

# **Disability Discrimination Act and Work Based Learning**



**Final report from: Mark Richardson**

**Name of project: Enabling learner participation in planning vocational activities**

**Organisation: Carousel**

**March 2006**

The main criterion for including projects on this website is that they are all developmental or case study research projects undertaken as part of DDA: improving work-based learning for people with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities. The overall aim of this project was to support work-based learning providers to respond to the DDA. Project reports do not necessarily reflect good or best practice.

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## About Carousel

Carousel is a Brighton based arts organisation, with projects of national significance. We inspire people with learning disabilities to achieve their artistic ambitions. We offer people with learning disabilities comprehensive training opportunities in the arts, both as artists and as participants and audiences. We offer artists with learning disabilities opportunities to develop and structure their careers, employing them to create, develop, perform and show their art. We encourage them to take risks. Additionally, we employ them to deliver participatory arts projects, providing positive role models of professional artists with learning disabilities.

## The Oska Bright Film Festival - background

The Film Festival is the first film festival anywhere in the world, to be managed by people with learning disabilities, for people with learning disabilities.

As such it embodies the ethos of Carousel – **artists with learning disabilities at the core of decision making processes about their arts lives**. All of Carousel's work – Dance Theatre, Rock Music, Club Showcases and Participatory Arts projects are led by committees of artists with learning disabilities.

Carousel is about ensuring that art produced reflects the artistic culture of the learning disabled community, ensuring that they are in control of the professional development of their own arts lives.

## The Steering Committee

This committee is made up of six artists and film makers with learning disabilities from across the South East region. They meet regularly to plan and deliver the festival. They have seven jobs that they work towards over the course of the 18 months that they meet to plan the festival. **The committee jobs, in an accessible format, are attached at the end of this report.**

- Each meeting agenda is planned by Carousel and Junk TV using the medium of media and film, ensuring that it is accessible to those people who do not read
- Each meeting was filmed and turned into a DVD with a menu, ensuring that the minutes were accessible to people who do not read
- The committee created a Fundraising DVD outlining who they were, the importance of the Film Festival, and its link into the Government White Paper, "Valuing People". This accompanied written proposals for funding, ensuring that people with learning disabilities were clearly heading up the fundraising process
- The committee worked with Carousel's Marketing Officer to ensure press and marketing coverage promoted the excellence of learning disabled film, from the artists' perspectives – talking to press, providing quotes, and managing their own press conference

- The committee attended meetings with potential funders to seek funding, successfully obtaining it from UK Film Council, Mencap, Brighton and Hove Council and Arts Council England, South East.

### **The Film Festival**

Oska Bright Film Festival 2005 took place at the Old Market on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2005. The committee selected 42 films from the 85 that were submitted. They came from across the UK and Ireland. They were screened in four separate screenings – each screening lasted for 35 minutes. Over 800 people attended the film festival.

### **The Award Ceremony**

The committee planned and delivered the Oska's Award Ceremony during an evening event (The Blue Camel Club). 350 people attended the Award Ceremony. They selected the winning films in five different categories. The winners are attached here.

The committee invited prominent people from the cultural industries to give out the awards, creating a ceremony that included a walk up to a red carpet. Professionals carrying out this role included the Chief Executive of Screen South, Jo Nolan, as well as Oska Bright patron Donal MacIntyre.

The awards were designed and made by learning disabled artist Andy Kee in collaboration with metalworker, Belinda Ferretter.

The committee awarded two bursaries to film makers who showed the most promise – each bursary included two training days from Junk TV to develop their film making skills.

### **Evaluation Report**

This has already been sent to LSDA, and is available on request from Carousel. An Evaluation Film has already been supplied – this features evaluative comments from the audiences that attended the film festival.

### **Interesting lessons learned**

- People with learning disabilities are more than capable of developing careers as artists, film makers and performers
- Learning disabled film is exciting, challenging and exploring new ground artistically
- Artists with learning disabilities can provide inspiration to one another to achieve and develop their art forms
- People with learning disabilities can plan, manage and deliver a film festival
- Artists with learning disabilities are trapped within the benefit system – if they earn money they lose their benefit (this includes independent living staff support, day centre places, a place in their residential home), and therefore can only be paid as volunteers. This negates their recognition by others as professional artists. However, this is not

dissimilar to many artists, who undertake other work to supplement their income as artists. But is it fair?

- The film festival enabled people to celebrate their achievements as an artistic cultural community, and offered chances for everyone to see the quality of art work produced by learning disabled film makers who have access to appropriate equipment and resources

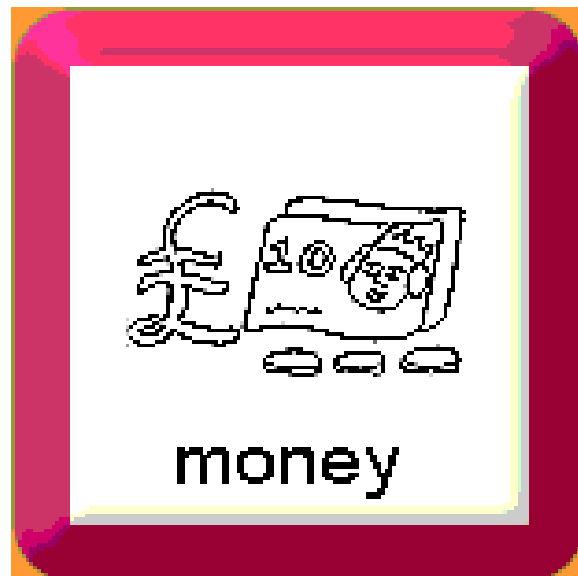
# Job 1

Choose a name  
for the festival



# Job 2

**Get money to  
make the festival  
happen**



# Job 3

## Choose the design of leaflets

Carousel & with MENCAP present

JUNK TELEVISION

OSKABRIGHT FILM FESTIVAL

**OSKABRIGHT FILM FESTIVAL**

The first film festival anywhere in the world run by, and for, people with a learning disability

