



PRESS RELEASE

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Stevenson College Students Perform at Balkan Youth Festival

Students from Stevenson College Edinburgh performed at the Balkan Youth Festival from 5th to 14th September 2009 in Sandanski, Bulgaria as part of the 14th Balkan Youth Festival, the biggest youth event in Eastern Europe.

The delegation from Stevenson College included music, film and photography students who took part in the YES Project (Youth European Soundtrack). The music students involved were Afterglow: Faye Sheret, Laura Dixon, David MacGregor and Douglas Fender. The audiovisual students were Euan Tennant, Lewis Brameld and Ben Melrose (photography). The aim of the project was to create opportunities for the expression of talent and dialogue among young people from EU member and neighbouring countries. There were eight countries involved: Serbia, Croatia, Turkey, Poland, Bulgaria, Scotland, Macedonia and Romania.

Each country had to perform its own music and also compose music to a film provided by another country. Stevenson College students provided three films and the organisers were impressed by the high standard of the films provided. Music Lecturer at Stevenson, Dot Allan, who organised and accompanied the students to the Festival, said:

“We were overwhelmed by the response to our students at our first visit to the Balkan Youth Festival, which was filmed live on their internet TV station. Our students also gave several interviews for Bulgarian National TV.”

She continued: “This was a fantastic opportunity for the students and one they will never forget. They have made friends from all these different countries. All of them want to return next year. I hope that we will be able to send bands to perform at the festival on a regular basis”

The films submitted for the project included *Vengeance* by Ryan Tudor, *Stabat Mater* by Marte Tokarz and *Lewis' Big Night In* by Lewis Brameld. Stevenson College students also had to compose music to a Polish Film “Gadzio” which was performed at the festival.

The five day festival included a conference at which Stevenson exhibited and received a good response from delegates interested in coming to Edinburgh to study at the College and in particular at the Music Box, Stevenson’s state-of-the-art music and performance centre. The Festival was brought to the attention of staff at Stevenson by a Bulgarian student at the College, Viara

Ivanova, who took part in the festival last year with her band “Who’s your Mama Now”.

You can watch a brief interview on <http://omai.tv/> with one of the students, Douglas Fender, and clips of the other bands who participated in the event.

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Notes to Editors

Stevenson College Edinburgh also participates in the Leonardo da Vinci Mobility Programme which provides a training project in a European context to open up new career directions for students making them more attractive to potential employers who recognise the added value gained from injecting a European dimension to vocational training. Students also benefit personally by being exposed to other cultures and being introduced to the concept of citizenship, making students aware of opportunities within the European labour market.

Stevenson College Edinburgh is one of the largest further education Colleges in Scotland and is home to over 18,000 students, of which nearly 3,500 are full-time (2008/09 academic year). They offer a range of courses from Introductory courses and NQs (National Qualifications) through to HNDs (Higher National Diplomas), BTECs and Degree Foundation. They have a variety of study modes available from full-time, part-time, day release, evening, e-learning and open learning.

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