

CONFETTI STUDENT MAGAZINE

wire

SPR/SUM 2019



A close-up, sepia-toned photograph of Rocket Raccoon's face. He has a grumpy expression, with his mouth slightly open showing his teeth. He is wearing a dark, textured jacket with a leather collar. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his fur and features.

CHRIS COOK
THE MAKING OF ROCKET

CEL SPELLMAN
RADIO 1 HOST INTERVIEW

INDUSTRY WEEK 2019
THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

 **confetti**
Institute of creative technologies

PART OF
NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY 



2019 has got off to a flying start as we celebrate Confetti's 25th anniversary. In what's set to be the biggest year in Confetti's history, there's been a lot of exciting events already which we have collected for this issue of Wire.

Industry Week 2019 happened in March and we had some great guests. For any Guardians of the Galaxy fans, we met the man who created Rocket and Baby Groot, as well as Cel Spellman from Radio 1, the production manager for Bohemian Rhapsody and so many more. As weeks go, this one was pretty special.

We've also enjoyed a diverse line-up of gigs at Metronome, and will be looking at what's to come over the rest of the year. Whether you're into jazz, hip hop, spoken word or something completely different, chances are we'll have a gig for that!

As for what our amazing students – and alumni – have been up to, you can see for yourself in this issue as we chat to current and former Confetti-goers.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Wire magazine as much as we've enjoyed putting it together!



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Front page: Chris Cook, Cinefex –
Rocket Raccoon from Guardians of the Galaxy 2

Top left: Industry Week Music Panel

Top right: Student Christmas Party

Bottom right: Frantics at Confetti Live (credit: Andrea Bottino)

INDUSTRY WEEK 2019

Industry Week 2019 was a resounding success, with big names from the world of music, media and games coming to Confetti to deliver some great talks. Diversity was the order of the week, with everything from live music performances to games art demos and acting workshops taking place across the Confetti campus.

Our new venue Metronome was the location of choice for many of the talks, and as you can see from our photo gallery the set-up was incredible! Here's what we enjoyed during the week:

1. Chris Cook delivered a fantastic talk about working in VFX for some huge films, and how he created characters like Rocket and Baby Groot in Guardians of the Galaxy 2
2. Our student crew interviewed guests Abigail Longstaffe and David Raper from Mandy.com
3. MLC Academy Jam Session showing students how to improvise like a pro
4. VFX supervisor James Mac spoke about VFX in commercials, feature films and music videos
5. Student band BRIA performing a fantastic set with BBC Introducing on the Metronome stage
6. A Gamer Gamer event which rounded off Industry Week in hilarious fashion with a group of comedians getting their game on for the audience



CEL SPELLMAN

BBC RADIO 1 HOST



Confetti invited Cel Spellman to this year's Industry Week, where the actor and presenter delivered a great talk to students.

At 23, Cel Spellman has already conquered both screen and radio; a feat not wholly typical of someone his age but one that he felt compelled to achieve from a young age. Starting out in showbiz at just seven with a voice-acting role in *Beauty and the Beast*, Spellman moved on to act in the popular BBC drama *Waterloo Road* before making his Radio 1 debut in 2013 on the *Request Show*. Since then, he's secured a Sunday afternoon show on the radio station; a prime-time fixture in the world of radio broadcasting.

So where did his ambition and confidence come from? During his Industry Week interview, Spellman explained how he knew from a young age that he wished to pursue acting. With the support of his family – and an agreement with them that he would continue his academic work alongside acting – he moved to London and attended Sylvia Young Theatre School.

During his talk, he spoke about experiences during and after school, and how he found it tricky to switch from acting to presenting in his first presenter's role on CBBC Friday Download show.

"I'd been told to ignore the camera for eight years, then all of a sudden I was being told to stare down its barrel and talk directly to the lens."



Spellman described his time on CBBC as "the best presenting school possible", and said it sparked his love of presenting which propelled him to move into radio. Being offered his first slot on BBC Radio 1's Sunday afternoon show was somewhat surreal, he laughed.

Now, he's happily pursuing both acting and presenting, with his role on ITV's *Cold Feet* – describing his co-star and on screen father James Nesbitt as a great acting role model who "never has an off day" and knows everybody's name on the set.

His passion, drive and dedication – as well as his hunger to keep learning from others – shone through during his talk, and the buzz felt amongst students really was palpable. Compelling and fresh, he set a true example to students and encouraged them that they could do anything with the right attitude and hard work.

His main bits of advice? "Take every opportunity you are given, always have an answer and never give up – get ready for constant rejection and being ground down, as this is part and parcel of being in the arts. It's probably the hardest part to deal with, but it's all worth it in the end!"

Is there anything Cel Spellman can't do? For ego's sake, we hope so.

THE MAKING OF ROCKET

CHRIS COOK - LEAD MODELLER



“

We delivered
over 1,000
VFX shots and
CG assets...

- CHRIS COOK



Rocket's 'PowerStation' gun in the opening title sequence was designed in one hour.

In the opening sequence we found ourselves in a position where we needed to design a new gun for Rocket without any concept art, and quickly. We decided that it would be fun to run what we call a 'lunch crunch' competition. On Friday morning we posed the challenge to the whole modelling department to design his gun, no brief, just make it cool. Lunch crunch rules are you can only work on it over a one hour lunch, all designs must be submitted by 2pm. That Friday evening we sent 17 concepts to the clients and they fell in love with the one you see today. The actual model build took over three weeks to complete.

It took three modellers to make the Rocket.

On my team I had one person responsible for the main model, which included skin, anatomy and eyes. A second was responsible for the costume and a third artist just made face shapes for the



animators to use. Other artists jumped in every now and then to help give the build a little push, and in all, probably around a year's worth of man hours were spent on just the model alone. And that's just the base model, even more people were involved in rigging, texture, groom, look development and everything else!

We made him twice.

Despite the fact that Framestore made Rocket for the first Guardians film, we actually completely restarted when it came to making the second film. This was to take advantage of improvements in muscle and flesh systems that would help us achieve a more realistic performance.

He had 91 face shapes.

We broke his dialogue down into individual movements of areas of the face, called FACS shapes. Once we had done this we determined that with 91 different shapes combined in different ways we could make him say everything he needed to say.

His signature wink is anatomically impossible.

Our highly skilled face shape artist spent a lot of time trying to figure out how Rocket could wink with the corners of his lips pulling back. Turns out that there is no combination of muscles that could achieve exactly what James wanted it to be while maintaining the anatomy required to do all other movements required, so we faked it!

On set Rocket was played by Director James Gunn's brother who shuffled around on his knees. Yes, you read that right. He had to be digitally removed in foreground and reflections in every shot and replaced with our CG character.

Here are some random facts from the work we delivered on GOTG2.

- We delivered over 1,000 VFX shots and CG assets
- We received 104,737 client notes
- There were 12,900 tasks
- We made 100,000 submission iterations



Actor Paul Warren spoke to us about his experiences as a sci-fi and fantasy actor, how he found his way into the industry, and how he has even had a toy modelled after one of his characters now.

What is one thing that took you by surprise about working in film?

That I am being paid to play monsters in movies! Growing up, I was obsessed with monster movies. It just seemed like a fun thing to be into! I had no idea you could do it for a living, let alone do it myself.

