

# SAVE THE FOREST CAMPAIGN



## BUY THE BUILDING

Now, due to the bankruptcy of our landlords, the EUS, the building where the Forest currently resides is up for sale. Unless we do something about it, there is a high chance this Grade B listed historic building will be sold to developers and transformed into HMO properties and private flats. Already, developers have made an application to the City of Edinburgh Council for planning permission to do just this.

Given the repercussions this would have for the City of Edinburgh, our mission is to raise £500 000, buy the building, and continue doing what we do in Edinburgh's historic centre forever. We have seen from the wealth of community support there has been over the years, as well as the huge public response since the news was released, that this is no way an unfeasible goal. We urge anyone who can help us in any way to get in touch.

The following pages offer some examples of what the Forest has achieved over the past decade, things we believe contribute so much to the Edinburgh community as well as to the UK arts scene as a whole. Although some of these projects have now reached the point where they could continue without the Forest Cafe where it is now, the possibility for new worthwhile projects that are just starting and already underway, or that have yet to be thought of in Edinburgh, would undoubtedly shrink significantly were the Forest to close or move. The loss of these resources to the community would be nothing short of a tragedy.

As such, we urge you to support our campaign.

More information on our website: <http://theforest.org.uk>

## WHAT IS THE FOREST?

The Forest is an arts and events charity in central Edinburgh dedicated to providing a space for people to create art, events, music, geek labs, workshops, knit-ins, poetry recitals, screen printing, monsterbike making, political campaigning, dancing, English lessons, book tours, radical libraries and anything else imaginable. Forest has existed for the past decade as a not-for-profit, volunteer-run space, funded by the vegetarian/vegan café and by the sale of books and records from Forest Industries. Since Forest's inception ten years ago in a tiny month-by-month let in Westport, Forest has expanded to become a multi-award winning Fringe venue, an acclaimed publishing house and record label, and an inspiration to other projects and people throughout the world.



# CONSTITUTION



The Forest is a charity (SC038234). It aims to advance access to art and cultural activities amongst the general public of Edinburgh and the wider community.

The following objects are taken from the constitution and form the central set of principles that govern what we do at the Forest. These are our core values.

- a) **To enable greater access to all forms of the performing arts by providing an open arts venue and facilities in which all events will be open and free of charge to artists and audiences alike.**
- b) **To provide opportunities to learn and develop skills by providing art and cultural workshop programmes. All programmes will be open and free of charge to members of the general public.**
- c) **To increase access to art by providing a community art gallery and exhibitions of local and international artists. All exhibitions will be open and free of charge to members of the general public.**
- d) **To facilitate the development of artists' work and skills by providing facilities to practise, rehearse and advance their work.**
- e) **To build co-operation and cultural understanding by working with other institutions and individuals, both locally and in the wider international community.**



# forest publications

Forest Publications is an independent publishing house dedicated to providing a platform for gutsy, well-crafted writing, particularly that of Edinburgh-based and emerging writers. We also produce *The Golden Hour*: a literary cabaret that has achieved worldwide acclaim. We have toured Europe extensively, with tour diary coverage by *Drowned in Sound*, and were featured as one of the highlights of this year's critically acclaimed *Unbound* strand at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Our books are stocked in libraries and bookstores throughout the UK, as well as in Shakespeare & Co in Paris.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Submit:** Journal of quality work. Not for the mediocre, self indulgent, fluffy or pretentious.

**CIA Nights anthologies:** Compendiums of the legendary Forest zine, CIA nights.

**Stolen Stories:** An anthology of the finest stolen stories, anecdotes and overheard conversations that demand to be told.

**The Golden Hour Book 1 and 2:** Anthologies of prose and poetry accompanied by a CD of music featured in the monthly Golden Hour event.

**Bedtime Stories:** A collection of erotic fiction, poetry and artwork

**Chapbook Series 1 and 2:** Chapbooks released monthly, each of a different emerging writer, allowing lesser-known voices the chance to see themselves in print.

