

WAYout Newsletter Summer 2014

Welcome to our latest **WAYout** newsletter and our apologies that there hasn't been one for a while.

In the last two years we have worked with **over 800 street and disadvantaged young people**.

PLEASE NOTE - WAYout depends on your public donations to keep our projects going. 100% of your money goes directly on project costs, not management and overheads. Please do help us continue our work – see below for information on how to donate.

For any further information about our current or future projects, please don't hesitate to get in contact, at info@wayoutarts.org

NEWS

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Thank you

WAYout needs YOU!

WAYout on the internet

A New Home for WAYout



We loved the old studio and have many happy memories but the lease ran out and after a frantic search we have a new home. It is in the same central area so close to a lot of the street youth who we work with. And it is a whole house in it's own compound. Needs a lot of cosmetic work but as soon as we moved in, 50 street youth turned up to clean and paint. We were very touched.

Film and Music Awards



'My Side'

WAYout films continue to win awards. We won **'Best Documentary' at Opun Yu Yi for 'My Side'**, a drama/doc about mental illness which has also been played at the Mental Health Conference. **'Guns In Town'**, by our very own sound engineer Gibrilla Kamara, won 'Best Music Video'. There were only three award categories so we were delighted to win two. **'Hustle and Tussle'** won 'Best Music Video' at the SLIFF and The Way group won a prize from Global Dialogues for their entry to the **'sex and alcohol'** film competition. One of our artists, Fisher, also won 'Best Music Track' at the National New Music Awards.



Working with other NGOs

WAYout has built on its partnerships with other NGOs this year.

We supported **Ballanta Music Academy** making a film about the first Sierra Leonean musical - Jegejekskayama - celebrating traditional music. We were particularly proud of accordionist, **Salia Koroma**, who has followed in his grandfather's footsteps and was 'discovered' to represent his grandfather in the musical.



Salia Koroma at Ballanta

We made an observational documentary in **'Emergency' hospital** - an Italian NGO providing free health and emergency services. This was broadcast on local TV and served as a shooting training exercise.



Emergency Hospital

We are working with **Advocaid**, who work with women prisoners, making a film about sex workers and their rights.

And we supported **Street Child's** London sleep out by making the film for their Big Night Out event. [Check the film here.](#)



Film for Street Child

Street Child fed back *"The event was a great success – and in no small part down to your film. It felt very impactful on the night."*

WAYout and Disability

WAYout has always encouraged everyone to learn media or record their music. When Salis came in and wanted to sing a music track - we said ok, how do we do it? Salis cannot hear or speak - his request was translated by a friend. He could feel the beat and recorded a rhythmic collection of sounds.



Salis

We are about to start media classes for disabled people with the **Dorothy Springer Trust**. This includes teaching blind people to edit. We can't quite imagine how that will work but have been introduced to a software programme that talks them through it and are ready to give it a go.

Black Street Family – album launch

The Black Street Family finished their second album, recorded at WAYout, and we launched

it on 12th April 2014. Once a notorious street gang, we have seen such a change in attitude in Black Street since they started spending regular time in the studio. The change in them has brought with it a change in the way people treat them. The new album is called **"Who's the Street?"** and consists of 17 tracks by Fal G, Star Geezy, Drama, Milladaire, G.D.D, XYZ , 2 Pound and Shargwan.



Mental Health and Human Rights

Black Street leader, Shargwan, spent six months of last year chained to bench, following a mental breakdown which was seen as demons. This prompted WAYout to run Mental Health awareness sessions and film making competition. These sessions really opened up discussion and enabled people to talk about things that concerned them. One of the resultant short films, **'My Side'**, won the best documentary award at Opun Yu Yi Film Festival.



WAYout youth discussing mental health

We are now in conversation with the **Mental Health Coalition**, developing a documentary about the Mental Health nurses. This will be an ongoing project. Mental Health and Human Rights are bound closely together and we hold regular discussions and encourage all those interested in media to make films addressing HR issues.

The Way Film Group



The Way film group have about 50 members aged 12 to 22 years. They live on the streets in the centre of Freetown. Two years ago they won an award for their short drama about street life, **"The Way"**, and since then they have made several short films, recorded music tracks and music clips. They entered a Global Dialogues international competition, in which entrants had to finish a short on the theme of 'sex and alcohol', and they won \$250. That money is going towards getting three of them off the street and their next epic- a pirate movie. They just completed a second Global Dialogues film on 'sex and violence' ([trailer here](#)). These competitions are excellent, not just for honing their filmmaking skills but in getting them talking about some important issues.