We have some students who are getting involved in acting for film and TV. What advice would you give them to succeed on the job?

First and foremost, dedicate yourself to the craft of acting. Take acting classes, network with like-minded individuals, and be a team player and easy to work with. That last one goes a long way, because so much of this industry is based on recommendations.

For anyone struggling to get involved in the industry, what or where - in your opinion - is a good place to start?

Don't forget it's more than just wanting to be in the film industry. Think about the skillset you will need in whatever area you want to be in. Once you have a great skillset to offer, you will get the chance to interview for jobs. It's a cliché, but hard work and dedication pays off in the end!

What's your favourite project that you've worked on to date?

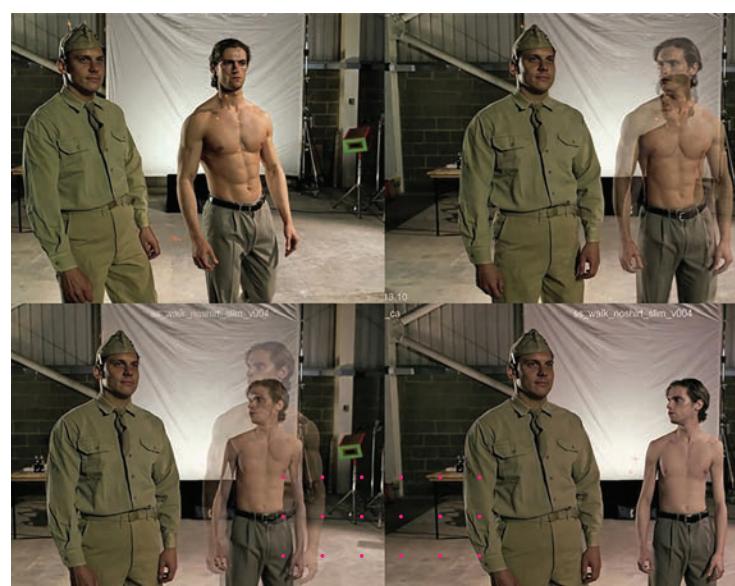
I've been very lucky to work on some very big and fun franchises (Harry Potter, Marvel and Star Wars). If I had to pick, it would be Star Wars: The Force Awakens. I've been a massive fan since I was three years old, so to not only be an alien character in the series, but also to have a toy made of the character means a lot to me.

What are three great sci-fi/fantasy films that you think everyone should watch?

Children of Men - a stunning sci-fi film that is still relevant today, if not even more so socially and politically than when it came out.

The Invisible Man - one of the best, but most underrated entries in the Universal monster movie series. A great sci-fi and comedy with brilliant special effects and a fun maniacal performance by Claude Rains.

Time Bandits - a band of time-travelling dwarves rob and steal from famous figures in history. I love it!



Left: Skinny Steve Rogers VFX head replacement test

Right: Skinny Steve Rogers VFX double - Captain America: The First Avenger



Top right: Dowager alien with Space Gary - Star Wars: The Last Jedi
Top left & bottom: Toothless with the Mini Miners - Guardians of the Galaxy

DO IT FOR REAL GAMES

CONFETTI GRADUATE, BRADLEY HUNTER



Photo: A 3D starter environment created for a classic RPG inspired character sheet blueprint made within UE4.

What made you choose to study at Confetti?
I first started out in Confetti studying my BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Media Production (Games Development), before going on to study a foundation degree in Games Technology. After school I knew I wanted to be a part of the games industry in some way and after being told about Confetti by a friend I decided it was the best choice for me to learn the basics of creating video games, along with everything I needed to know about games production - not just a specified course on one aspect of it e.g. 3D modelling or animation.

What advice would you give someone thinking of studying your course/a similar course at Confetti?
Make the most out of the facilities and software on offer at Confetti - don't just use them in work hours. You don't know when you'll be able to make use of motion capture studios, foley studios and the vast amount of expensive software which is given to you freely to use. When I was at Confetti, I made sure to gather as much future portfolio work as possible!

Would you recommend Confetti and your course to someone looking to study in that area?
Of course - Confetti really can't be beaten in its offering of fantastic facilities to create projects in and

out-of-work hours. Confetti also offers great industry opportunities throughout the years to students and reward the students that go above and beyond with their work.

What was it like living in Nottingham? Could you tell us a bit about how you found the city as a student?
Nottingham is great! There are so many great and interesting places to go eat and drink. The creative corner in Hockley is forever expanding and always has something interesting to get involved with. The nightlife for students - and professionals - is the best and keeps the city very active.

What is your current role, and what exciting projects have you been involved with since leaving Confetti?
It only took a few months after graduation and I had the opportunity to work at Rockstar Games after being referred by a fellow student and good friend from Confetti. I am currently working for Rockstar Games as a games tester and I have worked on such projects like Red Dead Redemption 2, both single player and online. I have also worked on Grand Theft Auto 5, and its various DLC releases. I've never looked back since. I have Confetti to thank for this connection and giving me the skills and the confidence to take on this role.



“ It sounds trite but be you, be interested in other people first then be interesting back, be gregarious.

- TIM EXILE

What was one thing that took you by surprise about the music industry?

When I started out I thought the music industry was an industry for all musical creativity and that as long as what you did was excellent and connected with audiences you'd succeed.

I didn't factor in the history of the music industry and how it has evolved around the principle revenue stream - record sales - and that the systems, institutions and secondary industries (such as music creation technology) had all evolved to maximise this revenue stream - and were strongly entrenched.

We have a lot of students who are just starting to get gigs, what advice would you give them to get more bookings?

It sounds trite but be you, be interested in other people first then be interesting back, be gregarious, don't be shy to say hello to people you don't know, be curious and open to how your thing might fit other people's thing. It's primarily all about making connections and staying open (by the way, this is advice I still need to take!).

If you go into it with that attitude then wherever the great opportunity of the time is (conferences, meetups, gigs, scenes, social platforms etc) you can be there with the right attitude.

If this doesn't come naturally to you then fake it 'til you make it.

What's the best way for a band to develop a fan base?

I'm no expert at this but, like I said above, it's so important to be yourself and then the right audience for your music, or other talents, will watch! One skill I've been working on more recently is trying to get an idea of how what I'm doing looks on the outside to various groups of people. Knowing what people really like and who they are seems like a statement of the obvious but it's hard to do.

Should a new, unestablished band spend more time in the recording studio or playing at live gigs?

It depends on what your strength is. If you have an amazing live show and love touring then make as few records as you need to support your touring activities. If your records are exquisite works and you'd much rather be in the studio then do the minimum number of gigs you need to support your compositional art.

What advice would you give budding musicians looking to start a career?

Do what you love and think long and hard about whether you really want to sacrifice it for the sake of turning it into a career. Be honest with yourself about what you want most. Is it realising an aesthetic vision and making a positive

impact in the world? Is it building a movement? Is it about proving yourself and receiving validation? How will your childhood patterning play out in the future?

Be realistic about the gap between your fantasy self and your actual self. If you want music to be a career you'll likely have to spend a lot of time away from home, spend years living below the poverty line, get little sleep and be knocked down repeatedly.

