

## Finalists in the Best Arts Project category of The National Lottery Awards 2010 revealed

Three art organisations have been named as finalists in their category in The National Lottery Awards 2010, the annual search to find the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects.

The three finalists in the Best Arts Project category are:

- **Beacon Hill Film Project** is a partnership between Beacon Hill Business and Enterprise College and Arpeggio Films. The project has made it possible for young people in North Tyneside with severe learning difficulties and autism to create and produce their own films – *The Middle of Nowhere* and *The Pirate and the Mermaid*. Thanks to Lottery funding, the group was able to use high-quality equipment and employ industry professionals to work with the young people, as well as securing locations for the films. The grant also allowed the Beacon Hill Film Project to have its own premiere so that everyone involved could feel a real sense of achievement.
- **Kidz R Us**, located in an old chapel in the centre of St. Ives, is a theatre and performing arts group for children in and around the local community. The group provides accessible, year-round entertainment in musical theatre and drama for local residents and visitors, encouraging children from all backgrounds to take part. A Lottery grant has allowed the group to develop its theatre facilities and take on a new member of staff.
- **Streetwise Opera's *My Secret Heart*** is the current production of an innovative organisation that uses music as a tool to help homeless people move forward in their lives. Streetwise Opera runs a music programme in 11 homeless centres across the UK and involves homeless participants in award-winning professional opera productions. One of its latest productions, *My Secret Heart*, has won four star reviews in the national press and toured the UK and internationally.

All the projects in the running have already received Lottery funding and the Awards celebrate how they have put that money to good use. The three finalists in the Best Arts Project category will now go head-to-head in a public vote.

This year's National Lottery Awards are supported by actress Fay Ripley, who attended last year's Awards ceremony, broadcast on BBC1. She says: "Lottery players raise £25 million every week to support a wide variety of projects and each year The National Lottery Awards recognise the incredible impact that Lottery-funded projects have on people and communities across the UK. All of the projects have done so well to reach the final of The National Lottery Awards, so please take the time to show your support – every vote really does make a difference!"

### About The National Lottery Awards

The National Lottery Awards recognise the difference that Lottery-funded projects – both big and small – make to local communities, and celebrate the achievements of the people behind them. The Awards have seven

categories – each reflecting an area of Lottery funding: sport; heritage; arts; environment; education; health (in association with *iVillage.co.uk*) and voluntary/charity (in association with *Woman* magazine).

The winners of each category will be announced during a star-studded Awards event, broadcast on BBC1 in September, and this year held at London's Roundhouse, which is Lottery-funded.

Public voting for the final starts at 9am on 26 July and ends at midday on 13 August. The public can vote for their favourite project by simply going online to [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards) or for the projects above on the following numbers:

- To register your vote for Beacon Hill Film Project call 0844 686 7774
- To register your vote for Kidz R Us call 0844 686 8074
- To register your vote for Streetwise Opera's *My Secret Heart* call 0844 686 0805

**- Ends -**

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**Notes to Editors**

- In addition to the Lottery funding that they have already received, the winning project in each of the seven categories will receive a £2,000 cash prize
- Beacon Hill Film Project received Lottery funding from UK Film Council
- Kidz R Us received Lottery funding from Big Lottery Fund and Arts Council England
- Streetwise Opera's *'My Secret Heart'* received Lottery funding from Arts Council England
- Calls cost 5p from a BT landline. Calls from other networks may vary, calls from mobiles could cost considerably more. Callers are advised to check with their telephone network provider to be certain of the cost. No profit will be made from the cost of the phone vote by the National Lottery Promotions Unit or The National Lottery
- All voting will be independently adjudicated and verified by Electoral Reform Services
- Since the Lottery began in 1994, over £24 billion has been raised for Good Causes by Lottery players and over 340,000 grants have been made across the UK
- For more information on the Awards or Lottery-funded projects log on to [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk)

**Semi- Finals**

- The semi-final stage ran from 1 – 18 June. There were a total of 70 projects in the semi-finals – 10 in each of the seven categories
- The three projects with the most votes in each category have gone through to the final round of public voting.

**Finals**

- There are 21 projects in the finals – three in each of the seven categories. The public can vote from 9am on 26 July and any vote cast before midday on 13 August will be counted
- There will be only one winner in each category. The seven winners will be announced at the Awards event, broadcast on BBC1 in September, and this year held at London's Roundhouse. The Roundhouse received Lottery funding from Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund