all the Hip Hop arts - from dance and beat boxing to song writing and MC-ing.

Richard Thake, Executive Member for Education and Skills, said: "Hertfordshire Music Service is the largest music service in the country, and it's also one of the best, constantly striving to broaden young people's expertise.

This is a wonderful opportunity to develop young people's performance skills and is also designed to empower young performers, technicians and event organisers to go on to create and run their own events in the future. I urge any 13 to 19 year old to find out how they can get involved."

Stuart Mullins, Creative Director of THEATRE IS... said: "We know that Hertfordshire's young people have the talent and creative ambition, and we're here to help them realise it. By the time this project has finished, Hertfordshire will have its own emerging generation of young cultural entrepreneurs able to go ahead and run their own activities, so there'll be a real legacy."

The project is supported by Hertfordshire Music Service, East Herts District Council, St Albans District Council, Stevenage Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council.

It's Our Theatre: Hertfordshire will be led by young, professional Hip Hop artists from THROWDOWN UK, one of the leading Hip Hop outfits who provide inspirational role models.

ends..

Notes for editors

Hertfordshire Music Service, a team within Hertfordshire County Council's Children, School & Families Service is the largest music service in the country. It is also one of the best, having won awards from the National Music Council on five separate occasions. www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk

THEATRE IS... inspires and ignites the artistic leadership of the 21st century, developing young people's artistic talent and ideas. It is based at the University of Hertfordshire and is funded by Arts Council England. www.theatreis.org

THROWDOWN UK (sponsored by Eastpak) runs monthly dance battle events in London, hosts the National Breakdance Championships and regularly tours Europe with the EASTPAK THROWDOWN crew. www.throwdownuk.com

Issued by: Pam Dajda on 01992 555059 www.hertsdirect.org/news