

CONFETTI STUDENT MAGAZINE

wire

SPR/2017

DJ YODA

DJ YODA TALKS STRANGER
THINGS, DISMALAND AND
INTRODUCING VR IN HIS SETS

CERI WADE'S TOP 10 TIPS
FOR LIVE EVENT PRODUCTION

NICK BROOMFIELD
A LIFE IN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

JOSH WHEATLEY
CONFETTI SUCCESS STORIES

 **confetti**
Institute of creative technologies

PART OF
NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY 



It's been a busy start to the year at Confetti with our exclusive one of a kind event - Industry Week!

If you didn't manage to grab tickets to some of our sold out talks, workshops and lab sessions, don't worry, this Wire edition is jam-packed full of Industry Week 2017 interviews and reviews with some of our amazing industry guests!

From an in-depth interview with renowned documentary filmmaker and Industry Week headliner Nick Broomfield, to live event production tips from the woman behind Arcadia Spectacular's productions at festivals like Glastonbury, Burning Man and Bestival - this mag is bursting with industry advice.

We've also caught up with Confetti alumnus Josh Wheatley to talk about his debut single release with our very own record label Denizen.

If you're in the middle of applying to uni, then we've put together all you need to know about accommodation and student finance and we've got a peek at the archaeological findings on our Confetti site.

Want to write for the next Wire? We're always on the look-out for keen writers and photographers, so drop us an email at marketing@confetti.ac.uk.

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INDUSTRY WEEK

6-10 MARCH 2017

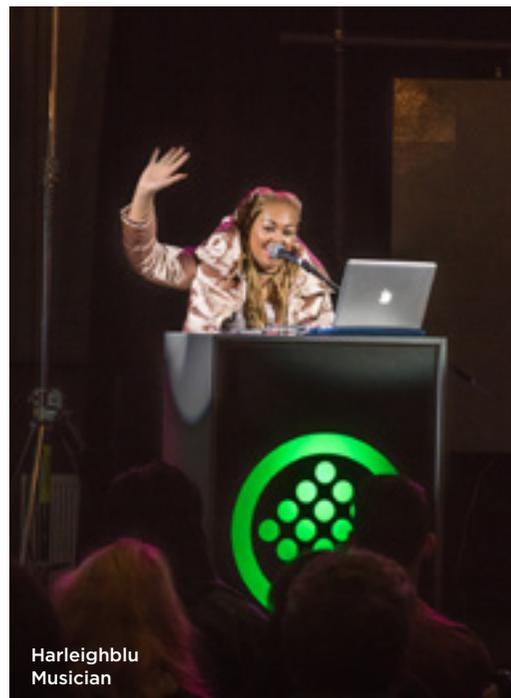
Industry Week 2017 has officially come to an end, and although the guests have gone back to their day jobs and our students are back to their timetables, there's still a creative buzz around Confetti!

Industry Week gave our students the opportunity to ask questions and learn from some of the biggest names across the industries they aspire to join. From documentary workshops with legendary filmmaker Nick Broomfield, to learning all about YouTube from PlayStation Access Channel Manager Hollie Bennett - this year's line-up at Industry Week did not disappoint.

The week ended with an amazing AV performance by DJ Yoda and he even stopped by for a couple of hours beforehand to give tips and tricks on DJing and the music industry to our music students.

But the list of amazing names on our line-up didn't stop there - Jeremy Humphries, Deep Silver Dambuster, Audient, Moog, Kris Halpin, Philip Bloom, Roxy Shahidi, Sammy Winward, Vicky McClure, Mikey Demus, Ceri Wade, Mandy Parnell are just a few of the names that our students had the chance to chat to and learn from.

Confetti founder and CEO Craig Chettle reflects on how Industry Week has developed over the years and why it's such a unique opportunity for our students: "We are heading towards 15 years of Industry Week and it gets more exciting for all involved each year. Our tutors hand-pick the guests for their relevance to our students and they represent the very best of the UK's creative industries. Industry Week is totally unique and I don't know of any other college or university that offers that kind of experience on that scale".



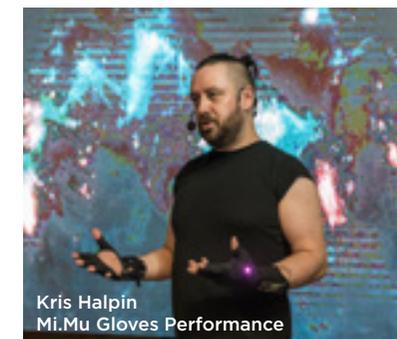
Harleighblu
Musician



Mike Davis, Print Artist



Do It For Real, Games Graduates



Kris Halpin
Mi.Mu Gloves Performance



Mikey Demus, Guitarist



Jugga-Naught, Joe Buhdha, Snowy, Ezz-Ra



Hollie Bennett, Playstation Access Channel Manager

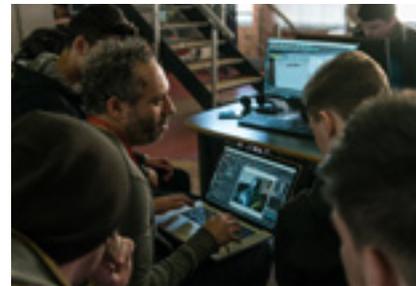
THE GALLERY



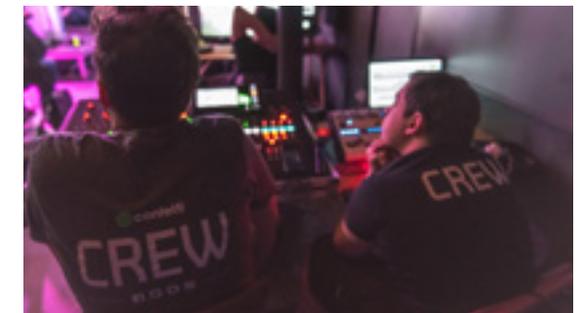
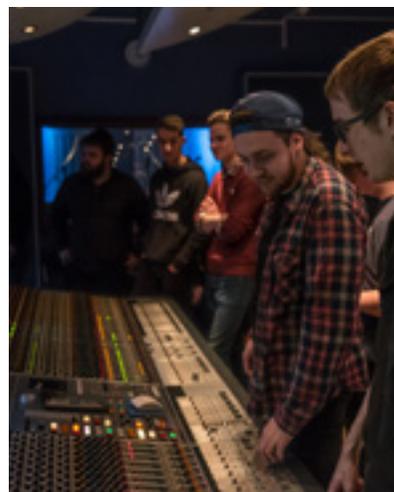
Here are your #IW17 best bits!

Want more? Check out our Industry Week highlights on our website.

➤ confetti.ac.uk



#IW17 Photo Competition
 We gave you the chance to bag yourself a £50 PMT voucher for the best #IW17 photo. Our winner was Acting & Film production student Benjamin Margett with this epic pic - happy spending!





NICK BROOMFIELD

CAPTURING REALITY: A LIFE IN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

We caught up with legendary documentary filmmaker Nick Broomfield before his closing talk at Industry Week.

