

Exposure To Diversity Key To Young People Fulfilling Ambitions, Finds NEF And Roundhouse Report

Monday 10 February, 2014

A new report from NEF (the New Economics Foundation), Diversity and Integration - How young people at the Roundhouse shape each other's experience, has revealed the experiences and personal skills gained by young people on courses at the Roundhouse is significantly improved by studying with people from a range of backgrounds, helping to deliver strong creative learning experiences.

Young people who had taken part in the Roundhouse's courses felt more strongly that they could influence a group of people to get things done*, and that they had the potential to fulfil their ambition, compared to before they had taken the course.

Both those from wealthier and less privileged backgrounds were found to respond positively to working with young people from different backgrounds to their own, learning to appreciate the different values and skills each brought. By avoiding any reinforcement of personal, social or economic dividing lines the Roundhouse's approach was seen to generate valuable outcomes for individual participants, the arts, and society at large.

Marcus Davey, Chief Executive & Artistic Director, Roundhouse, said: "This report underlines the importance of creating opportunities for young people to learn alongside others from all backgrounds - particularly when it's a creative environment, such as the Roundhouse. By ensuring we make our courses attractive to a broad range of young people, we can continue to inspire and develop the creative talent of the next generation.

"At a time when young people are struggling to find ways to express their creativity, whether it be as part of planned career, or just in their spare time, our vision for the Roundhouse is to create the most accessible arts centre in the country, allowing young people to spend time developing their skills in a supportive and collaborative environment."

Helen Kersley, Head of Valuing What Matters at the New Economics Foundation said: "This research reveals fascinating insights into how young people understand and experience diversity at the Roundhouse. There was a real variety in their perspectives and attitudes towards class and other kinds of diversity. But what was clear was that the experience of working together in a diverse but inclusive environment not only promoted ideas and learning but also a sense of equality and appreciation for others".

For more information on the range of courses available at the Roundhouse, and to apply, please visit www.roundhouse.org.uk

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Notes to Editors:

*Of the ten indicators tested, two showed movement between beginning (T1) and end (T2) which was statistically significant at p=

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