“The CD sounds like that tent you find in the middle of the madness of one of the larger festivals. You know the tent, the one where you have no idea who any of the people on the stage are, but you find yourself staying there all day just to see who’s on next...”

Unpeeled.com, November 2009

“A very impressive literary and music anthology. A dinky little paperback packed with stories and poetry, most of which are very good indeed, and a 20 track CD full of bands I have never heard of but also mostly splendid. (\*\*\*\*)”

Scott Pack, Dec 2009

“It is a bold and commendable venture: to give voice to a number of (relatively) unknown artists although many of the writers have been short-listed for or won prizes. The Forest is to be applauded for the originality of this project. There is simply too much to cram into this review.”

**Northwords Now, Autumn 2009**

“This rather lovely wee book should be bought for the fine writing it contains, and should also be bought for the CD attached to it, which is full of aural goodness. The standard is consistently high...”

**The Skinny, January 2008**

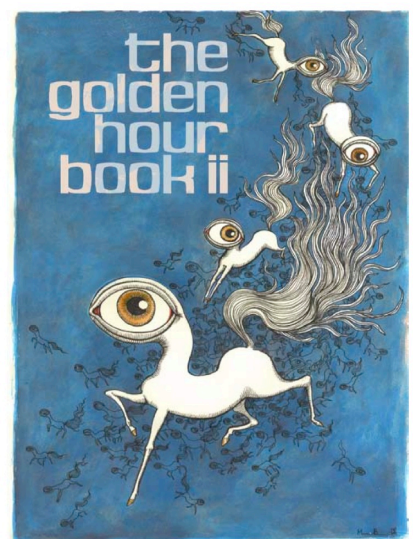
### UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

**Bedtime Stories: The Second Coming (Dec 2010):** The second anthology of erotic fiction, poetry and artwork.

**This Next One Goes Out To (Dec 2010):** An homage to the relationship between literature and music. Essays, poems and stories inspired by a song.

**This Will Explain Everything (Jan 2011):** An imaginary encyclopaedia in graphic novel form: a compendium of knowledge that is true, half-true, false, absurd or very confusing.

<http://forpub.com>





100s of bands and musicians have composed, performed and decomposed in the Forest since its birth in the heart of Edinburgh in 2000. Forest Records exists to promote, support and record for posterity some of those times, talents and tunes. The collective offers a reduced-rate practice room, an events space where any band can put on a gig for free, and production and promotion assistance for members of the collective. We have also released a number of compilation records.

**RELEASES**

**Seedy Forest:** ultra-rare original Forest compilation, soon to be rereleased!

**Copsed:** 2003 compilation of Forest Records artists, featuring Arctic Circle and Dansezure

**Balkan Invasion:** collaborative project with Scottish and Balkan artists in association with Firefly International, featuring Orkestra Del Sol and the Abdominal Showmen

**Forest 10 inch:** 10 inch double A side vinyl record with hand designed inner sleeves.

**X:** ten year celebration compilation, featuring Billy Liar and Enfant Bastard



Many artists involved with Forest Records have gone on to achieve significant acclaim. *Withered Hand* came on two of the Golden Hour tours and has played many a Forest gig. Toted as the next Scottish Mercury prize winner by the Scotsman, he also counts Jarvis Cocker as a major fan. Another Golden Hour star, *Hailey Beavis*, has recently performed alongside Nick Cave as part of Canongate's *Irregular*.

*The Very* began their career in the Forest, then were awarded the Diesel U Music award and the T Break award to play at T in the Park, receiving rave reviews in the press ("The Very's debut album does not disappoint... These guys ooze a rocky panache delivered with authenticity... A soul that belongs to the underground." The Skinny "This amazing album has all the energy of the Cramps and the Ramones." Daily Record.)

*The Abdominal Showmen* won the Fopp/Unsigned Award in 2005, and had their album professionally produced and given UK-wide distribution.

*Aberfeldy* went on to support R.E.M, Blondie and the Scissor Sisters, and had the N.M.E.'s single of the week for "*Heliopolis by Night*", after having been stalwarts of the Forest for many years.