All of this will likely exacerbate any self-esteem issues you might have (maybe they're the ones that made you want to sacrifice something you love to forge a career in music in the first place). But if you manage to weather these storms you're in with a chance of learning a lot about yourself, conquering your demons and carving out a nice lifestyle business in the process. It's a quest. Are you a quester?

What are three albums everyone should listen to at least once?

1. Visible Cloaks - Reassemblage
2. Future Sound of London - Essential Mix May 1994
3. Scion - Arrange and Process Basic Channel Tracks

PRODUCTION MANAGER TIPS

JENNIFER WYNNE



Production Manager for some of the world's best-loved films, including Bohemian Rhapsody, Pride and Woman in Black, Jennifer Wynne is a distinguished member of the film industry. We were able to interview her during her visit to Nottingham for Industry Week, and here's what she had to say about working in film production...

What is one thing that took you by surprise about working in film?

I think everyone has this image of working in film as being really glamorous, but it's incredibly hard work – often in condensed periods of time. We once had a runner come and work on a production, and he went out drinking one night during the first week of filming, thinking he could manage it, but the next day he really couldn't so was off the project.

It's a commitment, it's a lot of fields and car parks and quite a nomadic lifestyle of working with people for a few months, perhaps a year, and then not working with them again for five – if ever!

We have some students who are getting involved in films and TV shows being produced. What advice would you give them to succeed on the job?

It really is all about attitude. It's not how much you know, it's how you act on set. Be helpful, be on time every day, be reliable and perky and you will always find work.

A lot of hires are based on reputation and through word of mouth, so if you've been a complete star on a set, your name and reputation will precede you and you will get that next job.

Don't be proud about working on smaller projects, either; every job is a job.

For anyone struggling to get involved in film, what or where – in your opinion – is a good place to start?

Everyone in a high-up position in the film industry has got there themselves, through working hard and networking. My main bit of advice would be to contact as many people whose work interests you as possible.

Personally address them in your emails, mention their work that you like and email them twice if they don't get back to you at first. People in the industry – nine times out of ten – are happy to help, and have been where you are now, wanting to enter the industry, so don't be shy about getting in touch. Send your CV far and wide, and approach everybody you want to.

What's your favourite project you've ever worked on, and why?

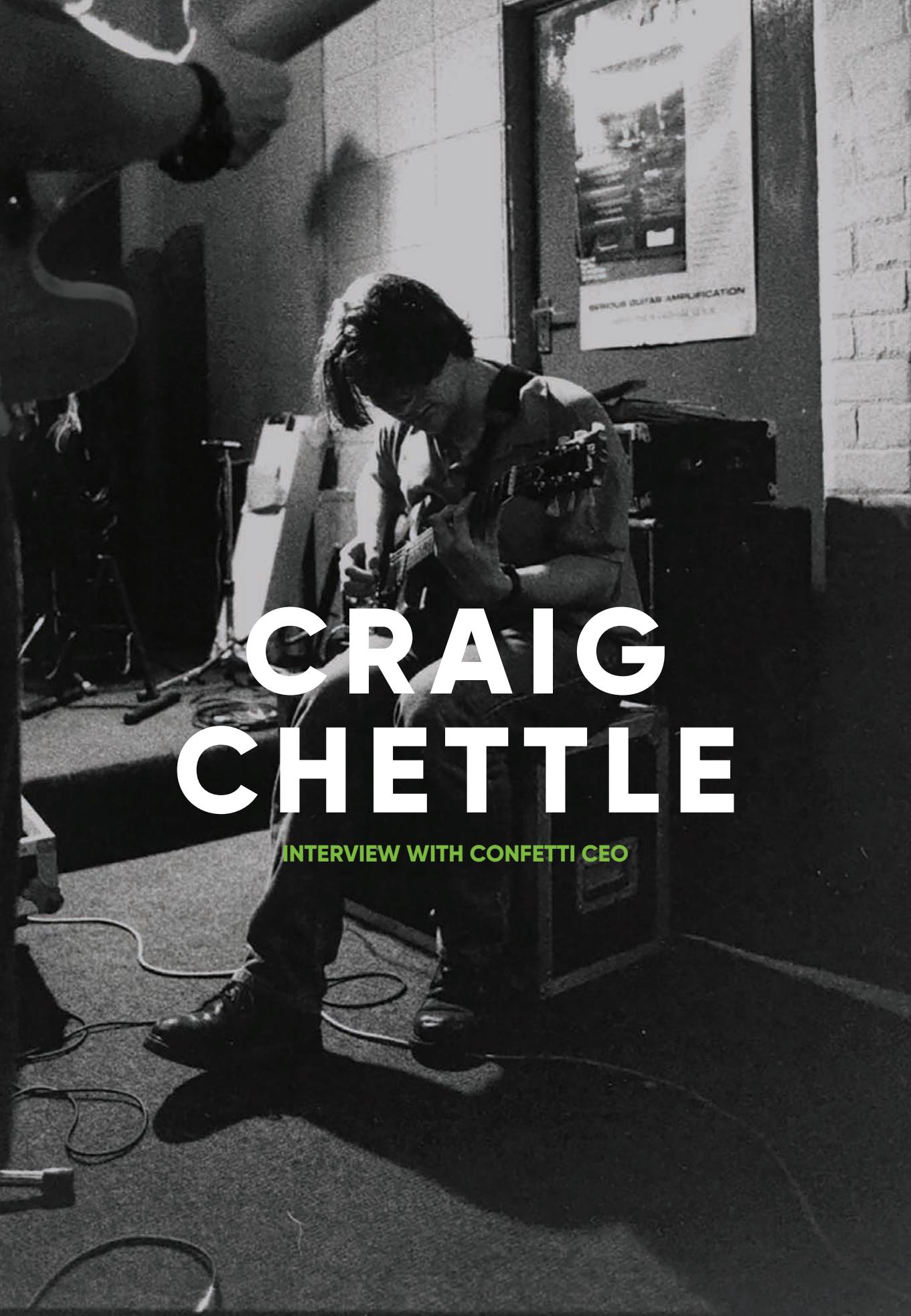
That's such a tricky one, as I've enjoyed a lot! But I'd say Pride was up there – everyone involved was fantastic, both cast and crew, and it felt like a real family unit. I also enjoyed Woman in Black a great deal – Daniel Radcliffe is lovely!

Film is always a collaboration, so the best projects are when you get a real sense of that; a true partnership and effectiveness between cast and crew.

What are a couple of films that you think everyone should watch?

How can I pick just a couple? I'd have to say Roman Holiday & Angel Heart.





CRAIG CHETTLE

INTERVIEW WITH CONFETTI CEO

CONFETTI CEO CRAIG CHETTLE

This year is Confetti's 25th anniversary, so ahead of our official anniversary issue, we've got together with our CEO Craig Chettle to find out a bit more about him.

How and why did you set up Confetti?

When I tried to learn about the tech industry I found that a lot of people weren't that willing to share their knowledge and expertise. I wanted to change this and come up with a way for young people to learn about music tech and the music production industry from those in the know.

What's your favourite bit of kit on offer here?

One of the first bits of world-class kit I bought was a Neve VR60 mixing desk. I bought it back in 2000, and it was the start of many a great piece of kit to come onto the Confetti campus. At the moment, my favourite bit of 'kit' – if we can count it as that – is definitely Metronome's live venue.