How did you get into documentary filmmaking?

I was always curious. When I was young I had a little camera – like a stills camera – and I remember being an exchange student in France with not much to do, so I just went around taking lots of pictures. I saw that I was enjoying it and was actually really good at it. I also really enjoyed chatting to the people I was photographing and finding out who they were.

What is the first documentary-style film you remember doing?

I did a film called *Who Cares* with a friend of mine in Liverpool, which actually turned out pretty good. We used a little wind-up camera – a little Berlex – I think I was like 19 and it took a little while to shoot. We were shooting for three months and it turned into an 18-minute film which took me a year and a half to cut, so that should be an encouragement to students – films tend to take a long time.

What is key to conducting a good interview?

Interviews are more like conversations and if they feel like interviews then that's already

a problem. More than anything you want to make the person you are interviewing feel relaxed – unless you're doing a very aggressive kind of thing with them. You just want them to feel like you are very interested in them, that you are listening to what they are saying and that you are just having a conversation.

Often in conversation people open up and you can get into their thought process, so that you don't ask a question that's completely irrelevant to what they've been saying – your interview questions need to come out of what they're saying.

So who was the most difficult person you ever had to interview?

Oh my goodness, I interview a lot of difficult people. Sometimes the scene is actually about how difficult the interview and conversation process was.

I think the art in filmmaking is to use whatever is there, not want something that isn't there and go in with a thesis. Sometimes I think that's the hardest thing – learning

to be flexible and receptive and genuinely interested, because your function as a storyteller is to follow the story and not to prove an idea.

“The art in filmmaking is to use whatever is there, not want something that isn't there and go in with a thesis.”

So when you're planning an interview how do you go about it?

Well it depends, I'll always read as much as I can about that person – often not enough, but that's cause I'm lazy. If they've done other interviews, then you should watch those as well and get clues as to what works with them.

Sometimes people are triggered by a word – it's very odd – you can notice a word in another interview that makes someone really react, so obviously you want to use those words too.

What was the hardest/strangest documentary you've made?

Well they're all so strange – they're all just completely wacky. I don't normally watch my films, but the last couple of months I've been redigitising all my films from negatives and you sit in front of these films that you haven't seen for ages and think:

“WOW these are so mad, these people are so crazy and the situations are so unique you could never write them – how on earth did I get through this?!”

They're all an adventure into the absurd. I'm a big believer that the gods are either with you or against you, and sometimes they're really against you and it doesn't matter what you do, you just don't make such a good film and those are the hardest ones.

I think all my films have been pretty extreme, but more than anything you just have to stay with an idea. They're all really hard and you always think about giving up many times in the middle and the secret is to just stay with it.



What has been your favourite documentary that you haven't been involved with?

There are a lot of films I like – some really early films like *Run for the Hills* and *Private Place* and more recently a great film about the immigrants coming here from Syria called *Into The Sea* and also *The White Helmets*, which won the Oscar.

So do you have such a thing as a favourite film?

You see so much stuff and you like different things about different movies. They're all stories and you're moved by different aspects every time. I would rather say I like different filmmakers and I like their way of telling stories – I like early Alex Gibney or early Fred Wiseman. More recently I quite liked the Nina Simone film that Liz Garbus did and I also liked *Amy* and *Senna*.

What is your creative process?

I'm not one of these brainy filmmakers who has a list of films that they are going to do. I never really know what I'm going to do next after a particular film until I finish the last film and then you have to think 'Oh what am I interested in now?'. Every time you make a film you learn something and you change. I just finished this film about Whitney Houston

and I'm thinking about what I want to do next – do I want to do another music film or would I rather do a drama. It's a nice period where you read lots of newspapers and books, because often when you're making films you get quite cut-off and get very focused on your film. In between films it's a great opportunity to just look around you and go to exhibitions or go out to dinner (which I don't do hardly at all when I'm making a film) and an idea comes along really quickly.

You have been described as fearless, but have any of your documentary subjects really intimidated you?

Well I think they are all intimidating – I made about 40 films and I don't really think in terms of ones anymore. I think the whole process is intimidating and that's a good thing because you're always trying to think "How am I going to tell this story and how am I going to make other people interested in the story that I am interested in telling?".

I think it's like sitting around the fire and telling a story to people - you don't want everyone to go and take a toilet break in the middle of it, so how do you keep them there? That's what storytelling is all about - how to keep the audience really fascinated.

Have you watched or read something recently you'd recommend to our students?

I'm really interested in architecture and I also read a lot of funny things about architecture which aren't really relevant, but made me think of making a series about buildings.

I think when you have a big structure it often represents the politics of the area and I was thinking of doing a film around some colonial buildings around the world and telling the story behind the politics of the area and the period of time through the building.

“ **The difference between a good filmmaker and someone who doesn't get there is really just persistence.** ”

That's a fun non-commercial idea for BBC 4 (or 2 if you're lucky) and probably an idea that's hard to sell – probably not relevant for all countries - whereas with films like *Whitney* there's a massive market.

Do you have any exciting projects in the pipeline that you can tell us about?

I don't really know what I'm going to do next – currently I'm just getting the *Whitney Houston* film out. When you make bigger films and lots of people put a lot of money behind them it becomes much more bureaucratic – dealing with a lot of legal issues and very boring things that take your time up.



Do you have any advice for aspiring filmmakers?

I think the actual process of making a film is incredibly simple – and the simpler you make it, the better. If you need to, you can literally wear the same clothes everyday – buy 5 pairs of underpants and 5 t-shirts, so that all you need to do is focus on that film.

Maybe work with one other person and keep a teeny tiny crew and just focus on the idea – become obsessed with it and don't think about other things – this is if you want to make a good film. And just stay with it – there's going to be lots of problems and the difference between a good filmmaker and someone who doesn't get there is really just persistence.

Generally, ideas don't go very well and there's lots of problems and sometimes it's a question of how you integrate the problems into the story – so you make it a part of the story. You have to be mastering the story, rather than the story mastering you. I always think the best thing to do is find your closest friend to work with and then the two of you go on an adventure.

DJ YODA

TOP 3 FAVS

Albums that inspire you

- Big Daddy Kane "It's A Big Daddy Thing"
- Twin Peaks OST
- De La Soul "3 Feet High And Rising"

Breakfast cereal

- Cinnamon Toast Crunch
- Chocolate Lucky Charms
- Cinnamon Frosties

Most played songs on your music player

- Souls of Mischief "93 Til Infinity"
- Double Dee & Steinski "Lesson 3"
- Buddhist Monk Chants

How did you start out as a DJ – where did the passion come from?

My parents both worked in music, and my dad kept his record collection in my bedroom, so I was literally surrounded by records as a kid.

When I first heard music with sampling and scratching, it just clicked with me, and I would try and emulate the DJ sounds using the turntable at home. As time went on, I saved up and bought a DJ set-up, practised, and slowly started developing my craft.

What is your creative process?

I purposely work on all kinds of different projects with different mediums, to keep my interest alive, so it depends on what I'm dealing with. Everything always starts with a sample though.

What inspired you to start working video into your mixes?