Hundreds of other artists nurtured by Forest Records have gone on to gig locally, release records, tour, and realise their musical ambitions. The Forest Records Collective is now international, with musicians in Berlin, New York, Stockholm, Damascus and many other cities, as well as the community within Edinburgh itself.

<http://forestrecords.org/>





Forest Fringe began in 2007 as a not-for-profit venture in which improbable theatre could flourish in the midst of the Edinburgh Festival. Placing key importance on experimentation, innovation and adventure, the programme quickly became a cornerstone of the Festival, going on to win numerous awards and achieving significant critical acclaim.

### FOREST FRINGE AWARDS

**The Stage 100 list of the most influential people in Theatre, 2010.** Deborah Pearson and Andy Field, co-directors of Forest Fringe, listed.

**Peter Brook Empty Space Award, 2009.** Winner.

**Fringe First, 2009.** Special award with the Arches for promoting new ways of presenting work at the Edinburgh Festival

**Jack Tinker “Spirit of the Fringe” Award, 2009.** Shortlisted.

**Herald Angel, 2008.** Winner.

“If you did nothing for the next two weeks but hang around in its bar, and saunter its round-the-clock sequence of shows and music sessions, you could have yourself a good Edinburgh Festival.”

**Joyce McMillan, The Scotsman**

“Launched in 2007, The Forest Fringe has already established itself as a shining example of what Edinburgh in August should be.”

**The Edinburgh Guide**



“An on-going miracle.”

**Lyn Gardner, The Guardian**

“This is the future of theatre.”

**Neil Cooper, The Herald**

### **AWARDS FOR THE PROGRAMME**

**“30 Days to Space”** Winner of the Total Theatre Award for Innovation, 2010

**“Me and the Machine”** Winner of The Arches Brick Award, Nominated for a Total Theatre Award, 2010

**“Like You Were Before”** Winner of a Herald Angel, Nominated for a Total Theatre Award and an Arches Brick Award, 2010

**“Sporadical”** Nominated for a Total Theatre Award, 2009

**“Wondermart”** Nominated for a Total Theatre Award, 2009

**“Home Sweet Home”** Nominated for a Total Theatre Award, 2009

**“Little Box of Horrors”** Nominated for a Total Theatre Award, 2009

**“The Nightflyer”** Winner of the Arches Brick Award, 2008

<http://www.forestfringe.co.uk/>







The visual arts arm of The Forest runs 'TotalKunst' a vibrant and hugely popular artists resource and exhibition venue located in the front space of our Bristo Place building. Over several years and under the management of a rotating body of voluntary directors, TotalKunst has run a successful exhibition programme consisting of between 15-30 exhibitions per year.

Due to the independent status of our gallery, we are able to run programme that is innovative, forward looking and supportive of new and unconventional approaches. By focusing on work that is experimental or non-commercial in nature, TotalKunst encourages the development of art with diverse styles and a wide range of methodologies, practices and disciplines. Many exhibitions and projects have probed notions of art production and distribution, collaboration or site specific interactivity as well as more traditional forms of display. Many of the artists who have experimented with new work in our space are on their way to developing notable art careers, such as Anthony Schrag, Ailsa Lochhead and Rich Cormack.



Our pluralistic approach to curating allows for an adventurous and stimulating dialogue not only between the artist and their audience, but also between the emerging and more established artists. We feel that it is important to offer a level playing field to all art, and therefore have a fully open application procedure: we do not accept CVs, only examples of actual work. Due to this fresh approach, we get a large influx of applications locally and internationally from artists who are supportive of our philosophy and want to exhibit their work in our unique context. In the last couple of years we have shown work from avant-garde soundscapes to local photography, from interactive happenings to global traveling exhibitions and everything in between.



Offering support to our exhibiting artists is important part of what we do. Our artistic programme has involved organizing talks, workshops and residencies for our artists. In the past we have run several small grants programmes to support development of new work through our gallery. We have hosted themed long-term gallery projects, organized collaborative festivals and various one-off events, art walks, publications and film nights, always striving to work together with our artists.