Grants and Certificates

WAYout supports street and disadvantaged young people offering free media training and facilities and a free music studio. We are looking at more ways of promoting their films and music. We also give certificates for courses and films and music completed.

WAYout

WORLDWIDE ARTS FOR YOUTH
Providing opportunities for creativity



WAYout students receiving certificates

Anyone who gets three certificates in any category, gets 100,000L (about £15). Street youth are not used to obeying deadlines and schedules and we find the certificate scheme acts as an incentive to finish projects and attend regularly and on time. In the 7 months between July 13 and February 14, 125 certificates were awarded to 74 people. We also have a **small grants scheme** for people who attend regularly. They can apply for support finding a home, literacy classes, repatriation or medical treatment.

Volunteer's stories

We have had a number of volunteers in Freetown. **Gemma McNeil-Walsh** returned for her second stint and made a documentary portrait of four Freetown residents. This was invaluable experience for the members who worked with her.



Illustrations done by Christina's group

Christina Peake ran comic book drawing classes in which students told their stories through writing and drawing. **Jasper Kain** and **Morag Dempsey** were with us a short amount of time but managed to support filmmakers with three films and Morag took a lot of photographs, some used on the Black Street album. "Before, photography was always just

a passion of mine. But seeing the impact it can have in empowering people to be creative and have their own voice was something I hadn't thought about before."

Lizzie Hedges taught Photoshop which is one of those things they pass on to each other.



Video supported by Brian McAndrew

And then there's **Brian McAndrew** – a previous volunteer who still spends a lot of time supporting WAYout when in Freetown and has been an inspiration to many.

Quotes from WAYout members

"Before WAYout I was an outcast. I can't express what WAYout means to me" - Steven Tommy.



Drama and Steven

"I have nowhere else to go because my family think I am a bad boy because I am on the streets. But I have the opportunity now so I come here everyday. Every day I come in and I learn something new" - Easyman.

"If WAYout moves from here it will be boring for us on the streets and will drive us back to how we used to be. WAYout is a place of freedom." - Drama

"We have hope now." - Wanted

WAYout is a registered charity, number 1123777
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www.wayoutarts.org

Thank you

We are very grateful to the continued support of

- **Strummerville** - who this year raised the funding to pay our studio engineers and producers.

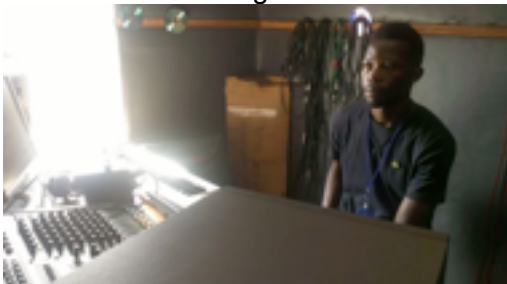


New iMacs donated by Crisis

- **Crisis**, the UK homeless charity, donated eight iMacs from their Skylight centre which were shipped out in January and are already well used.

- **Marian Fielding** once again paid the rent-thank you Marian.

- And as always, thank you to **John Nashville** and **Gibo Kamara**, our studio engineers and much more; and **Josta Hopps**, who oversees the cameras and editing.



John Nashville



Thomas Wisdom and Gibo

WAYout needs YOU!

We are looking for new trustees and volunteers to help here in the UK and in Sierra Leone on our up-and-coming projects Areas of specialism required include;

- Fundraising - grants, applications, corporate/private equity relations; events and activities

- Finance and accounting

- International Law

- Web presence

- Celebrity liaison

- Music & film teaching/production

For more information, and to apply, visit our page on idealist.org – [here](#).

Or, if you have any money-raising ideas, would like to donate equipment or resources, or would like to volunteer to fundraise, host events, and in other ways, please get in contact – info@wayoutarts.org.

We are appearing at volunteer fairs across the south-east – if you would like us to appear at yours, please get in contact.

WAYout on the internet

Check out our work and latest news online

- [WAYout website.](#)
- [Twitter.](#)
- [WAYout Videos on YouTube.](#)
- [Facebook page.](#)
- [BMyCharity – donate here](#)
- [WAYout documentary.](#)
- [Volunteer for WAYout.](#)