Spending so much time on tour when I was younger, I got to know what a really good and a really bad venue would sound like, and so to be able to have such a world-class offering for performers, audiences and even tech teams is something I'm immensely proud of and thankful for.

If you had to pick, what's the best gig/festival you've been to?

This is a tough one as music really is my passion. One of the first times I heard Wycliffe performing – a Nottingham musician I later worked with a lot – I heard him rehearsing with his band in a little practice room on Alfreton Road in Nottingham. I couldn't believe how

tight the band were, it was electric – and his voice was just amazing. He sounded like Marvin Gaye!

What do you love about Nottingham?

I love how humble it is here, how humble the people are. I think we could shout about our city a lot more! It's got a great connectedness, Nottingham – like the best bits of a village, but within a proper city. I like that you can walk from one side of the city centre to the other in a matter of minutes, and go to gigs at a variety of venues without having to so much as step onto a bus.

Outside of Confetti, what do you love doing?

I do keep very busy with all things Confetti, so I'm often at events and performances in the evenings. Outside of this, though, I am close with my family; wife, two sons and our dog. My mum's local as well, so we get together and wind each other up on a regular basis. I like walking, and swimming; when I get time!

What would you tell your 18 year-old self?

I think I was always quite driven, so at 18 I had get-up-and-go and wanted to be learning and creating. I'd probably just say keep going, the hard work will pay off.

If you weren't the boss of Confetti, what would you be doing?

I actually worked in the NHS before I set up Confetti, in operating

theatres helping put people under anaesthetic. A stark contrast from what I do now, but I think that gave me an insight into what other industries would be like. I always knew I wanted to do something in music. Not everyone knows that Confetti is part of a larger group of businesses, including Notts TV who celebrate their fifth anniversary this year and Antenna who are celebrating their tenth.

Can you tell us anything about the special event planned later this year, any teasers – or have we got to wait?

I shouldn't. But I can tell you that it's going to be spectacular – all disciplines, music, media and games, will be involved.

Finally, how would you sum up Confetti in three words?

Unique – every day we strive to bring together education and commercial viability in a work-like setting. We're the only people who do this – Industry Week is the epitome of this.

Ambitious and exciting – we're persistent in our search for excellence, and there's always something new and exciting going on around that.

Caring – we really do care about all of our staff, and all of our students. There's a real community feel at Confetti, and I think that's so important in any business and learning environment.

(Yes – he used four words – but we will let him off as he is the CEO!)

STUDENT DEBUTS ON BBC RADIO DERBY

INTERVIEW WITH MELISSA COTTON



“ I’m now more determined than ever to write my own songs. I think it’s about finding your inner voice and writing from your emotions.

- MELISSA COTTON

Confetti student Melissa Cotton recently made her debut on BBC Radio Derby, forging an exciting start to her musical career. The Level 3 Music Performance and Songwriting student sang an original piece, ‘Your Eyes’, live on the radio station in January, gaining great exposure for her unique work and performance.

We spoke to Melissa about her experience of performing, why she chose music at Confetti, and what the future holds.

When did you first start to sing and play the ukulele?

I’ve always enjoyed singing, but in the latter stages of primary school I was told by a teacher that I had a nice voice and that I should try a talent competition. My parents entered me into Britain’s Got Talent and although I didn’t get to the televised shows, the production team did give me some great advice to work on my confidence as they liked my voice. I think that was what spurred me on to want to do more in music. During my last year in primary school my parents bought my first ukulele to have a play on!

At high school I was able to get more into what is involved in music. I started to understand the wider roles in the industry and this broadened my horizons a lot, and alongside this I also continued to teach myself how to play the ukulele from hours of YouTube tutorials.

During the latter part of high school I went to regular open mic sessions, building on my confidence and over the years I have acquired quite a few musical influences. These are mostly from indie artists like Mac DeMarco and Ezra Furman to name a few.

Have you performed live before your BBC debut?

I have performed live many times before at gigs and local festivals. I also currently host six open mic nights and have around one or two other gigs per week.

I love performing to an audience now, and what I find really special is the opportunity to meet so many nice people that are also incredibly talented musicians.

What factors contributed to you choosing Confetti over other colleges?

Naturally my high school suggested I could stay on there and other colleges were promoting their music courses, but in the end there was only one viable option. I saw what Confetti could provide and it excited me far more than anywhere else; I’m half way through my second year with Confetti and I’m confident I made the right choice!

The Confetti staff are all friendly, understanding and have an excellent attitude towards the profession and for me personally, I find there’s a lot I have learnt from my tutors, and that is something I will always be thankful for.

Finally, what have you got coming up in 2019?

I’m now more determined than ever to write my own songs. I think it’s about finding your inner voice and writing from your emotions. This is a process I didn’t like working with at the beginning, but using the skills I’ve been taught at Confetti, I’m really enjoying being creative.

My new songs will be included on my new website that is currently being built, but can be found soon. Visit it at www.melissacotton.co.uk

Left image: BBC Radio Derby – Top Floor, with presenter, Martyn Williams

GRADUATE SUCCESS STORIES



PETEBOX
MUSICAL ARTIST

What made you choose to study at Confetti?

I did the HND in Music Production and Sound Engineering. Me and my band had been recording ourselves on super cheap gear and set up our own shows for years, so it was the most exciting thing to find out you could actually do a degree in it and in such a kitted-out establishment. Confetti was a wonderland of gear and knowledge!

What was the most valuable thing you learnt through your course?

It wasn't one thing really - just the impact of being around so many motivated and knowledgeable people was massively inspiring for me. Having said that though, I definitely noticed that it was those who worked in their own time producing their own/other people's stuff, experimenting themselves and booking out the studios to play around that got the most out of the course. So I'd say, learn while you're there, use that knowledge to go wild in your own time.

Confetti was a wonderland of gear and knowledge!

- PETEBOX

What advice would you give someone thinking of studying your course/a similar course at Confetti?

Get booking the studios for your own projects and sound experiments - something like sound engineering, music production or video production isn't just for the classroom, you need to play around with what you learn and be creating in your own time.

What was it like living in Nottingham?

I love Nottingham! As a musician it's an amazing place for the amount of music nights there are - open mic nights, indie club nights and it's one of the major spots for touring bands so there's so much going on.

What do you enjoy most about your current role, and does it use the skills you learnt during your time at Confetti?

I record and produce most of my music so for sure I use what I learnt. Being knowledgeable about that side of things is not only necessary if you don't have money early on as otherwise you won't be able to make records, but I think creatively, being comfortable and knowledgeable about music tech is massively powerful. It makes me write so much more and experiment with way more styles - a dubstep track one day, an orchestral arrangement the next.



RHIANNE MURPHY
VIDEOGAME LEVEL DESIGNER

What is one thing that took you by surprise about working in the games industry?

When I got into the industry it was a nice surprise to see how supportive the developer community is. Even if you're just starting out in the industry lots of developers are happy to give you feedback and talk about their experiences to help you in your journey.

We have some students who are getting involved in games production. What advice would you give them to succeed on the job?

My advice is take your time and develop your skills. The industry can be competitive so try your best to be on top of your game. Take the time you need to figure out what it is you're good at and enjoy and the rest will come with hard work and perseverance.

For anyone struggling to get involved in the industry, what or where – in your opinion – is a good place to start?