In addition to our ongoing programme of exhibitions and events TotalKunst also serves as an open access artist collective. We maintain a stringent policy of open meetings and an inclusive membership, so offering a radical alternative to traditional gallery internship, and a real opportunity to get involved in shaping the development of not only our gallery programme but the organisational structure and guiding principals of the collective itself. The synergy of TotalKunst with the rest of The Forest offers artists and community volunteers alike a further chance to become a part of a larger, vibrant and diverse cultural organization and in turn to learn how this community works within the greater cultural context of the city of Edinburgh.

Hosted by The Forest complex with its café and lively events programme, we are able to stay open far beyond the usual gallery hours, ensuring high visibility to our artists and high access to the public. We are proud of our track record of successfully introducing new audiences to innovative visual arts. While an established part of the Edinburgh arts scene, with yearly participation in the citywide arts events The Annuale and Edinburgh Arts Festival, the gallery has its own distinct identity that makes for an invaluable contribution into the creative life of our capital city.



## SNIP & SIP

Housed within the Forest is Snip & Sip, a hairdressing salon, massage corner and shop.

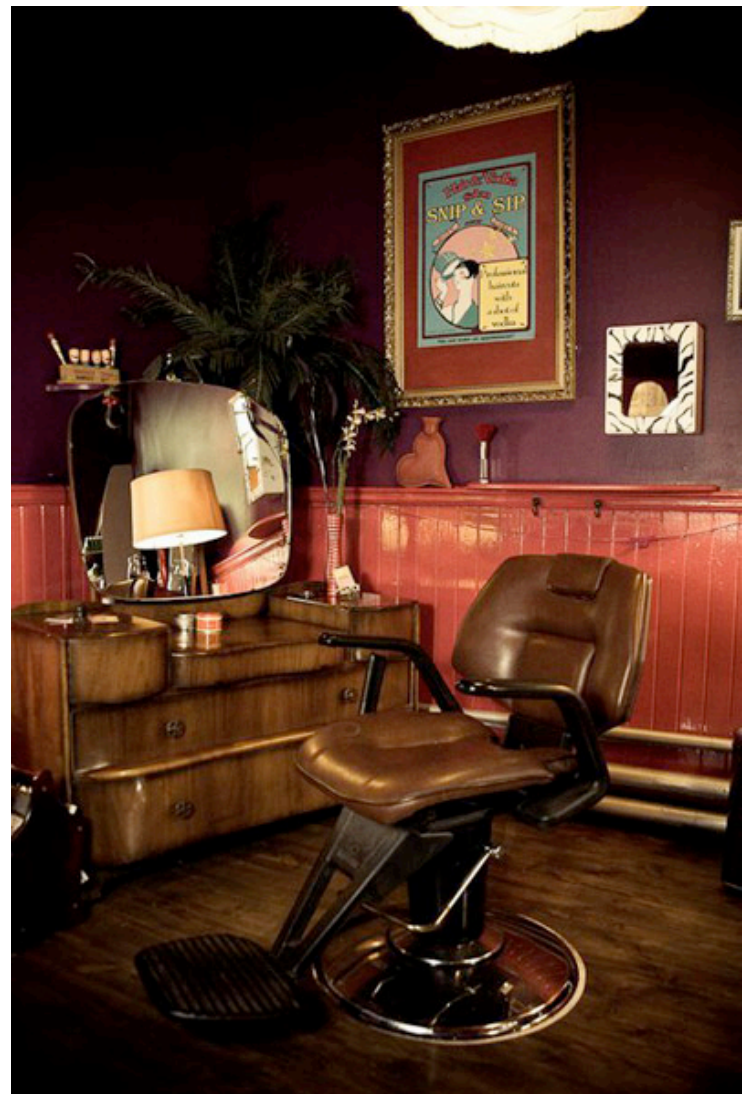
Started in San Francisco, and once the "smallest salon in the world", Snip&Sip salon offers professional haircuts in a classical barbershop chair. What's unique about Snip&Sip is that every haircut comes with a shot of Polish vodka. The salon also provides natural, ammonia-free, permanent hair dyes that leave the hair in much better condition than standard dyes, and are also significantly better for the environment.

