

## This month's Newsletter Editor

### Shakti: North West Ambassador

Hi I'm Shakti and I'll be representing the North West!



I'm currently in year 12 doing my A levels. I absolutely love Art, especially drawing, photography and using experimental techniques to develop my work. As well as Art, I study Maths, Physics, Geography and Critical Thinking. I like to keep myself pretty busy by getting involved with anything and everything I can! I play the euphonium in three bands and am hoping to get my grade 8 completed soon. I also volunteer for a couple of charities and help to run year 7 societies at school. Being a volunteer is such a rewarding experience and it's one that I'd definitely recommend to everyone!

I've always had a passion for anything remotely creative. I think that the Blast Youth Panel is the ideal opportunity for me to expand my creative horizons, get my "creative juices" flowing and make some amazing new friends!

The Blast team would love to hear from you on our facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/BBCBlast](http://www.facebook.com/BBCBlast)

## Getting a Foot in the Door

How to make the most of your opportunities in the creative industries.

The creative world is one of THE most competitive industries. Sometimes it can be hard to just get started. This article will give you suggestions on how to stand out from the crowd and turn your creative dreams into reality! So, you know you want have a creative career. How do you go about getting it?

**Stand out and speak up-** Don't take the easy route and conform! Explore new ways of thinking and try out different approaches until you find what best suits you.



**Share and support each other-** Sharing is the best way to get important feedback from your peers and even industry professionals! You can then use these comments to improve your work and fine-tune it. This way, it'll have already been road-tested, and your work will have that "professional edge." If someone has given you helpful and constructive feedback, take a leaf out of their book and comment on someone else's work. By doing this we can spread the phenomenon! Upload your content onto the Blast website and see what happens!

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

**Persevere and learn from your mistakes-** Sometimes it can be hard to take criticism of your work, especially when it's from your friends. However, a good, trusted friend will never be unnecessarily critical of your work and a bit of perseverance and learning from the suggestions of others will infinitely improve your creative abilities!

**Pick up the phone-** No one is going to hand you creative opportunities, so get out there and find them! Check out Blast's creative schemes. They're a great opportunity to get some hands on experience. Sometimes all it can take is a phone call or a letter to a company or an individual to get some fantastic experience and make some connections. Work experience placements look fab on your CV and the vital skills you gain could be the edge

that propels you into the industry, especially if you have organized them yourself! Impressing professionals in the business environment may be difficult, but if you manage it who knows where it could lead...

**Solve your problems creatively-** I'm pretty sure that everyone who reads this will understand the pain that we all go through during the dreaded exam period. Well, if exams are getting you down, getting a bit creative is a great way to relieve stress and relax and just have fun! Many artists believe that they produce their best work when they are least expecting it! Ever suffer from a mental block? I know I do! I find it helpful to think, consider my options, pencil something in and let my mind work on it overnight. In the morning, I can wake up refreshed with new ideas and renewed energy to tackle the task at hand.

**Stimulate your mind and get inspired-** The Blast website is a great way to get inspired. There are numerous videos on how to improve your creativity and you can view hundreds of pieces of content created by young people. Looking at other peoples' work and analysing their approach can motivate you to get up and create something that does you proud!



**Remember to have fun and enjoy yourself-** Being creative isn't about following the rules, there are none! Feel free to express your own individuality and style. Most importantly "reach for the moon because even if you miss you will land amongst the stars!"

Work experience is a great way to gain experience in the creative industries. To see what work related schemes Blast runs, visit:

[www.bbc.co.uk/blast/film/work\\_experience](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blast/film/work_experience)

## Upcoming Tour Dates

With free workshops, taster sessions & showcase opportunities - is the Blast tour coming to your area this month?

**Bury St Edmunds**

23 - 25 June

**Coventry**

2 July - 4 July

**Huntstanton**

8-10 July

**Paignton**

13 - 15 July

For more information or to book a place, go to [bbc.co.uk/blast/events](http://bbc.co.uk/blast/events)

## The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers

A book review by Elliot, Scottish Ambassador



I recently read 'The Seven Habits of Highly effective Teenagers' by Sean Covey. The book helps teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals and get along with their parents (imagine that!).

It is an excellent addition to any teenager's bookshelf. For me, the definite highlight of the book was an exercise called "The Great Discovery." It's a list of ten questions about your personality, skills and strengths that help you see basically where you'll be in 10 years, be it an actor, scientist or radio DJ.

Are you a budding author? Get industry tips, browse uploads from other young people and share your work at: [www.bbc.co.uk/blast/writing/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blast/writing/)

## Tips & Advice: Singing

To all those wanting to sing! I'm Rhiannan; the Ambassador of Wales for the Blast Youth Panel. I recently auditioned for the part of Christine in my school's concert. Christine is the main female character in 'The Phantom of the Opera'. You don't need to be a talented singer to use my tips to improve your voice, so here they are:



- If you are planning to sing in front of people but are nervous, start by singing in front of your friends who will be there to help you get past your fear and give you advice. When you do sing in front of a crowd, don't use the old myth of pretending that everyone is sat in their underwear! This won't help as it will probably make you laugh. Instead, stare past everyone and keep your eye on one spot!
- If you want to hold long notes like Amy-Lee from Evanescence, then you need to know where the breaks are in the song and when the long notes come up. Before singing a song, listen to it, listen for the breaks and long notes, you may also even hear the singer breathing! Then try it yourself!
- Ok, so you know when to breathe, but do you know how? It sounds stupid but when you breathe, you should breathe quite quickly as if you are trying to put on a pair of really tight jeans!
- Now, the singing part! If you are trying to sing a strong note, be it low or high, try slightly tensing your stomach but don't go overboard! If you're trying to sing a soft note that is high, sing from your throat or stomach. (When singing from your stomach, don't tense whilst trying to get a soft sound.) Take note that a lot of singers have their own way of producing the sound they want, so my way might not necessarily work for you, but practice until you find a way where you feel comfortable.
- You should always exercise your lungs. The best way to do this is by cardiovascular exercise such as running, cross training, or even playing rugby or baseball with your friends. Exercise gets the lungs working and I always find that after sport my singing has improved!

I hope this helps with your singing. Remember, upload your singing onto the Blast website and most of all have fun!



See what goes on behind the scenes at a west end show and pick up tips from professional singers in the Behind the Scenes with High School Musical footage at: [www.bbc.co.uk/blast/editorial/behind\\_the\\_scenes\\_with\\_high\\_school\\_musical](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blast/editorial/behind_the_scenes_with_high_school_musical)

## YOUR LABEL- JUST CLOSED! Competition time!

The 2010 Your Label competition has just closed. We recieved some brilliant entries and are now in the process of selecting the winners who will benefit from masterclasses from industry professionals and see their creations on the catwalk at London Fashion Week. Look out for the Blast Fashion Festival we are running with the V&A on 2nd October

## GAMES DESIGN- COMING SOON!

The next competition to launch will be the Games Design competition. Winners will get the chance to work with games industry professionals.



For more information go to: [bbc.co.uk/blast](http://bbc.co.uk/blast)