I will always recommend meeting new people. Gamers, developers just anyone who is passionate about games, go to events and just get to know people. Expositions like EGX and local meetups like East Midlands Indies are a great place to start. If you're looking to workshop your skills, participate in Game Jams since they can be great opportunities to learn something new.

What's your favourite project you've ever worked on, and why?

I'm still a baby in the industry and I've only just released my first project: Crackdown 3. It was surreal seeing stuff that I made on Twitch streams and on the stage of E3.

What are three great games that you think everyone should play?

I recommend playing the Witcher 3 and Armello for two different reasons but my third recommendation is that every developer should play a good old-fashioned game of Dungeons and Dragons.



GEORGE TATCHELL
3D ARTIST

What made you choose to study at Confetti?

I started at Confetti in 2010 on the Digital Video and Broadcast Production course. I currently work as a lighting TD in film visual effects. I have worked on James Bond, Independence Day, Mary Poppins and Ant Man and the Wasp. I chose Confetti because of where it was and the facilities and equipment I would have access to.

What was the most valuable thing you learnt through your course?

I think one of the most valuable things I took from the course was how film and video production was a team effort - everyone has their skills and strengths which they can contribute to get the best job possible done. This was very much the case in the group project we did.

What advice would you give someone thinking of studying your course/a similar course at Confetti?

Come in to the course open-minded and wanting to absorb as much knowledge as you can. Have an idea of where you want to go at the end but try everything, you may find something you didn't think you will enjoy. Also having a base knowledge of all disciplines will help you in the long run.

Would you recommend Confetti and your course to someone looking to study in that area?

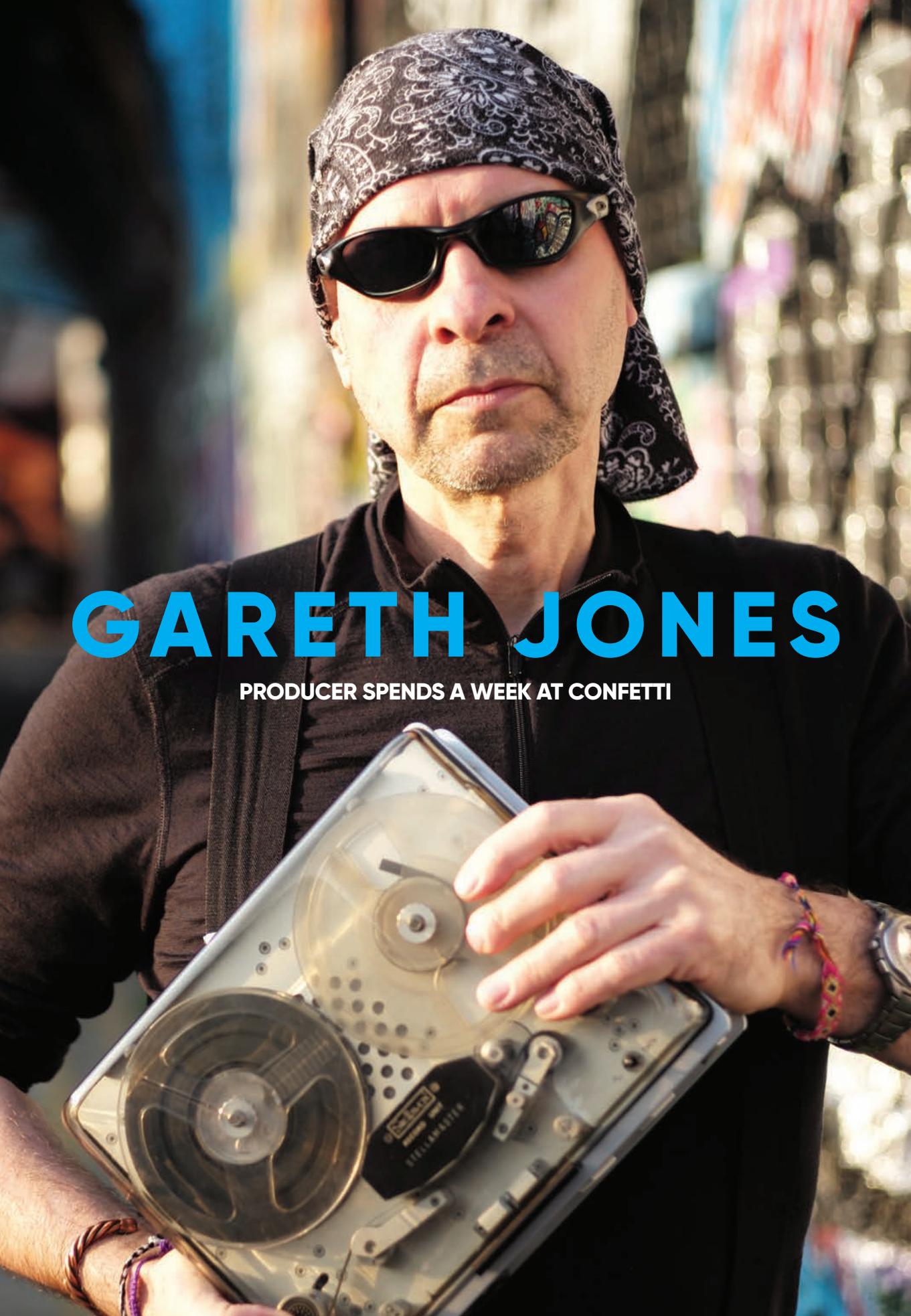
Yes I definitely would! It's provided me with a great grounding and has helped hugely in getting me where I am today.

Could you tell us a bit about how you found the city as a student?

I lived a bit of a different student life as I was also a full-time athlete on the British canoeing team. So I was basically just training and working the whole time but I enjoyed it.

What do you enjoy most about your current role, and does it use the skills you learnt during your time at Confetti?

I really enjoy the mix of creativity and technical components; I get to see movies in the raw form and also work as part of a large team. The skills I got during my time at Confetti have been hugely instrumental in my job!



GARETH JONES

PRODUCER SPENDS A WEEK AT CONFETTI

PRODUCER GARETH JONES

“It was such a pleasure to work with your talented students in Metronome – the results were outstanding!”

- GARETH JONES

In January this year, Confetti welcomed iconic music producer Gareth Jones to work with a group of music technology students as well as BRIA; the band formed from a group of Music Performance students here at Confetti. The students worked together with Gareth to record and produce two new tracks for the band.

Left: Credit: Doug Dreger
Top right: Gareth Jones in the SSL Duality studio showing students how to use the console



Gareth is renowned for his work in the music industry, having worked with the likes of Depeche Mode, Wire and Erasure.

During his four days at Confetti, it's safe to say Gareth's impact on the students was intense and inspiring, as he brought his years of expertise in the industry to those just starting out in it. Both music technology and music performance students got the chance to work with Gareth, including student band BRIA.

Bria Buxton spoke of the event: "It was an incredible experience to be able to work with someone with such amazing knowledge and ideas. I feel so lucky to have been given the opportunity and can't wait to share what we have made with everyone soon!"

Our students were able to pick up some useful tips from Gareth that they still use now, from setting up a live room to the software they use. Dean Kirkman told us how much he'd learnt.

