

# O-X

## art and media

### press release

13 July 2010

23 year old Liam Robinson from Finemouth is the youngest person ever to win the prestigious Stella Theatre Design Award. Liam attributes his success to his experiences at Finemouth's O-X art and media centre.<sup>1</sup>

1 The press release uses a newsworthy story – the youngest person to win the award – to make a link with the organisation and key messages.

Liam receives the Award for his multi media design for Cherry Red Theatre Company's *Cabaret Three* which toured Britain and the Netherlands between October 2009 and March 2010. Liam's designs for Cherry Red will also be seen when *Into Oblivion* opens at the Finemouth Theatre Royal in September.

The Stella Awards ceremony takes place at the Very Famous Theatre in London on Saturday 17 July when Liam will be accompanied by O-X Director Jez Wilkes.

Liam said:

'My first visit to OX was when I attended a workshop with my school. We made a 30 second film, and from that moment I was hooked. I joined Young O-X and gained the skills I needed to make my own films, and then I started working with the Young O-X Theatre Company. I'm so grateful to have had this chance to find my own creative streak and delighted that *Into Oblivion* is premiering in my home town.'

O-X reopened eight years ago when an Arts Council England grant enabled a transformation of the building. O-X continues to receive regular funding from the Arts Council.<sup>2</sup>

2 Key message – the arts are a UK success story based on sustained investment

Arts Council Regional Director Celia Smith said:

'Over the last eight years Arts Council funding has enabled O-X to provide opportunities for over 3,000 young people to develop their skills in digital

3 Makes the link between organisation's impact and arts funding, giving evidence to demonstrate impact. Key message – the arts are central to a government that places a

arts<sup>3</sup>. This helped many of them to develop careers in the creative industries<sup>4</sup>. Liam's achievements in particular demonstrate the important role that organisations like O-X can play in the futures of these young people.'<sup>5</sup>

O-X Director Sharon Macauley said:

'This is why the arts matter. The less than 0.1% of the total Government Budget spent on the arts is essential to the success of our commercial arts sector too.<sup>6</sup> Our early investment in Liam has put him well on his way to a glittering career in our commercial arts sector.'

The Stella has previously been awarded to famous names in the theatre world such as Stefano Bromley, who designed the sets for the Royal Opera Company's famous touring production of Don Giovanni, and Caroline Hinde who works for theatre companies all over the world. ends

#### **For further information**

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#### **Notes to editors**

- Liam Robinson is available for interview
- Sharon Macauley from O-X is available for interview on how public funding has made a difference to their work and to young people in Finemouth
- Celia Smith from Arts Council England, is available for interview on Liam's success and on why the arts matter in Finemouth and across England

healthy society at the heart of its agenda.

4 Makes a link with the creative industries. Key message – sustained support of the arts will allow them to play a vital role in Britain's economic recovery

5 Makes a link to young people

6 Makes a link with the Key message - The arts budget is tiny, and the return on investment is huge