Within Snip&Sip is The Massage Corner, an affordable, high quality massage space offering Aromatherapy Upper Body Chair Massage, Helix Holistic Upper Body Chair Massage and Indian Head Massage, all from fully qualified practitioners. The Massage Corner also produces a range of cosmetics blended with essential oils to treat everything from lethargy to wrinkles.

The space also operates as a shop. For sale are handmade hats, Massage Corner's cosmetics, Zapatista coffee, organic chocolate from The Chocolate Tree, and all the products of Forest Industries: books from Forest Publications, records from Forest Records and hand-designed clothes from our screen printing facilities.

Snip&Sip is a brilliant example of an enterprise flourishing within the structure of the Forest, having expanded rapidly from a single hairdresser and masseuse last year, to now having three hairdressers and four massage practitioners working freelance in the space.

<http://snipandsip.com>





Old Hat Books is a library of hats and radical books, located in the front room of the Forest. Run by a collective of volunteers, the Library aims to make radical publications and stylish hats more widely available to people. Free to join and free to borrow from, Old Hat Books also holds regular readings where anyone can curl up with some free tea, cakes and scones and listen to excerpts from everyone's favourite books.

The Old Hat Books collective are always sourcing new publications and take recommendations and requests for zines and books customers would like to see in the Library. We have also recently produced a zine about the learning process of creating a radical library and the fun experienced along the way.



<http://www.oldhatbooks.org/>



## GRANTS



Forest exists to do everything in our power to promote artistic endeavour and support people to carry out interesting projects. For as long as finances allowed, we awarded two types of grant to organisations or individuals to enable them to do projects which we found exciting.

**The Monthly Grant** was worth up to £100 and open to anyone, including artistic, environmental, political, and musical projects. **The Forest Quarterly Grant** was a £300 grant for amazing, creative, longer term projects at the forest. This grant was awarded every quarter to the proposal that best met the following **requirements**:

1. The project must take place within the forest itself.
2. It must have a longer term element - for example over a long weekend, a week, two weeks etc. It is not available for one-off performances for example, no matter how good you might be.
3. The project must be creative and/or artistic in nature.

Over the years we have given out thousands of pounds in grants and allowed countless artists to realize their goals. Below are some of the projects Forest has supported.

### MONTHLY GRANTS

#### **Manila Infoshop Film Programme = £100**

A collective based in Manila, Philippines needed money to promote and screen independent/progressive films in the community so that people in Manila could have the opportunity to watch a film not easily accessible via local venues & cinema. The goal was to educate people and counter the systematic input of the corporate media and particularly in the Philippines which needs radical & social transformation.

#### **Tawona Sithole Poetry Booklet / Seeds of Thought = £50**

Started by 3 people of different origins with the aim to bring people together and encourage them to share their cultures with one another - through poetry, art and music. Seeds of Thought is a non-funded urban poetry group and now we are hosting regular poetry and acoustic music events in Glasgow, as well as performing at other events in Glasgow and also outside Glasgow

#### **Thomas Corser Activist Weekend = £60**

After the success of the the Climate Action Gathering on Saturday the 17th and the numbers of people it attracted from around Scotland, a similar event focusing on the Activist Groups within Edinburgh itself helped consolidate the progress already made and kept it moving forward. The idea was to send invitations to any active campaigning organizations with group set up in Edinburgh, they would be given the opportunity to give a talk or presentation based on their work, their ideas and their inspirations.

#### **Hannah Krueger The Very Long Bike Ride = £100**

The Very Long Bike Ride project went from Aberdeen (Europe's Oil Capital) to Germany / Austria by bike. The trip took around 50 days and included all sorts of "awareness of global issues" projects. They gathered as many people on the way as possible to hopefully get people to see them and get into talks. They also built up contacts with "critical mass" in various places and met up with them wherever possible.