"I learned a lot of tips, shortcuts and tricks for operating Pro Tools, to say Gareth worked more using

Logic, he really knew his stuff when it came to PT. It made me think that if you want to excel in the industry it's best to be adaptable and not pigeonhole yourself to one method of working".

Not only were our students thrilled to have Gareth working with them for the week, but Gareth himself gave the students a glowing review.

"It was a pleasure to work with the excellent team of students – music tech and performance. The tech team were instrumental in making the session flow so smoothly, and the results were outstanding! You told me the musicians were good and you were so right – Bria and the band were amazing, talented and open-minded".

On the subject of Metronome's facilities and equipment, Gareth couldn't give enough praise.

"The SSL Duality studio was truly amazing. I also loved the sound of the recording room which was perfect for recording a live band".

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

BETH ROWLEY

Beth Rowley is known for her voice and love of Blues and Gospel. After the huge success of her UK top 10 album 'Little Dreamer' in 2008, for which she was nominated for a Brit Award, she's back after working on her much anticipated second album. During her Tracing the Line tour, Beth performed at Metronome earlier this year. We managed to grab her for an insightful interview...

What was one thing that took you by surprise about the music industry?

There's been a lot of change. The process of producing a record is so different now from how it was 10 years ago. The 18 month - 2 year cycle of record/tour is also changing hugely too.

We have a lot of students who are just starting to get gigs, what advice would you give them to get more bookings?
The best bit of advice I could give would be to try and do as much as you can yourself. Arranging your own transport, your own set-up, keeping costs down and covering basic costs

yourself are other ways to be able to play as many gigs as possible. You've got to be willing to do things as an artist - long drives, late nights, the whole thing.

What's the best way for a band to develop a fan base?

The crucial bit is working out your target audience - or audiences. Once you've worked out who they are, it's easier to reach out to and connect with them. I love meeting people after my gigs, it really is the highlight for me. These days, it's so important to build your social presence - something I'm slowly but surely getting the hang of!

Should a new, unestablished band spend more time in the recording studio or playing at live gigs?

You can do both! But for me, recording was really a means to an end - if I could, I would happily just perform live forever. In fact, I love it so much that when I record music in the studio, we create a setup that emulates live performance - the lighting, a couple of people watching, just the whole mood. There's something about being in the moment, for me, which I really can only get when performing live to an audience.

“It’s important to make sure that you find your niche. Play around with different sounds, but make sure that whatever direction you take with your music, it’s on your terms.”

- BETH ROWLEY



What advice would you give budding musicians looking to start a career?

It's important to make sure that you find your niche. Play around with different sounds, but make sure that whatever direction you take with your music, it's on your terms.

Writing and playing your music should make you feel like the best version of yourself - if this stops being the case, you need to make the right changes for you and your sound.

What are three albums anyone should listen to at least once?

1. Neil Young – Harvest
2. TLC – CrazySexyCool
3. Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory – Various Artists

Find out more about Metronome, visit metronome.uk.com

Top: Beth Rowley, performing at Metronome
Credit: Jake Osborne



CONFETTI GOALS

WRITTEN BY SAMANTHA DEWIRE



Confetti aims to provide the best possible start point for their students to enter a variety of creative industries, and with an astounding amount of success stories, it is clear that anyone can make it. In the past few months, several Confetti graduates have made their way into high-profile jobs, with one ex-student landing a role at Notts TV, and another taking on a part-time residency across Nottingham Trent University, whilst already being an editor for LeftLion magazine. The triumph of so many ex-students has not been a simple walk in the park. It's a tough road from college student to industry professional.

It takes a lot of hard work and ambition, so what can you do to increase your chance of success?



Set yourself realistic goals, but don't be afraid to push yourself.

- SAMANTHA DEWIRE

Left: Film and Television student trip to New York 2019
Right: Student Christmas Party in Metronome



1. MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TUTORS

The tutors at Confetti work in the industry in addition to their teaching roles, which is what makes their advice that extra bit valuable. As well as this, they are all well educated in their field, and are more than capable of aiding you with anything that you have questions about.

2. BE BRAVE

Speak up in class! If you have a question, ask it! If you have an idea, share it! If you want to fulfil your dreams, you've got to make the effort to grab it yourself. Never be afraid to put yourself forward for something that you want to do - when you fail to push yourself into a situation, you lose any chance to get there. When you push yourself and leave your comfort zone, you can achieve things that you could've never imagined you could be capable of.

3. GO ON TRIPS

The trips are a fun break from college, but they can also prove to be full of indispensable help and advice. Recent Film and Television trips have included a

few days in New York, during which students visited the New York Film Academy, where they had a digital cinematography lesson with Danielle Napolitano, and a trip to the Warner Bros Studio in London, which allowed students to see how all aspects of the Harry Potter films were made.

4. HAVE A PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

This is good practice for when you are trying to get into the industry. This includes being punctual to lessons and handing your assignments in on time, and to a high quality. You must also treat your fellow classmates, guests and tutors with respect, as you would be expected to treat your colleagues in any industry.

5. BE CLEAR ON YOUR GOALS

Set yourself realistic goals, but don't be afraid to push yourself. At the start of an assignment, know what you want to do for it, plan well and don't settle for less than the best you can do. If you know that you've done your best, then you shouldn't be disappointed in the work you've created.

6. WORK HARD OUTSIDE OF LESSONS

If you only work on your assignments in lesson time, then you may struggle to get the best grades.

Moreover, when presented with the opportunity to take on external projects, you shouldn't be too quick to dismiss them. With students having the regular chance to work at Notts TV and Splendour, there are always plenty of chances for Confetti students to have early access to volunteer work in their desired industry.

Furthermore, whilst you have Confetti's plethora of high-quality equipment to hand, it is encouraged for you to take on your own projects as well.

These tips aren't the be all and end all of what you can do, but they are a good start. Not every one of the above points will work for you individually - this is simply a guide to be used as a starting point for you to have the best future possible.

JACK PICKERILL

PHOTOGRAPHER



Eagle-eyed residents of Notts may well have spotted this brilliant photo of former Level 3 Music Performance student, Iona Jackman-Hart, (performing at Battle of the Bands NTU) advertising Confetti courses.

jackpickerill.co.uk
[@jackpickers](https://www.instagram.com/jackpickers/)



Where and when did you capture this brilliant photo?
I shot this whilst covering my university's annual Battle of the Bands event; this was my first year studying and one of the first events I had shot. Glaring purple and red lights in this venue made for bizarre skin tones so grayscale seemed the best option!

When did you first get into photography, and how did you learn more about it? Did you take any specific training courses?
I'm currently in my final year of a BA photography degree, before which I studied on a course briefly at my local college but otherwise I have been self taught since 2011. I started out by shooting action

sports and later branched out into other styles and genres of photography.

What's your work history in photography been to date?

Over the past few years I have shot various classical concerts for NTU Music, as well as corporate conferences, graduation parties, awards nights and even product shots for an up-and-coming fitness brand.

What piece of advice would you give to young creatives about pursuing the career they want?

As I'm still building a full-time career myself, I'm still learning. One thing I would say, though, is that accepting any work I

could get was helpful. It's important to get experience out there and it can be surprising how small jobs lead to other different ventures.

What's next for you? Are there any particular projects you wish to work on/places you want to go and photograph?