Before the technology existed that allows me to mix video, I would always mix in audio from my favourite movies and TV shows. So when it was possible to mix and scratch the movies themselves, it just felt like a natural move.

What do you consider to be the most exciting moment of your career so far?

I've been so lucky to have had quite a few of these moments! It's hard to narrow it down to one! Definitely a lot of the thrill for me is getting to travel to unusual places, so when DJing has taken me to China, Brazil, Africa and the like - that's always really special. But there are moments during certain collaborations, or certain shows, or album releases that are equally special.

Any exciting projects in the pipeline you can tell us about?

I'm working with Virtual Reality a lot at the moment - trying to develop a way to DJ with no equipment in front of me!

You have recently started doing a History of Video Games AV show. What's your favourite video game?

I have a lot of nostalgia for the games that were around when I was at school and would play arcade machines - the one that really sticks out is OutRun, because I love the music too.

You appeared last year at Banksy's Dismaland. How did that come about?

I had DJ'd for Banksy before he was well-known - in fact at one of his first London shows, so I think he's always been aware of me. It was an honour to play for him at Dismaland!

How did your Stranger Things mix come about? Are you a fan of the show?

Yes of course! I often make mixtapes that are themed, and I only choose themes that I'm really interested in.

I enjoyed the programme so much that I thought it would be cool to collect together all the great music in the show and make a mix of it - I think a lot of people were also hungry for something that pulled together all those tracks.

Finally, what advice would you give to other young DJs who want to make it into the music industry?

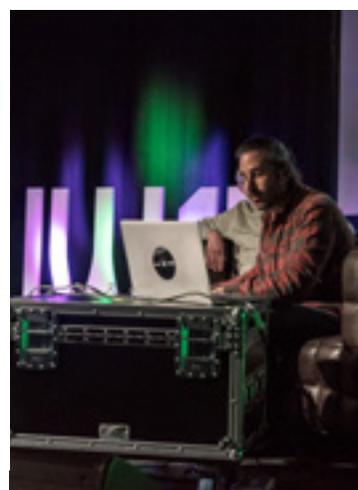
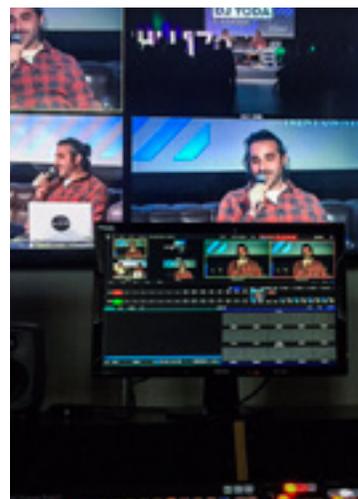
Very simple - don't copy what anyone else is doing - just set about making something that you personally think is cool.

The more you do that, the more automatically unique and interesting your output will be.

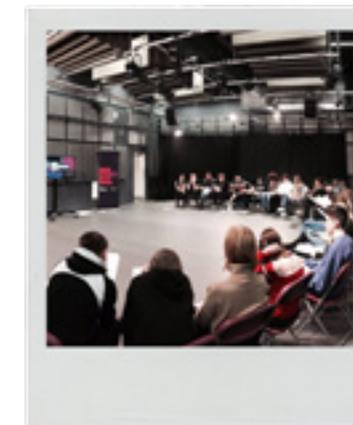
Anything else you want to share with our readers?

I love cinnamon.

DJ YODA'S BEST BITS



IN CONVERSATION: EMMERDALE STARS!



Industry Week kicked off early for our acting students with help from Emmerdale actors Sammy Winward (who played Lucy Sudgen from 2001 to 2015) and Roxy Shahidi (who has been playing Leyla Harding since 2008).

Not only did our students get to take part in a Q&A session, but they also received acting tips from the soap stars during a once-in-a-lifetime acting masterclass.

On passion...

Sammy's passion for acting started through dance, as a ballerina. After a number of performances, she realised she enjoyed acting more than dancing and at 15 took things a step further: "I got an agent, and two weeks later I got Emmerdale!"

On getting into acting...

One thing was made very clear - there's no one way of getting into acting. "I think it's completely individual and it depends where your passions lie. There's not one direct road" both Roxy and Sammy agreed. However, there is a fool-proof way of getting started - get involved! Do as many productions as possible, keep learning and get people to come and see you.

On having an agent...

Both Sammy and Roxy reckon that there's "never a perfect time to try and have an agent." You need to showcase yourself - no

matter what you're doing, if you're on stage, and you're performing a part you're proud of, write to agents. Don't be afraid to do it. "If nobody turns up, it doesn't matter, but sometimes that one person might turn up who might like you." Students were also warned off 'agents' who ask for fees upfront: "These people aren't real agents - they'll have thousands of people on their books, who they aren't getting any work for."

On auditions...

Roxy found that the best thing to do before an audition is to 'centre yourself' and to regain a sense of value and control, rather than feeling like you're walking into a room and just giving them all the power. Sammy on the other hand spoke of the importance of confidence: "You walk into a room and you want to have an air of confidence, but you don't want to have that desperation on your face."

Finally, there was the acting masterclass, where students were given Emmerdale scripts and split off into couples to practice whilst Roxy and Sammy wandered around the room, watching their performances and giving feedback.

CERI WADE'S TOP 10 TIPS FOR LIVE EVENT PRODUCTION

Ceri Wade is Arcadia Spectacular's Production Manager and has worked on their worldwide productions, including Afterburner.

1. Preparation

Start early and work methodically through every variable to put plans in place. We have a touring rider which I go through in detail with the promoter well in advance to ensure any glitches are caught and resolved with plenty of time to spare.

We cross off each item as it gets confirmed to make sure we have everything sorted for the day we arrive. The last thing you want is to turn up on the other side of the world a week before a 20,000 person event and realise the promoter ordered the wrong crane.

2. Scheduling

Being on tour or producing a show is about the right people being in the right place at the right time with the right equipment. We run 3 distinct departments in Arcadia - Build, Technical and Show. They will all be relying on me as the Production Manager both for the big picture overview and the detailed merging of those elements.

All the departments should receive priority sections in the schedule and be kept up to date with even the tiniest changes to ensure the machine runs smoothly.

3. Communication

We have a tour book which has all the information the crew need before they leave for the show. We include all travel information, hotel details, protocols and specific information about the destination, including cultural awareness. We also have daily Head of Department meetings when we are on site to help everyone understand where the individual departments are at and to keep the lines of communication open. A huge number of problems tend to arise through a lack of communication.

4. Crew

Any live event or tour relies on its crew. They become your second family for the time you spend together. You work, eat, sleep, laugh and cry with them and you have to be able to rely on each other through thick and thin. Of course you have disagreements, but it's how you work to resolve them that really matters.

5. Pack well

Make sure you have comfy shoes, waterproofs, warm clothes and sunscreen. Elements can change quickly when you're working on site and it's essential to keep yourself warm, dry and focused. It's also really important to have

a few home comforts. Take your favourite tea bags, a travel kettle, a good book, photos of your family and unpack properly. My favourite things are leopard print scarves, face masks, fresh juices, lemon and ginger tea bags and my yoga mat.