### **FuseLit Poetry Magazine = £100**

FuseLit is a small (literally - A6), independently run magazine in which each issue is based around a single word, giving contributors of poetry, prose, artwork and now music the opportunity to send us their own interpretation of the spur for possible inclusion. The magazine has been going since September 2005, and was originally set up to combat writer's block by providing a kick-off point or subject to write about. We have since expanded into other art forms, the most recent of which has been music, with the inclusion of a free mini-CD with every issue. After a series of very unlucky technical glitches and break-downs of equipment, FuseLit was in desperate need of printing facilities. £100 = new printer!



### **OOTB Police Box Event Ed Stack = £100**

The Police Box asked for funds to help with decor at a regular acoustic music and multi-arts revue called, appropriately enough, Acoustic Café. Says Ed Stack: "There will be a variety of artforms: moving and still art is on show, performance poetry and an enchanting decorative theme. The idea is to break barriers so that art plays a binding and positive role in the community."



### **The Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh (ACE) = £100**

ACE is a self-managed, unfunded (this means completely independent) social resource Center. We're open for groups or individuals to use who are trying to make a better society and improve their lives. If you have a project you want to get off the ground but are struggling for lack of resources ACE is the place for you. There are also different projects already happening at ACE who'd all love for new folk to get involved.

### **Rob St. John, Tipping In EP = £100**

"This three track EP is an absolute gem. Limited to 100 copies (act quickly!) these three songs are music to lose yourself in (and quite possibly find yourself, too). His whispered vocals and gentle guitar playing lure you in, and reward you with each and every listen. Rob St John is a name to be mentioned in the same breath as Bill Callahan or John Martyn. That special, that rare, that brilliance"

### **Echo Echo Art Exhibition = £50**

echo uses in-between spaces and unseen locations to present a smorgasbord of contemporary art. echo encourages collaborations and new initiatives for emerging artists, providing a stage for experimentation and opportunities for a spectrum of art practices. echo is an artist run initiative which will present a series of events throughout the year dedicated to diversifying the role of contemporary art in Edinburgh and beyond. Forest helped print flyers and subsidized the cost of the exhibition.

## QUARTERLY GRANTS

### **Peace Rising Workshops and Weekend = £350**

Bringing together a group of asylum-seekers and artists from the Edinburgh community to create pieces of drama and art. This involved a series of workshops totaling 16 hours over the course of a month, and culminated in a mini-weekend festival, in the Forest, which included performances, films, speakers, documentaries, DJs and a social gathering/party. It took place from the middle of February and the final weekend was Friday 23rd March to Sunday 25th March, coinciding with the Kurdish fire Festival “Newroz”.

The aim of the project was to narrow the gap and build trust, understanding and confidence between different sections of the Edinburgh community through art and performance.

### **Monsterbike building workshop = £300**

A five day workshop to build some absolutely crazy, oddly shaped and very difficult to ride bikes and use them to join in with Edinburgh’s critical mass. The participants learned basic welding and metalwork skills and the ability to dismantle and reassemble bikes through the project. They also recycled a lot of junk which was otherwise probably heading for a landfill, and built machines that brought joy to all those who saw them.



### **WTCDTD = £400**

*What They Could Do, They Did* is an ongoing series of events operated by a diverse collection of London-based artists, working to create an open space in which things can take place that might not happen in a normal art gallery or performance space. It takes the form of an integrated whole, encompassing static and temporary pieces, texts, workshops and live performances.

The Forest grant allowed WTCDTD to come up to Edinburgh and do amazing art things in our beautiful Hall during the first week of the 2007 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. It was bloody and it was brilliant.

### **STFU Electronic Music Festival = £300**

A 3 day aural extravaganza of electronic music from a diverse range of acts from across Europe. STFU is a non-profit and open collective. Our previous events have taken place in Helsinki, Lisbon, Oporto, Rome, Weimar, Heidelberg, Manchester, Leeds, Chester and Torres Vedras. October 5 - 7th 2007.



### **Mbira Workshops = £300**

Purchase of 10 mbira instruments for a three month series of workshops in this traditional African art.