Right now I'm working on finishing my latest photobook 'In Passing'. This will be exhibited as part of my degree show project in May at Nottingham's Hung Up Gallery.

Other than that, upon finishing my degree I will be working towards freelancing full time, and pursuing a career in my fine art photography practice.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY

Don't worry if you've missed the UCAS January deadline. If you want to study with us in September 2019, you can still apply to Confetti.

WHY STUDY AT CONFETTI?

This year we're celebrating our 25th year! We're proud to offer a bigger, better range of industry-tailored courses than ever before. Since we began in 1994, we have grown outwards – with almost 2000 students studying with us – and upwards, reaching new heights with our impressive campus of Confetti HQ, Metronome and Space2 where we've invested £13 million in our facilities.

YOU'LL GET TO:

- Enjoy the Nottingham lifestyle and study in the creative quarter
- Be a guest at Confetti's Industry Week 2020
- Getting 'Do it for real' work experience at events such as Splendour
- Showcase your talent to family, friends and industry guests at Confetti's Degree Showcase

Don't miss out, apply now through UCAS!

Being part of Nottingham Trent University (NTU) gives you the best of both worlds. This year students have given the University an **89% satisfaction rating** in the National Student Satisfaction Survey, the fifth highest score amongst mainstream universities. The score puts the University in the top ten of all 145 institutions included, an improvement of 16 places on last year.

Confetti's strong industry connections will help you better understand your future in the creative industry. Every year Confetti marks March with a one-of-a-kind event – Industry Week – allowing students to brush shoulders with guests such as legendary documentary filmmaker Nick Broomfield, Emmerdale favourites Roxy Shahidi & Sammy Winward, Playstation Access Channel Manager Hollie Bennett and Radio 1Xtra's Mistajam.



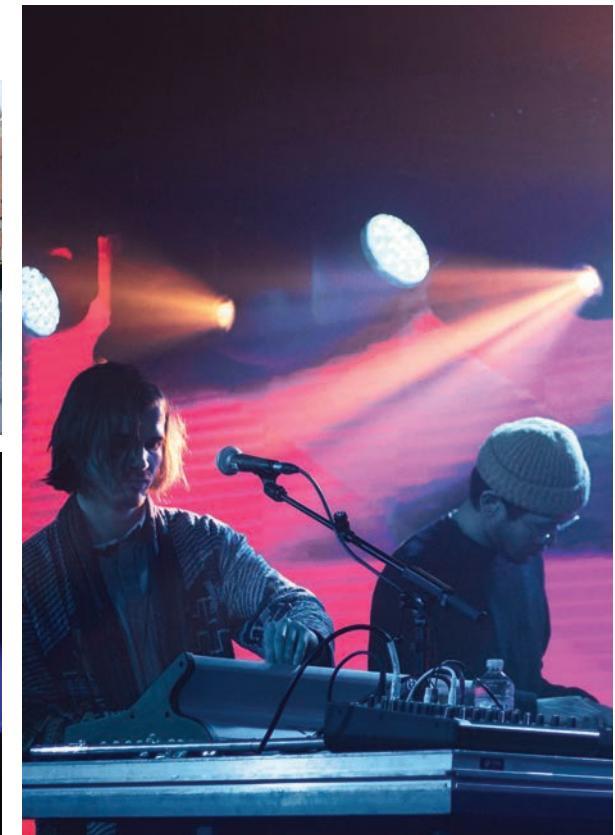
GETTING READY FOR UNI



GETTING READY FOR UNIVERSITY CAN SEEM SCARY, BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE PREPARED, IT CAN BE AN EXCITING TIME!

READ OUR HANDY TIPS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN THE KNOW...

Top left: Rough Trade in Creative Quarter, Hockley
Bottom left & right: Lyka Lorenzo UKYA in Metronome



GET TO KNOW YOUR CITY

Whether you're a local to your city or not, it's still a great idea to get out and about and check out your surroundings. If you're studying at Confetti you're just a stone's throw away from the unique character and atmosphere of the Creative Quarter, which is centred on the historic Lace Market and Hockley area.

With Metronome – the new national centre for music, moving image and video – on your doorstep, you won't be short of live events to go to.

DON'T PANIC

When thinking about university you may be filled with terror, but this is an exciting time and a chance to make great new friends and memories throughout these years. So don't worry if you don't quite feel ready, just enjoy it!

UPDATE YOUR CV

Bagging yourself a part-time student job can be a great way of coping with student living costs (and looks pretty good on your CV, too!) For flexible work you can fit in around your study – your Students' Union is a good starting point.

BUDGET

You might get excited by your bank balance the first time your student loan comes in, but trust us – it often doesn't go as far as you might hope, so it's important to make a budget and stick to it.

If you're studying at Confetti and need a bit of a helping hand figuring out your finances, NTU's Student Financial Support Service can help you to apply for various bursaries, scholarships and hardship funds, and get you back on track if you run into difficulties.

SET UP A STUDENT BANK ACCOUNT

Most banks offer deals exclusively for students – you can get free overdrafts, credit cards and other bonuses. Look out for the offers to sign up to as well, such as vouchers or railcards. Take a look at the best student bank accounts on the Which? Money site to see which bank was most highly rated by students.

SUBSCRIBE TO NETFLIX

Let's get the important bits out of the way first. While you'll need to focus on studying during your time at university, it's just as important to have some downtime. So subscribing to a service that offers a wide range of films and TV shows and also recommends programmes based on stuff you've already watched is a must! Just no bingeing when you should actually be studying...

ACCOMMODATION

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

ACCOMMODATION

Confetti campus is in the heart of Nottingham's city centre, which means a great nightlife and great accommodation. Confetti students have access to Nottingham Trent University's halls of residence, so students are guaranteed to be a part of a great student community, local accommodation and great facilities.

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 31 May 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, too – each has Residence Assistants to help you settle in and Hall Committees to plan activities and events.



Top right: NTU Gill Street Residence

Bottom left: Confetti HQ

WHY CHOOSE NTU ACCOMMODATION?

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

As an added bonus, you won't have to worry about bills! Your heating, water and electricity bills are all included in your residence fees, so you won't have any extra bills to pay. Your room will be centrally-heated and you'll have a constant supply of hot water. You'll even get free basic contents insurance covering a range of belongings, which you can easily "top-up" to cover your more expensive items.

BOOKING YOUR ACCOMMODATION

- Got 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

You can get a loan of up to £9,250 each year to pay tuition fees. You can also get a maintenance loan to pay living costs. The amount depends on the part of the country you are in and if you live away from home or not. You can work out how much you could get on GOV.UK.

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.

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 your Higher Education Institute by Student Finance England.

You don't start repaying this loan until you have graduated and are earning over £25,000. 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 repayable 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 website. You can access this information at gov.uk/studentfinance.

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**.



NEED MORE HELP? CALL OUR STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM ON **0115 952 2075.**



CONFETTI SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

GET CONNECTED ON SOCIAL



The best way to keep up-to-date with the latest goings-on at Confetti is to follow us on social media. From catching our latest videos on YouTube to discovering an amazing work experience opportunity, our Confetti social channels aim to provide you with all the latest college and university news and events, highlight all of the great things that our staff and students are up to and give you a voice of your own.