6. Look after yourself

Touring has a reputation for work hard, play hard and whilst this can be true, it is also vitally important that you look after yourself. Make sure you eat properly, sleep when you can, go for a run or a swim to keep the blood flowing, wear sunscreen in the heat and drink plenty of water. You have a responsibility to yourself and your team to make sure you are fit for work and firing on all cylinders - plus you will have a much better time!

7. Be safe

Working in live events is dangerous. Make sure you understand the role that you are there to do and seek training if you are unsure of anything. You need to be familiar with working practices and how things work on the specific site or venue that you are working in. Lives are at stake and strong safety protocols are empowering, as they allow you to push the creative envelope with full confidence.

8. Be realistic

Only do the job that you are trained to do. Don't answer any questions unless you are 100% sure of the answer. There is a fine line between wanting to help out and giving incorrect information which is not helpful to anyone. Stick to any budgets you have been set and be honest when people ask you for timelines.



Photo credit: Luke Taylor

“ Live events are hard work. They are also one of the most fun environments in the world to work in. ”

9. Be respectful

Everyone on a live production has to work extremely hard. Be respectful of other people's roles and make sure you arrive on time. Producing an event relies on people working together as a solid team and being sensitive to the other departments. If you borrow people's equipment or tools for example, put them back.

10. Have fun!

I consider myself incredibly lucky to be doing a job that I love in an industry I passionately care about with a crew that I adore. It's a balancing act - to be ultra-professional while still enjoying yourself, but it's the key to longevity and fulfilment within the industry.



NUSIC

What happened when we sent Ellie to Nusic? Read more to find out...

Nottinghamshire musicians got the chance to attend an exclusive panel, made up of some of the biggest names in radio and music journalism at the Nusic Academy, as part of Industry Week. Radio X presenter John Kennedy, alongside BBC Radio 1Xtra's Jamz Supernova, Radio 1 producer Kate Holder, and Metal Hammer's features editor Eleanor Goodman were on hand to give advice on everything from getting your tracks played on the radio, to branding and gigs.

With plans to study Broadcast Journalism in September, and a keen interest in radio and writing, we sent Ellie Kemp to hear from - and network with - professionals who are working in the industry she aspires to be a part of.

The Nusic Academy kicked off with a Q&A session, where Notts musicians had the

opportunity to ask the panel any burning questions. One piece of advice that particularly stood out was from John Kennedy, who, on the subject of getting your music out there and heard by the 'right people,' said:

“ E-mail people, and if they don't reply, keep at it until someone finally listens. It's all about perseverance. ”

- John Kennedy

Eleanor Goodman also highlighted the importance of choosing a genre - if you're a rock band e-mailing your music to a hip-hop radio show, then it won't get played as it doesn't fit the show!

Finally, Jamz Supernova reckoned that artists should take their "branding seriously from the

start," which may help them to stand out. Next was the "Spread The Love" session, where any members of the audience could 'pitch themselves' to their fellow musicians.

It was so interesting to see the variety of musicians we have in Nottingham - everyone from rappers, to solo singers and indie bands. Ellie had the chance to talk about her music blog and radio shows, and was able to scout any bands or singers who she thought would be great to review or interview.

Finally, it was time for arguably the most important part of the night: networking. Again, having the chance to approach industry professionals, tell them about her work and get their advice and feedback was invaluable - "I strongly believe that it's so important to get involved and 'get your face' out there, so having that opportunity was incredible" Ellie said.

Overall, it was a very inspiring night - we look forward to seeing what's going to come next from Nottingham's extremely talented music scene.



 FeelTheNusic
 FeelTheNusic
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 nusic.org.uk

REEL LIFE: WORKING WITH PHILIP BLOOM

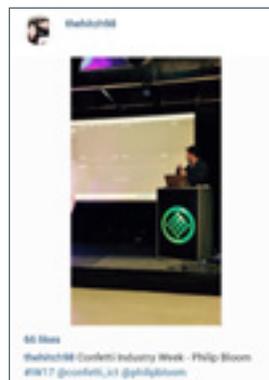
World-renowned filmmaker Philip Bloom made an appearance at this year's Industry Week, telling us all about his work for major UK broadcasters, BBC, ITV, C4 and Sky.

Level 3 TV and Film student Sulaima was lucky enough to attend his exclusive and insightful session! She summed up her top 5 tips from the genius filmmaker himself!



“ Step out of your comfort zone. ”

But giving out advice isn't all that Philip Bloom did during his time at Industry Week. Our students also had the unique opportunity to work alongside him and film a short zombie film. The whole clip can be seen on our website, so head over to confetti.ac.uk to watch it.



- 1 Always accept new opportunities and step out of your comfort zone – throughout your career you can learn from every experience you get!
- 2 An easy way of identifying if you price your work correctly is to send a quote to a possible client. If they reply straight away, you are pricing yourself too low. If they flat out reject your offer, you have priced too high.
- 3 Try and be more patient, if you tend to set yourself very high expectations, make sure you also give yourself a realistic time to achieve them.
- 4 Always put in your contract a clause that only allows the company you are working for to have two free changes. Anything after should cost half a day of production.
- 5 The important thing is to know how to tell the story. At the end of the day you can have the greatest kit ever, but if you don't connect with the audience you haven't accomplished anything.



JOSH WHEATLEY



What are the most played songs on your iPod?

Flyte - Victoria Falls
Ryan Adams - Do You Still Love Me
Tall Ships - Petrichor

We caught up with Confetti alumnus Josh Wheatley, signed to Confetti Media Group record label - Denzien. Hearing all about the release of his new track 'Runaway' and how our very own FdSc TV Production Technology Confetti student Ryan Peck made the video.

Where does your passion for music come from?

My passion for music stems completely from the impression music left on me in my early teens. My parents have never been strong influences when it comes to the music I listen to. I had to go out and find music for myself, and I discovered the likes of Ben Howard and Dry The River first. I went to a Dry The River show at Rescue Rooms and it just made me realise "That's what I want to do!"

What do you consider to be the most exciting moment of your career so far?

I'm not sure really... everything is going so fast at the moment. Probably when we started recording the 2nd single. We've been to and from Liverpool quite a bit, and I've had the absolute pleasure of working with Al Groves at a studio called The Motor Museum which is where they recorded the debut albums of The 1975, Ben Howard and Arctic Monkeys.

Any exciting projects in the pipeline you can tell us about?

Nothing I can confirm at the moment. I'm just working super hard in the studio. We're releasing some remixes very soon, and I got my good friend Rob from D.I.D to do one. I'm looking forward to putting that out and this slightly psychedelic music video for Runaway which was directed by my good mate Ryan Peck - super talented director/photographer who is still a Confetti student.

You have recently released your new single 'Runaway' - can you tell us a little about how that came about?

It was written in 3 hours from a small hotel room in Cardiff in January 2016. I'd had the tag line "take your heart and runaway" circling in my mind and all over my notebooks for about a week. I guess the right mood caught me and as the words popped into my head I wrote them down. We then went to work with a guy called Ed Turner who produced the song.