# ARTIST FACILITIES

**The Forest** has a number of artist facilities which are, as far as possible, subsidised by the café in order to allow access to as wide a section of the community as possible.



## THE CAVE

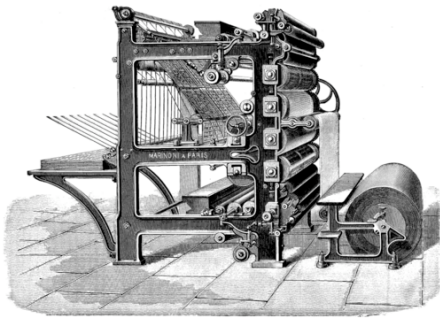
Our fully equipped rehearsal space. Kit available includes a drum kit, 2 guitar amps, bass amp, mixer and P.A. complete with 2 mics. Rental is just £6.50 per hour. Becoming a member of the Cave is free, and can be done by signing up to the online booking system:

<http://theforest.org.uk/cavebooking/>



## DARKROOM

The Forest operates a fully functioning darkroom with three enlargers. The darkroom collective also run various courses and workshops. Joining the darkroom costs £25, which includes a full induction to the equipment, and a health and safety tutorial. Then the cost is £4 for 2 hrs. Email [darkroom@theforest.org.uk](mailto:darkroom@theforest.org.uk)



## FOREST FREE PRESS

The Forest has offered office space, emotional support and access to our behemoth of a photocopier for those wanting to put together zines, pamphlets and journals. For two years *Read This* made use of our facilities to produce their magazine, including stocking copies in our shop and online, and using the café for literary events.



## FREE INTERNET

The Forest offers both free wifi and a computer with internet access for anyone to use, even without buying anything from the café. In 2004, Forest became one of just four cafes in the UK to win a Highly Recommended citation in the Yahoo! Mail Internet Café Awards.





### **SCREEN PRINTING**

The Forest has recently set up a screen printing room. So far, this has been used to create Forest clothing, Forest bags and edible menus for the 10-year celebratory banquet held in Aug 2010. It will soon be open and available for members of the public to learn the art of screen printing and create their own designs.



### **FREE SHOP**

For years the Forest has run a free shop in the front room on the basis of “Take What You Need, Leave What You Can” offering free clothing, books, toys, furniture, kitchen equipment, stereos, computers and anything else imaginable to those who want or need them. Recently the Free Shop has become a weekly event in the main space to allow more room for Old Hat Books Library.



### **ARTIST STUDIOS**

There are six subsidised studio spaces in the balconies for local artists to rent. Many projects worked on in these spaces have gone on to be exhibited in the Forest, either in the TK Gallery or in the main café space.



# PROJECTS

## BALKAN INVASION



In April and May 2006, Balkan Invasion invited contemporary musicians from Scotland and the Balkans to compose original new works at the Forest in Edinburgh. Made possible by the Visiting Arts Creative Collaborations in Music Awards, Balkan Invasion was the latest of many Scottish and former Yugoslav artists' events organised by Firefly International since 1999. Material was recorded from performances in venues across the UK including Genuig Hall in the North West Highlands of Scotland, Stereo in Glasgow, The Forest in Edinburgh and the Battersea Arts Centre in London. The participants included members of Edinburgh's own gypsy brass generals Orkestra Del Sol (Glastonbury, Thames Festival), Fopp award winning hip hop troupe the Abdominal Showmen (Scottish Hobo Society), electronic wizard Dan Seizure (Greenman Festival, Curios), guerrilla fiddler Jack Richold and the Jimmy Joyce Rolls Royce Band from Bosnia Herzegovina.

## R. U. GAIM?

R U GAIM? was a collaborative project between artists and local young people in Edinburgh. The aim was to alter an urban space through working with participants collaboratively. By the use of video projection, music production and mural painting the space was transformed into a single installation piece, with the theme and appearance being determined by the participants.

R U GAIM was a perfect opportunity for young people to work with different techniques like spraycan art and puppet making, as well as learning how to operate computer software programmes such as Adobe Premiere and Photoshop in a creative and encouraging environment.

