

# GRAFFITI

Art or VANDALISM?



# Graffiti – Art or Vandalism?

A programme of activities presented by Dublin City Public Libraries – aimed at educating children, whilst at the same time encouraging them to comment creatively on the social conditions in which they find themselves...

Seventeen libraries will participate in this ambitious public programme throughout the Autumn/Winter of 2011 and Spring 2012. Programmes include a specially commissioned play by Garbo Productions, two Visual Arts Programmes, a drama programme and a series of anti-graffiti workshops using a broad range of learning strategies to deliver this very important message.

## Graffiti Wipeout Education Programme

The Graffiti Wipeout Education Programme has been designed to enhance young peoples' understanding of the costs and consequences of graffiti to them, their family, their school and community. The programme is offered to complement and reinforce each Community's initiatives to deter and minimise graffiti tagging and anti-social behaviour.

The main component of the programme is delivery of a school incursion that is a creative, interactive and actor-based performance to students – to captivate their attention and maximise their retention of the messages.

Graffiti Wipeout will take place in the following venues from the 1st – 8th December:

- Phibsboro library
- Kevin St. Library
- Dolphin's Barn Library
- Ringsend Library

## Rudy

Commissioned by Dublin City Public Libraries this play tells the story of teenager 'Rudy' who feels like he doesn't fit in anymore. After dropping out of school 'Rudy' turns to vandalism to express his feeling of confusion and discontent about his life. It is not until his destructive behaviour threatens someone that he really cares about that 'Rudy' starts to understand what "taking responsibility" really means.

'Rudy' is written and directed by Margaret Callan Bergin. This unique Garbo Productions schools programme is written and designed specifically for 5th and 6th Class primary school students. The programme includes a teacher's work pack and digital photo competition. The work pack and competition will explore the anti – vandalism theme, combining class work, photography and live theatre as a vehicle to deliver a message that will have a powerful and lasting effect. For further information about other Garbo productions please go to [www.garboproductions.net](http://www.garboproductions.net).

'Rudy' will be performed for a designated school audience from the 30th January – 10th February 2012 in the following venues:

- Ballymun Library
- Charleville Mall
- Coolock Library
- Pearse St. Library
- Rathmines Library
- Walkinstown Library
- Ballyfermot Library
- The Central Library
- Cabra library

## Meeting Point

A participatory Visual Arts project that explores graffiti in a local neighbourhood – *Meeting Point* will aim to facilitate and develop a dialogue between young people and other interested groups about graffiti in local communities.

The project aims to engage youth in the issues involved in graffiti, to encourage debate about the value of graffiti and to question whether it is art or vandalism. Involving workshops, discussions and exhibitions through painting and digital media *Meeting Point* will seek to create and develop connections between different groups within a local community.

*Meeting Point* will take place in Ballyfermot and Finglas Libraries this Autumn.

# The Mural Project

This Visual Arts project involves creating a mural in the library, with artist Stephen Blayds working with young people. The emphasis is on key elements such as education, creative development and art making. Throughout, young people channel creativity and energy in a healthy and productive way. The image content is young person informed, creating a sense of ownership within the library and local community.

The Mural Project will take place in Coolock Library on Saturday 15th, Wednesday 19th, Saturday 22nd and Wednesday 26th October and will involve young people from the local area.

## Creating Creative Communities

There is a problem. Vandalism and some anti-social behaviour has been happening on or near the library. Using drama, school pupils will put themselves into the shoes of the people who are charged with trying to address the problem. What suggestions would The Residents' Committee, The City Planners and Community Workers have?

Using drama processes, we will look at the effect of the behaviour on the staff and clients of the library. They explore what might be the cause of the problem. Depending on their 'findings', we develop a campaign or a proposal to help address the issue. The pupils then look at how they, as young citizens, could affect change themselves. The suggestions, writing, campaign posters or artwork generated by the project will form an exhibition to be shown in the library. This programme will run from the beginning of October until December 2011.

## Documenting 'Graffiti – Art or Vandalism?'

Film Maker, Killian Waters will document the project focusing on the issues of graffiti and vandalism in the community on behalf of Dublin City Public Libraries.

The 'Graffiti – Art or Vandalism?' Programme was made possible by funding from a bequest made to Dublin City Council.

Further information is available from:

The Development Office, Dublin City Public Libraries  
Telephone; 01-6744842 / 6744858

E-mail: [library.development@dublincity.ie](mailto:library.development@dublincity.ie) [www.dublincitypubliclibraries.ie](http://www.dublincitypubliclibraries.ie)