You graduated from Confetti - can you tell us how your course has helped you in your career?

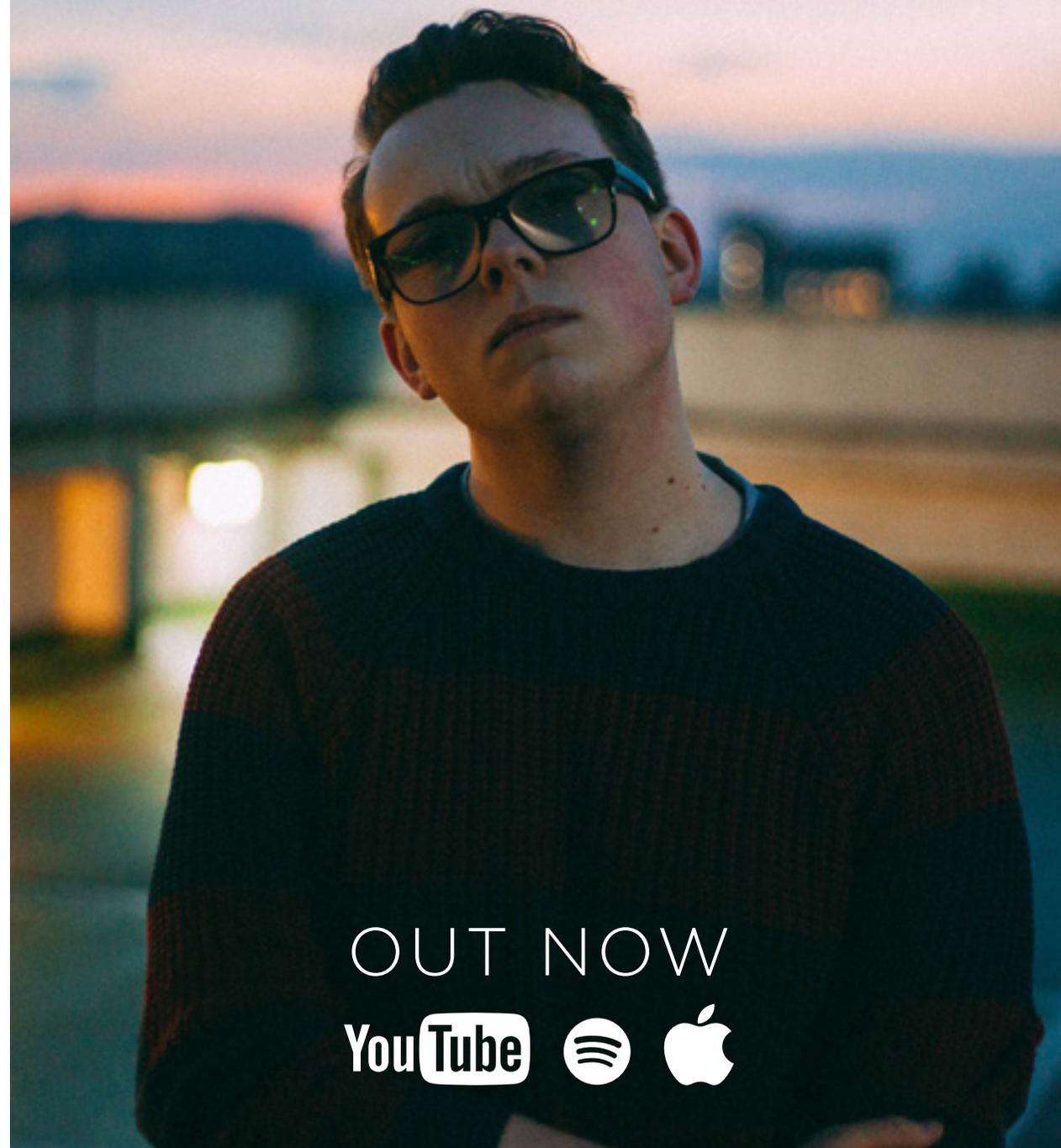
It helped me better understand how the music industry works and how to work a little more professionally as a musician. I studied Music Technology, because I thought I could do with learning a little more about the tech side of things and how to shape my sound.

Finally, what advice would you give to other young musicians who want to make it into the music industry?

Gig your arse off to make a name for yourself. It's great sitting down and writing songs, and some artists can get somewhere without playing a single show. But it's not very often that happens. It takes hard work to get yourself noticed.

[f JoshWheatleyMusic](#) | [@ JoshIsOk](#)

JOSH WHEATLEY RUNAWAY

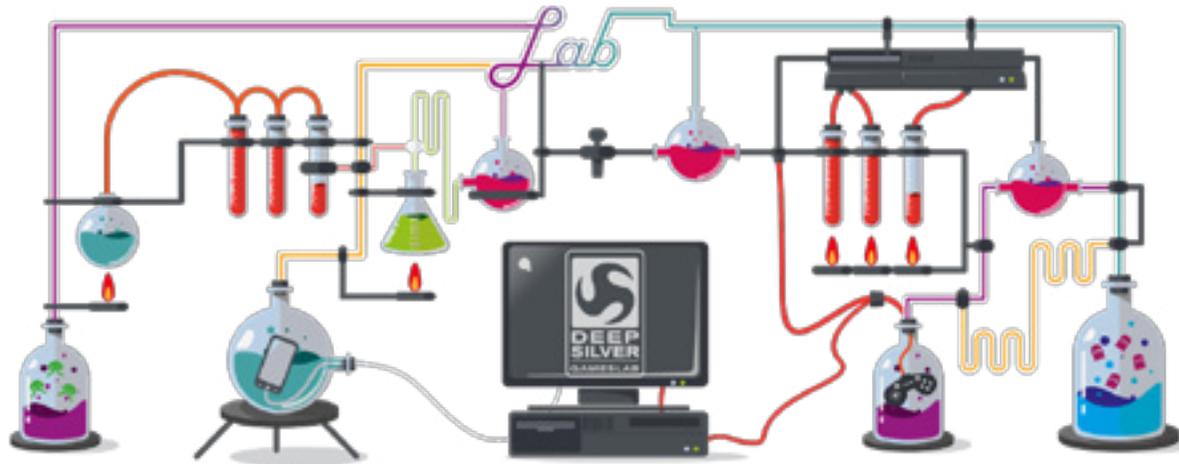


OUT NOW



THE SCIENCE OF FUN

DEEP SILVER GAMESLAB



We caught up with GamesLab manager and Industry Week guest Alexandra Turcan to find out more about Deep Silver's newest research centre.

Can you explain what GamesLab actually is?

Deep Silver GamesLab is where we playtest our games to make sure that players experience them as they were designed to be experienced. We use a variety of methods to do that, including asking players for their opinions and feedback, analysing their in-game behaviour, and strapping them to biometric sensors to figure out what they were experiencing at an unconscious level. Basically, we use science to make sure that when we release a product, players will have fun with it.

What would a typical playtest look like?