We'd love to hear from you if you have news, events and fundraisers, or just want to highlight your personal/academic achievements. Just message us on our social account with all the details and where possible, we'll share your ideas.

f ConfettiICT
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Instagram Confetti_ICT
Video TheConfettiInstitute

Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies

18 February

Congratulations to our students whose exceptional work was recognised at the FdA Game Art Exhibition at Belong Gaming Arenas!

Confetti Staff Choice - Andrew Melfi (pictured)
 Confetti Student Choice - Andrew Melfi
 Belong Staff Choice - Ethan Dean
 Belong Community Choice - Lucas Bolton

Want to create game art as a career? Check out our course <http://bit.ly/ConfettiGameArt>



confetti_iict

Nottingham, United Kingdom

confetti_iict Level 3 Film & TV students @lauran.pward and @emilyndamyan will be showcasing their music video at our official screening in @cughtradenott on Thursday 13 December. Watch this teaser for local artist @louis_croft_music See the full version at the screening! [View](#)

539 views

DECEMBER 3, 2018

Add a comment...

confetti_iict

New York, New York

confetti_iict This month, our Film Production degree students went to the City of New York. They went to the New York Film Academy for a Day of Cinematography lessons with Daniel Napolitano. They also explored the iconic sites including the #StatueofLiberty, #EllisIsland, #911Memorial and more. We've written a blog about it! Check it out on our website. [View](#)

1 Liked by samuel_kirby and 127 others

JANUARY 21

Add a comment...

Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies @Confetti_ICT · Mar 19

CONFETTI.AC.UK

Former Confetti student Josh Wheatley releases single



CONFETTI.AC.UK
Former Confetti student Josh Wheatley releases single

Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies @Confetti_ICT · Mar 14

Guess what?! @CONottn host their first Young Creatives' Club, a networking event on 26 March at @Blendnottingham.

If you're 18-25 and considering/started a career in the creative industries, find out more bit.ly/2T6SsuO

Speakers are @RobGreenMusic and @brizzaling.



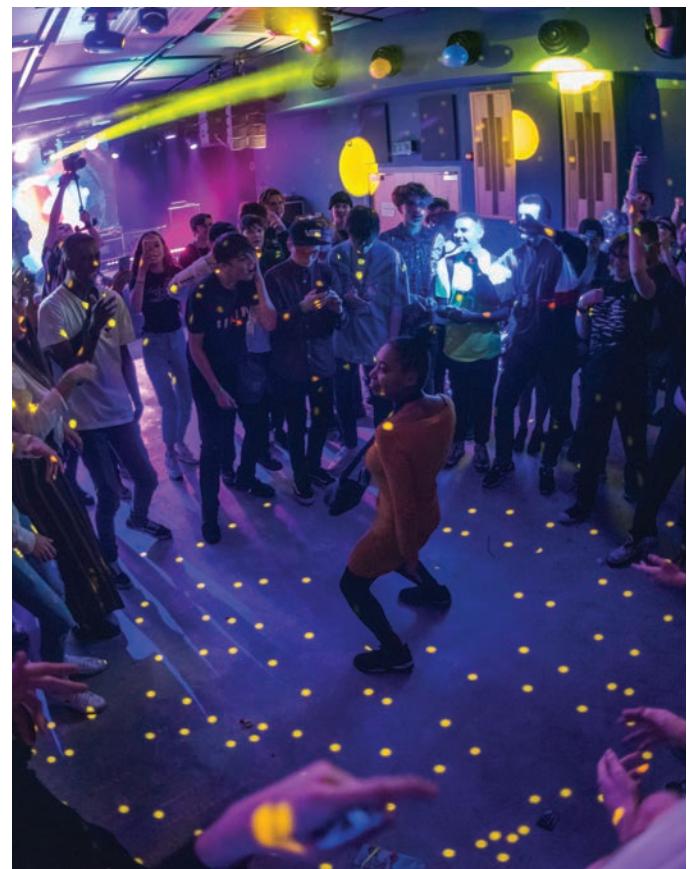
What we've posted about lately:

- Confetti news and updates
- Student/staff achievements
- Confetti/student events
- Exciting projects in and out of lessons
- Work opportunities
- The creative industries
- Competitions
- Industry guests
- Inspiration

37.

CONFETTI COMMUNITY

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS



You might have seen a few community events promoted around campus, maybe you've attended a few, but what is Confetti Community?

Confetti Community aims to bring students from all course areas together to socialise inside and outside of class. We run a mix of activities and groups to suit every student, and they're not all subject related! In term three, we already have a lot planned. More Confetti Live gigs, filmmaking and film screening evenings, a photography club, a basketball team, gaming lunches, trips out and more.

These have been planned with the help of our students, but we're always looking for new ideas.

If you have an activity, idea or group you'd like to create, just complete the form at confetti.ac.uk/confetti-community-activities and tell us about it; if it's something we think we can pull off then we'll be in touch. We're giving you full control, so get in touch...

Left: Student Christmas Party

Top right: Students filming Notts TV Rediscovering Notts
Bottom right: Overwatch Season Arrows Semi-Final



SATURDAY 20TH JULY 2019 WOLLATON PARK

MAIN STAGE

MANIC STREET
PREACHERS
THE SPECIALS.
*Rag'n'Bone
Man*

LOUISA / THE SLOW READERS CLUB / BARNS COURTNEY
ROB GREEN / MUSIC COMPETITION WINNER

CONFETTI STAGE

ALL SAINTS
ASH ROLAND GIFT
FYC
FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS

THE RIFLES / THE CORONAS
BRIA / AVA SAINT

COMEDY STAGE

ANDY ROBINSON (COMPÈRE)
SUZY BENNETT / ROGER MONKHOUSE
VINCE ATTA / SEAN HEYDON / NATHAN CATON

COURTYARD STAGE

ESTHER VAN LEUVEN / VELVET BLUSH / 94 GUNSHIPS
MY PET FAUXES / MID NOVEMBER / MEGATRAIN
RETEU / CAMILLE CHRISTEL / LAURIE ILLINGWORTH

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09.5 CONFETTI LIVE AT METRONOME

Confetti Live at Metronome is a free gig featuring some of Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies' best up-and-coming talent.

7pm
Free entry

Photo credit: Andrea Bottino - Marty

Brought to you by Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies, part of Nottingham Trent University.

05.5

MAX COOPER (WIGFLEX FESTIVAL)

Electronic artist Max Cooper is at Metronome for an audio visual set.

7pm
£30

08.5

LISA O'NEILL (SIGNED TO RIVER LEA)

Guardian's top albums of 2018 and described as a modern folk masterpiece.

7pm
£10

12.5

NEXUS SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The East Midlands Film Network are hosting their first ever short film festival.

All day from 10.30am
£10

18.5

HELLO THOR RECORDS (10TH BIRTHDAY WEEKENDER)

Celebrate the weekend at Metronome with Haiku Salut, Cantaloupe and more.

8pm-4pm (Sat/Sun)
£14 weekend entry

18.6

GAMECITY NIGHTS (VARIETY SHOW)

Meet the creators of the new Sonic the Hedgehog game.

7pm
£8

27.6

INSPIRE/BBC INTRODUCING PRESENTS

Hosted by BBC's Dean Jackson. Featuring top bands and performers.

7.30pm
£4