**OSKABRIGHT IS BACK AGAIN**

The Old Market

Monday 28th November 2005

for information or to book tickets call 01273 234734

MENCAP  
enabling working families

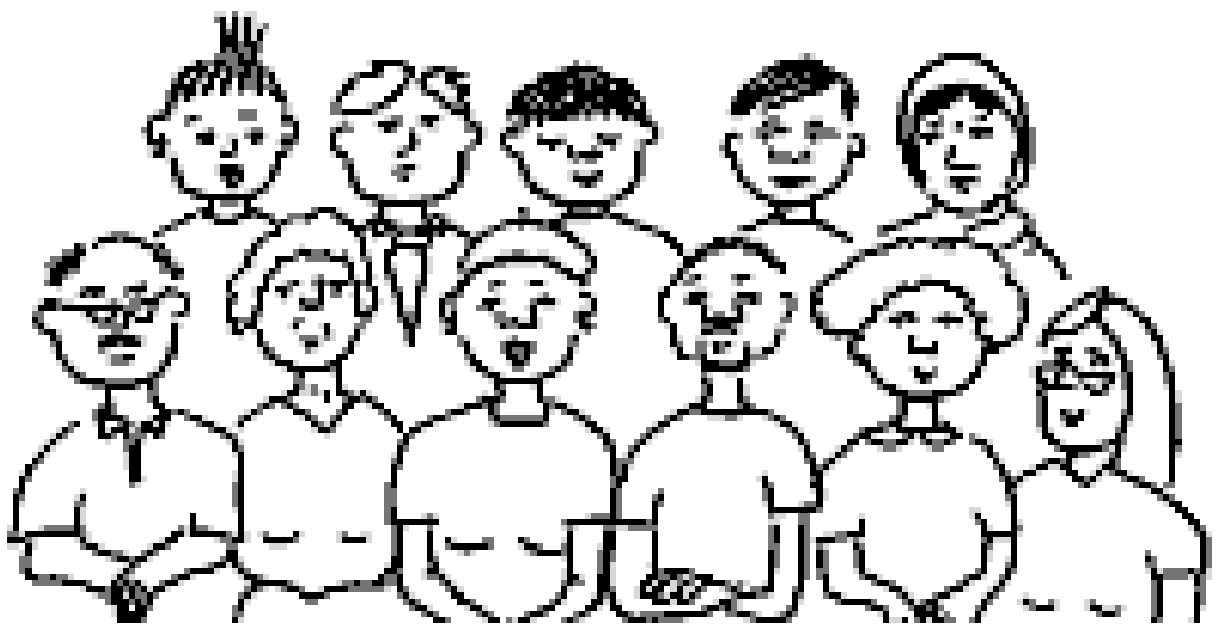
Brighton & Hove

UK FILM COUNCIL  
LOTTERY FUNDED

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

# Job 4

**Help to tell people  
about the Film  
Festival and get  
them to enter  
their films**



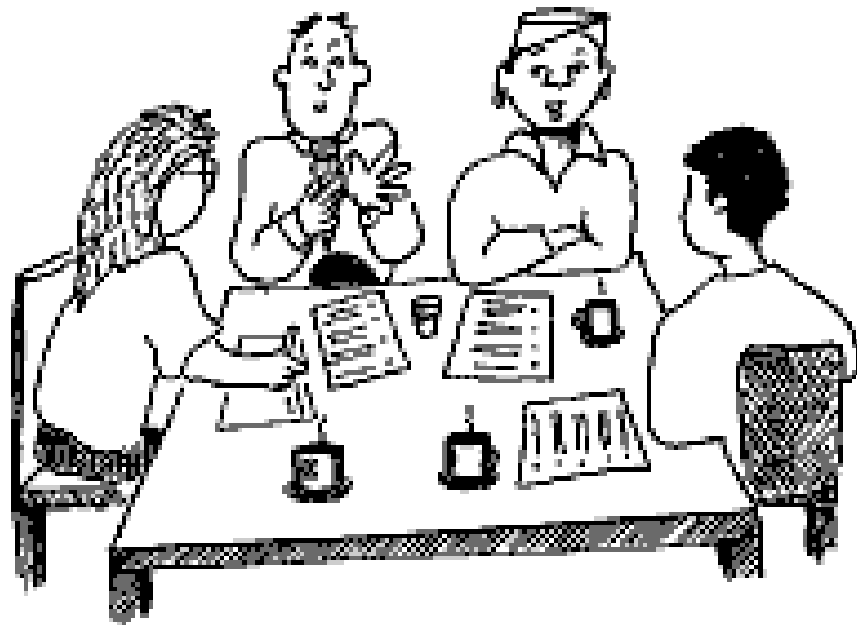
# Job 5

Help to choose  
which films we  
want to show in  
our Film Festival



# Job 6

**Choose which  
films win the  
competition**



# Job 7

## Help to plan the day of the Film Festival



## **Oska Bright 2005**

### **The Winning Films**

#### **Best Drama**

My Bloody Valentine by The Shyster Shadows (7 mins 58 seconds)  
Coventry

#### **Best Overall Film**

Cooking with Mathew by Mathew Hellet (5 mins)  
Brighton

#### **Best 1 minute Film**

By The Seaside by Mathew Eggert (50 seconds)  
Theydon Bois, Essex

#### **Best 5 minute film**

Better to be safe than sorry by Q Club (3 mins 40 secs), Derby

#### **Best 10 minute film**

Nuts for Pudding by Roaring Mouse Drama Group (9 mins), Hartlepool