All playtests currently take place in our studio, so you'll be making your way to our office on Canal Street and a member of GamesLab will meet you at reception. We get the boring stuff out of the way first; check your ID, and ask you to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Playtesting comes with a certain degree of secrecy – you might be exposed to titles that are not even publicly announced yet, or are very early on in the development process, which means we trust you to not disclose any information that you get while you're in our studio.

This means you cannot tell your friends or family that you playtested at Dambuster Studios, and you certainly cannot write any kinds of posts about your experience on any gaming forums/channels or on social media.

Once this part is done, it's all fun ahead – for the rest of the playtest your only task is to play a video game. Depending on the playtest, your eyes might be tracked while playing, using non-invasive eye-trackers, two finger sensors might be used to track your emotional activity while playing, you might be asked to fill in surveys during and after the playtest, and you might also be interviewed and asked to provide your feedback and opinions.

How will the findings impact the development of future games?

We conduct playtests any time developers have a question about a certain game. For example, if it's really early on in the development process, the team might be considering a variety of ways in which to implement the core gun play mechanics.

GamesLab might do a few playtests to check how players engage with and enjoy each version, and therefore help the developers decide how to move forward.

Later on in the development process, we can help the team with data on all kinds of game aspects: where is the optimal position for the damage bar on the screen? What routes do players prefer to take and do they get lost? Do players like and understand the story? etc.

When the game is already live, GamesLab can still help by mining all the telemetry collected from all our players and identifying areas where tweaks are needed. For example, if players overwhelmingly prefer one weapon because it's way too powerful we need to balance it.

“ Take on every opportunity that comes your way. ”



What is the future for GamesLab?

The plan is to run frequent playtests that are informative and useful for all our development teams internationally. GamesLab has only just opened its doors in January 2017, but we've already started running playtests and inviting players in, many of which are students at Confetti! Besides this, we were invited to speak at Tech Nottingham and also to Confetti's Industry Week, which was a lot of fun!

How can Confetti students get involved with GamesLab?

The best and easiest way to get involved is to take part in our playtests. All students need to do is sign up on our website (gameslab.dsdambuster.com) and we'll email them when we have something suitable for their profile. As a GamesLab playtester they get to experience games in a variety of production stages, and give us feedback that will truly shape our games. Not to mention they also get paid for their time! If Confetti students have questions for us, they can always send us an email at gameslab@dsdambuster.com.

What advice do you have for our students looking to get a job after graduation?

My main advice – and this is not at all restricted to jobs in the games industry – is to take on every opportunity that comes your way and excites you, even if at the time you don't think it will be very helpful on the career path that you want to follow.

If I've learnt anything so far, it's that you simply never know what experience will unexpectedly come in handy later on in your career, and that a diverse CV will take you very far.

INTRODUCING

Ellie Howitt



We've caught up with our Graphic & Digital Design and Games Art course leader Ellie Howitt to dig deep into her Confetti career.

How did you get into teaching at Confetti?

I completed my degree in sound engineering around 2008 and moved back to Nottingham. In 2010 I started working in the Student Support Team. After a few years I started teaching Music Technology alongside my role in SST, while studying to become a teacher. I started teaching full time on the Level 2 Media course, then became a course leader on the Graphic & Digital Design course which I still do now. I have recently also taken over the Games Art course.

Tell us a bit about your background in graphic design?

I have always had an interest in visual arts, film and media. I decided to get more into graphic design and the associated software when I finished my degree, and began producing work freelance for local businesses in Nottingham, as well as various bits of creative artwork and my own projects.

I taught myself the software in my spare time using books and the internet and developed a range of skills in different areas of design.

Any projects outside of teaching?

Recent work I have done includes some single artwork that is on Apple Music and a few

other bits for some local music videos. I am also working on a series of digitally painted portraits.

What's the best software you use?

There isn't really a best software package, it's about the right tool for the job, but it probably starts with anything Adobe. Adobe Photoshop is awesome for photo manipulation and digital painting, I love using custom brushes and a graphics tablet.

Adobe Illustrator is awesome for less realistic looking illustration and logo design, it's also really easy to animate Illustrator files in Adobe After Effects.

I love Adobe InDesign and working with grids and typography is really fun. The software packages work really well together too, so I can create something in one and then add to it in another.

What do you love most about graphic design?

I love looking at other people's work, understanding what they are communicating and appreciating the way they have approached the design. It's usually the simplest stuff that is the most effective!

dhp | DHP PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL



IN NOTTINGHAM
SATURDAY 22ND JULY 2017 WOLLATON PARK

MAIN STAGE

KAISER CHIEFS

BUSTED

TONY HADLEY
(EX SPANAU BALLET)

GABRIELLE APLIN **WILL VARLEY**

Yola Carter **GEORGIE**  **COMPETITION WINNER**

CONFETTI STAGE

BILLY OCEAN

BRITISH SEA POWER **black grape** **BUZZCOCKS**

BUD // JOSH WHEATLEY

COMEDY STAGE

BARRY DODDS // SCOTT BENNETT
STEVE ROYLE // JOLLYBOAT
WES ZAHARUK // JIM SMALLMAN

ACOUSTIC ROOMS STAGE

INTO THE ARK // UNKNOWN ERA // TOM LUMLEY
SUNFLOWER THIEVES // YAZMIN LACEY // JIMI MACK
YOUNG T & BUGSEY // LISA HENDRICKS // BILLIE

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ACCOMMODATION

There are a few things you'll need in place to start University and at the top of the list is accommodation and your student finance!

f Confetti ICT
 ↗ confetti.ac.uk
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Accommodation

Confetti campus is in the heart of Nottingham's city centre, which means a great night life and great accommodation. University accommodation is an essential part of the student experience.

It's a perfect way to settle in, have a great social life, and make friends for life. All new Confetti students are guaranteed accommodation, so as long as you book before July 31 you can be sure you'll secure your home away from home.

If you're living away from home for the first time, you don't want to go it alone. Settling in and making friends are essential first steps to take when you arrive at university, and living in NTU residences is an ideal way to do this.

There's always plenty going on in your residence and they each have Residence Assistants to help you settle in and Hall committees to plan activities and events.



Why choose NTU accommodation?

- Central locations
- Free Wi-Fi enabled internet
- All utility bills included
- Excellent security including wardens, CCTV and intercom systems
- Freshers' reps and residence assistants
- Sharing exclusively with other NTU and Confetti students

How do you book your accommodation?

- Go to the NTU website
- Browse the accommodation
- Make a shortlist of your favourites
- Book online
- Accept your accommodation and set up your payments
- Move in!

Student finance

If you are planning on starting university in September, you'll need to apply for Student Finance before Wednesday 31 May to guarantee that your funding will be in place.

Applications will still be accepted after this date, but your finances may be delayed, so it's best to get it in early. Applying for your tuition fee and maintenance loan is simple, you apply for both at the same time in one easy process. Not sure what you're applying for? We've broken them down for you.



FINANCE

Tuition Fee Loan

Non means-tested, a tuition fee loan may be available and is linked to the cost of your course. You can apply to borrow some or all of the cost of your tuition fees and if you apply and are granted a loan, this will be paid directly to Confetti by Student Finance England.

