

PRESS INFORMATION
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CREATIVE BUZZ REACHES OUT TO REMOTEST CORNERS OF HIGHLANDS

AN INTENSIVE EU-funded programme of hands-on free workshops and networking events aimed at people working on creative projects in the remotest corners of Scotland is set to roll out later this month.

Kicking off the Honeycomb programme of events in the Highlands 10 separate events will take place in nine locations starting next week; including Portree and Sleat on Skye, Fort William, Campeltown and the Isle of Eigg.

This flurry of activity signals the start of a six-month long series of events throughout Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, and Argyll and Bute. The workshops, talks and networking events are being organised by *ScreenHI*, a body which supports film and broadcast activities in the Highlands.

ScreenHI is a delivery partner for *Honeycomb – Creative Works*, a £3.58m programme financed by the EU's Regional Development Fund, to deliver this full-on series of events.

Leading figures in the fields of film and broadcast, music, animation, video games development and interactive media will be on hand to offer support and advice in a bid to create over 160 jobs in the creative sector throughout the western seaboard of Scotland.

Topics on the table include everything from creating a video game, to developing a documentary idea, to how to write an all-important tender document, creating pin-sharp live sound at a gig and pitching a film idea to real commissioning editors.

One of the highlights this month will be a market awareness event in Fort William at which leading music industry player, Neil Cartwright, former Head of New Media at *Sony Music UK* and now MD of his own company, *Million Media*, will share his thoughts on current trends and the wider market landscape.

ScreenHI director, Amanda Millen said: "This programme is all about helping people to take the steps which will help them succeed in creating high quality digital content.

"We have tailored this series of workshops and networking events to make it lively, practical and easy-to-access.

"We are looking to attract everyone from writers to graphic designers, musicians, band managers, agents, programmers, digital artists, video game creators, animators, composers... the list really is endless.

"We are offering the practical support to help take a business or an idea to a higher level. And it's all free to access. We want to throw the net out wide to people who are working away on their own or in a small group. It could be that the connections they make through our programme will make all the difference between success and failure."

Amanda stresses that it's not all about the 'big idea' – or what is perceived as the glamorous side of the creative industries. "It's about giving people useful and practical tools and advice to go off and do a good job," she says.

"A good example of this is the health and safety course for people working in television and film production which we're running. Participants will walk away with an industry recognised certification which is required for those working in production and live events, including gigs. Speaking from experience as a drama producer of many years standing, that is a valuable thing to have in your back pocket."

The Honeycomb workshops are free to attend with preference being given to participants within the Honeycomb catchment area. *ScreenHI* can contribute towards travel and accommodation expenses for those applying to attend the events from within the Highland catchment area of Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, and Argyll and Bute.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Programme of Honeycomb – Creative Works events in Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh and Argyll and Bute during September 2014:

10th September

Network Development Event With Scottish Documentary Institute

Speakers: Rebecca Day & Flore Cosquer

Oban, McCaig Suite, Corran Halls, 7-9pm

11th September

Network Development Event with PRS For Music & HIE

Speakers: Stuart Fleming, Iain Hamilton and Duncan McCrone

Campbeltown, Aqualibrium Conference Room, 7-9pm

16th & 23rd September

Joint Tendering Workshop For Digital Content Creators (2 Day Workshop)

Inveraray, Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, 9am – 5.30pm

17th & 18th September

Health & Safety For Productions, Live Events and the Office

Speaker: Glynn Henderson, Action Safe Media Ltd

Adrishaig by Lochgilphead, Grey Gull Inn, 9am – 5.30pm both days

19th September

Networking Development Event with Scottish Games Network

Speaker: Brian Baglow

Portree, Aros Centre, 7-9pm

23rd September

Network Development Session with Lucy Conway

Glebe Barn, Eigg, 7-9pm

24th September

Getting it Right Live Workshop

Kinetic Studios, Oban 6pm-10pm

25th & 26th September

The Engine Room Pitching Workshop

Course leader & trainer: Christina Burnett

Skye, venue TBC, 9.30am – 5pm

29th or 30th September

Market Awareness Event & Network Development Event

Keynote Speaker: Neil Cartwright

Fort William, location TBC, From 2pm – 9pm

About ScreenHI

www.screenhi.co.uk

ScreenHI is headed up by Lochaber-born Amanda Millen. The former BBC drama producer is also director of leading creative industries festival, goNORTH.

ScreenHI provides unique on-the-job training and networking opportunities across the Highlands and Islands in the music, screen and broadcast sectors.

Amanda drives its vision for developing film, television, radio, online and gaming industries by delivering a programme of structured initiatives, events, mentoring schemes and activities. The resulting skill base and opportunities created have already made a positive impact on the economy of the Highlands and Islands. As well as strengthening networks, ScreenHI works hard to facilitate the origination of original new content and plays a key role in showcasing this content within the UK and across the world.

About Honeycomb – Creative Works

www.thehoneycomb.net

The Honeycomb – Creative Works programme is a collaborative project led by University of Ulster, in partnership with Dundalk Institute of Technology and Creative Skillset.

The Scottish partnership is led by Creative Skillset and comprises of ScreenHI, Creative Scotland, MG Alba, and the University of the West of Scotland.

Honeycomb is part-financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

The programme is aimed at boosting economic growth for individuals and businesses working in the fields of film and broadcast, animation, gaming, interactive media and music technologies.

Honeycomb is being rolled out in Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Argyll and Bute, Arran and Cumbrae, North Ayrshire mainland, East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway, the six southern border counties of the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS OR IMAGES CONTACT

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