



east midlands  
arts  
making creative  
opportunities



## Press Release

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

May 10<sup>th</sup> 2002

>> **Press-Play** >> ...a *SlyArts* initiative aimed at giving children and young people throughout the region the opportunity to create and record their own new music using the latest music technology.

Funding from **The National Foundation for Youth Music** (with further support from Leicester City Council and East Midlands Arts) means that from now until September, 576 participants aged 5 to 18 will create their own 3-minute 'single', attending 4 workshop sessions near to where they live. Parents are also welcome. The workshops will take place outside school hours in 8 venues around the region – 3 in the city, 4 across the county and 1 in Rutland, and will include...

- Live recording (sounds and / or instruments)
- Decks / DJ ing
- Music technology / multi tracking / audio sequencing
- Web publishing for music & graphics / CD production

"The initiative is not only open to those with musical ability, but also to all youngsters who would like to try their hand at mixing twin decks, playing an instrument, using musical software, or just making and recording some sounds!"  
- Steve Nutter, >> **Press-Play** >> project leader.

Full details are being sent to all schools and youth groups in the region.

Individuals / groups / venues / work placement trainees who wish to participate are particularly encouraged to apply on-line at...

[www.press-play.org.uk](http://www.press-play.org.uk)

...or contact Steve on 07785 575468 [steve@slyarts.co.uk](mailto:steve@slyarts.co.uk) or Jon on 07815 051632 [jon@slyarts.co.uk](mailto:jon@slyarts.co.uk)

### Editors notes...

**The National Foundation for Youth Music** (*Youth Music*) is a charity, which was set up in 1999 with £30m of Lottery funding, through the Arts Council of England. The work of Youth Music was endorsed in July 2001 by a further £30m to allow us to continue our work for another 3 years, up to 2005. Youth Music provides music-making opportunities for children and young people up to the age of 18 who principally live in areas of social and economic need. By the end of 2001 Youth Music aims to have reached more than 1 million people, providing many of them with their first ever music-making experiences.

It is widely appreciated that involvement in music-making advances other aspects of learning and individual development, particularly where the involvement is from an early age. Youth Music funds programmes and schemes which support music-making principally outside school hours, in communities, youth clubs and groups where music making can be introduced and developed amongst young people who otherwise may not have the opportunity.

**SlyArts** is a professional, non-profit making community arts organisation based in Leicester. Our main activity involves the creation of new opportunities for young people to make music, film and audio art by extending their existing arts provision.

Our workshops are designed to allow all participants to grow individually and collectively in confidence and social understanding, as well as in artistic, technical and technological ability. It is our policy to provide a worthwhile process for life-long creative learning, and an equally worthwhile product, in order to focus and polish all work.

In our experience, young people do not need to be encouraged to participate in, and in many cases actually create, new music, film and audio art (e.g. radio plays).

Often, they do not need to be told how to write or rehearse (although a suitable workspace is often difficult to find,) since the essence of what they are doing is originality.

What they do need is...

- The kind of professional support and equipment that Sly can offer, and
- A worthwhile focus for their ideas during these early, and perhaps most crucial stages of their artistic (and ICT) development.

For most, this must involve the creation of opportunities to perform, and to record their work as professionally as is possible, be it a music, or spoken word CD, a short film, a gallery type website, or a combination. We are perfectly placed to provide these opportunities, and to create new projects designed to suit particular requirements.

Participants each create original work, which is then developed, rehearsed, performed, professionally recorded, published on the World Wide Web, and forever owned by the creators themselves.

[www.slyarts.co.uk](http://www.slyarts.co.uk)