You don't start repaying this loan until you have graduated and are earning over £21,000. Payments come directly out of your salary, so you don't have to worry about it.

Maintenance Loan

The maintenance loan is available if you need a bit of help with living costs. It's re-payable and will help you to cover costs such as accommodation, food, utilities, transport and course materials.

You may need to provide evidence of your household income, and you will need to supply proof of identity – Student Finance will get in touch with you to let you know when you need to give this information.

Need help? No problem, most queries can be answered quickly by reading the guides on the Student Finance England website.

Our Student Support team are on hand to help with any application, finance or accommodation queries. Just give them a call on **0115 952 2075**.



The archaeologists working on the construction site of our new creative and digital learning space have unearthed the best preserved medieval site seen in Nottingham for 15 years!

Work is well underway on our brand new £9.1m Digital Media Hub which is due to open in September 2018. It will provide additional state of the art digital teaching and learning spaces, a café and a Learning Resource Centre, as well as a roof top terrace. A striking addition to the Nottingham's city centre landscape it continues in the Confetti tradition of offering an inspirational and professional learning environment that encourages enterprise, collaboration and creativity.

However, during the development of our new build, Trent & Peak Archaeology have discovered enclosure ditches and square rock cut pits filled with pottery, glass and roof tiles, which leads them to think that in Medieval times people were making pottery pretty close to the Confetti site - seems that Confetti has been the place to create for a lot longer than we've been here! The artefacts were taken away from the site, so that they can be cleaned and have more tests carried out on them.

The top of the caves has also been fully uncovered and name carvings have been discovered. Project supervisor Joe Groarke reported "Our preliminary research hasn't



discovered an owner or landlord of the pub that has these initials. It could well be the first person who excavated the cave or the first landlord possibly. We know that these caves go back to at least 1841 but we haven't discovered any records that go back any further than that but it's something we will look more into."

Make sure you follow us on our social media for updates on any more exciting developments on the site.

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MUST-SEE TV SHOWS IN 2017



Our favourite TV shows are coming back in 2017 and Level 3 TV & Film Production student Sulaima put together a list of the top 5 to look out for.

Whether you have the patience to wait for your favourite show to air on TV or prefer the immediacy of streaming - we all know series whose cliff-hangers caused meltdowns and countless sleepless nights due to 'just one more episode'.

GAME OF THRONES	The first series we must talk about is cult-favourite Game of Thrones. Season 6 premiered last year in April, but unfortunately this year HBO won't continue their custom of April releases. All we can do now is wait until 16 July, but don't worry too much - Winter is (finally) coming!
STRANGER THINGS	Next one in line is Stranger Things - a new Netflix release which took the internet by storm. We've barely had time to recover from season 1 and a trailer for the second season has already been released - and it even has a Halloween theme. Mark your calendars for 31 October - you're sure to miss a night or two of sleep that week!
AMERICAN HORROR STORY	The third show coming back this year is the always-weird American Horror Story. We don't have a release date yet, but we can only hope that it will be premiering as usual in September or October. Creator Ryan Murphy did give a bit of a teaser and announced that the new season will focus on the American 2016 election. We also know that regulars and fan-favourites Evan Peters and Sarah Paulson will be back.
THE WALKING DEAD	AMC's The Walking Dead season 7 finale aired in April and it did not disappoint. After a heart aching, brutal season 6 finale, this season built up to an intense showdown between Rick's group, the Saviours and Negan. Lives were lost, alliances were forged and King Ezekiel's tiger Shiva made an appearance. We already know the show has been renewed for an 8th season, so there's nothing to do now but wait until October to see how the story continues.
PRISON BREAK	Eight years after the conclusion of 4 successful seasons, the show returned in April with 9 brand new episodes. Fans will get to see Michael Scofield again as Sara and Lincoln find out through T-bad that he is in a prison in Yemen. We can't wait for one more escape!

PRODUCT RELEASES

TO LOOK FORWARD TO

SYNTHAX - ICON QCON PRO X

The Icon QCon Pro X is a USB-MIDI control surface that provides tactile control over all major DAWs and plugins. Featuring 9 touch-sensitive motorised faders, 8 dual-function rotary encoders, jog-wheel and transport controls, backlit LCD screens and LED metering, plus a host of freely assignable buttons, the QCon Pro X allows you to record, edit and mix your music in a fast and



streamlined manner. Switchable PVC-overlays are included for use alongside all major DAWs, including Logic, Pro Tools, Cubase and Ableton Live. Alternatively, create your own custom MIDI-map and tailor the QCon Pro X to perfectly suit your workflow.

AUDIANT - ID4



iD4 delivers the audio performance of a large format console in a portable desktop package enabling you to record your vocals and guitar simultaneously. Providing one renowned Audiant console mic pre, class-leading converter technology, dual headphone outputs, console style monitor control, JFET D.I and virtual scroll wheel technology 'ScrollControl', iD4 is a professional but affordable solution for your home studio or for when you're on the road.



MOOG MOTHER-32

Modular synths are going from strength to strength in recent times, with the Eurorack format gaining widespread popularity. Not hard to see why it's a vibrant market with hundreds of interesting manufacturers worldwide - but when you're swimming in options, where do you start? Enter the original modular-pushers themselves, Moog, who made the semi-modular Mother-32 to cater for those looking to embark on a modular system... or who want a complete patchable Moog monosynth in a neat desktop box.

It covers all the core essentials, offering Oscillator, LFO, Filter, Envelope Generator, Noise Generator, Mixers and MIDI to CV conversion, with classic Moog tone, and at a package price vs. individual parts. Then add Moog 60HP/104HP empty Eurorack cases and Tiptop uZeus power supplies, and you're suddenly expanding your Mother-32 as the 'Mother' to a bigger system, adding wacky VCOs, filters and effects, patching it alongside the weird and wonderful modules of Eurorack...

GO THE DISTANCE WITH CONFETTI

Coming soon...

Contemporary Music Hub

A NEW HOME FOR MUSIC & EVENTS

We have exciting news about our courses!

Confetti now offers a host of brand new top-up degrees, validated by NTU. This means you can study a full BSc at Confetti in your chosen course, whilst benefiting from all the advantages of being an NTU student.

Each course contains a specially designed set of brand new modules built around teaching you industry specific skills and software at a higher level. This will allow you to expand on your existing skillset and increase your independence, preparing you for future employment within your chosen specialist field.

- BSc Audio and Music Technology (top-up)
- BSc Film Production Technology (top-up)
- BSc TV Production Technology (top-up)
- BSc Games Production (top-up)
- BSc Live & Technical Events (top-up)
- BSc Visual Effects Production Technology (top-up)

As a Confetti student it couldn't be easier to continue your Confetti journey on one of our new top-up year courses, as you don't need to go through the UCAS process - just complete a form and we'll do the rest!

MSc/MA Creative Technologies*

Postgraduate courses can give you a competitive advantage in the industry, strengthen your creativity and allow you to research in greater depth within your specialist field to build on your previous qualifications. It only takes an additional year to complete and you graduate with a full MA/MSc Creative Technologies from Nottingham Trent University.

As well as being a Confetti student you'll have access to all NTU facilities including the Students' Union and opportunities to join clubs, societies and attend NTU's Welcome Week.

MA Commercial Songwriting and Production*

Tileyard Education and Confetti have developed an MA in Commercial Songwriting and Production, for launch in October 2017, delivered entirely at the Tileyard Education Centre, London.

**Subject to validation*

It's not too late to start your 2017 application for a Confetti foundation, top-up or postgraduate degree.

Want to know more? Email hello@confetti.ac.uk, call 0115 952 2075 or speak to your tutor for more info.





SUMMER FESTIVAL GUIDE

Our home city Nottingham is buzzing with creative talents, so there's no surprise the city holds a variety of amazing festivals! We've put together a list of some of the best festivals in and around Notts, so you don't miss out!

DOT TO DOT FESTIVAL

Various Venues including Rock City, Stealth, The Bodega & The Rescue Rooms

Sunday 28 May
From £12

Dot To Dot has showcased the best new talent from around the globe since starting in Notts twelve years ago putting the likes of The xx, Mumford & Sons and Florence & The Machine on the map.

Taking place in Bristol, Nottingham and Manchester, this year's line-up includes Sundara Karma, The Growlers, Amber Run, Honeyblood and many more future stars.

DETONATE FESTIVAL 18+

Colwick Country Park

Friday 9 - Saturday 10 June
Day ticket from £48 /
Weekend ticket from £69

Enjoy over 85 of your favourite house, garage and drum 'n' bass artists on the island in the middle of Nottingham's oldest country park for Detonate's biggest party yet!

Most of you will be breaking up for the summer so why not celebrate by seeing the likes of Kano, Chase & Status, Dusky, Wiley plus so much more.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL

Donington Park, Leicestershire

Friday 9 - Sunday 11 June
Day ticket from £83 /
Weekend ticket from £180

Arguably the most popular British rock and heavy metal festival, Download returns for a weekend full of rock gods, including Biffy Clyro, Aerosmith and System of a Down. Over 90,000 rock fans will descend on Donington Park and mosh to over 140 bands over three days. With a line up that puts some of the world's best bands with the newest emerging talent, there's something for every rock fan to enjoy.

TRAMLINES FESTIVAL

Various locations, Sheffield

Friday 21 - Sunday 23 July
From £46.20

Ditch the swamped fields this summer for Sheffield's biggest weekend full of inner-city music! The new look festival site with brand-new areas dedicated to new emerging talent promises to excite - especially with the likes of The Libertines, All Saints & Kano headlining. Showing off a wide range of musical talent, the festival brings together some of South Yorkshire's most exciting acts with a bunch of household names.

SPLENDOUR FESTIVAL

Wollaton Park

Saturday 22 July
From £39.60

Voted Best Medium-sized Festival at the 2016 Live UK Business Awards, Splendour is back and is to be headlined by multiple Brit Award winning band Kaiser Chiefs! Amongst the 40 acts confirmed to join them are Busted, one of the biggest homegrown pop acts of this century. Best thing about Splendour? We have our own stage! Yes, headlining the Confetti stage will be Grammy Award winning singer Billy Ocean - the star has sold more than 30 million records to date.

Y NOT FESTIVAL

Pikehall Matlock, Derbyshire

Thursday 27 - Saturday 29 July
£114.50 Limited tickets remain

Derbyshire's finest festival looks like the best yet, headlined by legends the Stereophonics, Two Door Cinema Club and The Vaccines.

The Peak District countryside becomes home to a mix of amazing music from every conceivable genre, featuring the very best local talent as well as the acts you already know and love.

SUMMER NIGHTS OUTDOOR FILM FESTIVAL

Clumber Park & Wollaton Hall

Friday 4 - Saturday 5 & Thursday 24 - Monday 28 August
Early bird £11

Back for its seventh year at 13 great locations, the festival will be coming to Clumber Park for the first time! The festival also returns to Wollaton Hall giving you seven days full of cult classics - bring a blanket and settle in to watch the big screen under the stars.

WHAT'S ON IN NOTTS?



ALIEN: COVENANT

Various cinemas

We're excited to see the brand new chapter in Ridley Scott's ground breaking ALIEN franchise as he returns to the incredible universe he created.

After the crew of the colony ship Covenant discover what they think is an uncharted paradise, they slowly realise it's actually a dark and dangerous world. Will they escape...will they survive?



SMASHZILLA 6

The National Videogame Arcade

Are you a fan of games? Do you want to complete for cash prizes? Look no further than the UK's 2nd biggest Smash 4 singles & doubles tournament, also featuring Melee & Street Fighter V! All tournaments will be Round Robin pools, and the final bracket will be 32 player double elimination. Prove you're the best gamer and be crowned king of Carlton Street!



CONFETTI CELEBRATE

This July we will be showcasing the work of our TV & Film, Music, Performance, Games and Digital Media students. With everything from music to gaming and visual effects on show, the event is not to be missed.

It's a fantastic opportunity to spend an afternoon at live film screenings, interactive game demonstrations and more.



OUTDOOR THEATRE SEASON

Various locations

The stunning grounds of Nottingham Castle, Wollaton Hall & Newstead Abbey will once again host a programme of live theatre so grab a blanket, pack some food and enjoy a variety of shows.

You'll be able to choose from a huge selection of theatre classics, including Jane Eyre, Peter Pan, Pride and Prejudice, and Macbeth.



CONFETTI DEGREE SHOWCASE

We open our doors and invite in family, friends and industry leaders to browse the best work from this year's graduating degree students. Exhibiting the work of the next generation of creative and technical talent, this year's Confetti Degree Showcase promises to be the best one yet.

From games designers and TV & filmmakers, to music producers and sound engineers - our students will display their diverse range of skills through complex final year projects - such as documentaries, videogame levels, remixes and mastering portfolios.



THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Musical

Everyone's favourite kooky family are now on stage in the UK premiere of this spectacular musical comedy from the writers of multi award-winning hit musical Jersey Boys, with music and lyrics by Tony Award nominated Andrew Lippa. Join them, plus Uncle Fester, Lurch, Pugsley and more for a heart-warming story of love, family and friendship... with a twist!

Featuring a live orchestra and extraordinary original score, The Addams Family is sure to entertain whether you are 7 or 317!



WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

Various cinemas

Caesar is back and things take a turn for the worse, and may be the start of the end for humanity. After the apes suffer unimaginable losses to the hands of the ruthless Colonel, Caesar struggles with his darker instincts and begins his own journey to avenge his kind.

The two are pitted against each other in a battle that will determine the fate of both their species and the future of the planet.



THE NOTTINGHAM BEACH

Old Market Square

This summer, the seaside will once again arrive in the city as the beach lands in Old Market Square once more. Lounge on the sandy beach and enjoy the delicious food and drink during your summer holidays.

With a padding pool, funfair rides, the ever popular beach bar and special events planned throughout the summer, this year's beach is set to be bigger than ever.

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