The project culminated at the end of the two weeks with an opening celebration in September 2003 including theatre performances and film showings.



## Don't DIY Alone

A 3-day skill sharing event in February 2009. This included workshops on bicycle maintenance, food politics, clowning, feminist self-defence, zine-making workshop, and many more as well as evening music events.

## Feminist Soapbox

A 2-day event in September 2010. A variety of informative and explorative workshops around the issue of Feminism. Jointly organised by LadyFest Edinburgh and the Edinburgh AnarchaFeminist Collective.





## POLITICAL CAUSES



The Forest has supported a variety of political causes over the years in a number of different ways. Some have been given small grants, others have been allowed use of the hall to hold fundraising events, and others have been offered workshop and meeting room space for free.

### **Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan**

“RAWA is the oldest political/social organisation of Afghan women struggling for peace, freedom, democracy and women’s rights in fundamentalism-blighted Afghanistan since 1977.”

### **Edinburgh University Anarchist Society**

“The aims of the society shall be to pursue goals conducive to a free and equal anarchist society, and to promote the ideas of equality, liberty and respect for both humanity and the environment, through non-violent activities”

### **Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund**

Fundraising events in hall

### **Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group**

Meeting space, grant money and events space.  
“Our main purpose is to raise awareness of the Zapatista struggle and to give practical help wherever possible.”

### **LadyFest**

Multi-arts event in September 2010  
“celebrating women in arts, culture and society”

### **Edinburgh Anarcha-Feminist Collective**

Dayschool and music event  
“Anarcha-feminism is diy, anti-capitalist, anti-racist, anti-sexist, sex-positive, anti-homophobic, trans-positive, queer, anti-ageist, pro-woman, pro-kid, powerful ...”

### **Waste Reduction**

Freeshop & freecycle events, DIY bicycle maintenance workshops

### **Climate Camp Scotland 2009**

Hosting meetings & info sessions

“Direct actions against the root causes of climate change!”

### **Scottish Activist Legal Project**

Hosting meetings

“Through the principles of mutual aid and solidarity we aim to support anti-capitalist political activists who come into conflict with the law.”

### **Saving Iceland**

Jumble sale event in the Hall

“for the resistance against the industrialization of Europe’s last remaining great wilderness”

### **No Borders**

Day school

“No Borders is a network of groups struggling for the freedom of movement for all and an end to all migration controls. We call for a radical movement against the system of control, dividing us into citizens and non-citizens.”

### **Coal Action Scotland**

Meeting space and loan of equipment for CAS.  
“In the face of dangerous climate change caused by human activity, the Coal Action Scotland collective exists to challenge the advancement of coal as an energy source.”

### **Food Not Bombs**

Use of kitchen.

“Food Not Bombs shares free vegan and vegetarian meals with the hungry in over 1,000 cities around the world to protest war, poverty and the destruction of the environment.”

### **Queer Mutiny**

“An alternative to Edinburgh's commercial gay scene. We are a DIY, non-hierarchical Collective”

### **Indymedia**

G8 headquarters, 2005

“A network of individuals, independent and alternative media activists and organisations, offering grassroots, non-corporate, non-commercial coverage of important social and political issues.”

### **Infoseed**

“supporting free software and independent media in Edinburgh”





# WORKSHOPS

Over the past decade, the Forest has played host to literally hundreds of workshops, always free, in creative and practical skills. Our English language courses, run in conjunction with the Tollcross Community Centre, are believed to be the only free English courses in Scotland, providing an invaluable opportunity for groups such as asylum seekers and migrant workers.

Workshops have thrived in the Forest because the space provides the facilities and setting for the local community to pool its talents, energy, needs and aspirations. There is no single group the Forest was established to help, so there is no divide between those who use the Forest and those who provide its services. Instead, there is the opportunity for people to come together, to share what they can do and learn what they cannot.

Below is a list of some of the workshops which have run in the Forest.

- One man's Junk: recycled material.
- Forest Drama Group: drama drama drama
- Origami Workshop
- Pilates
- Cocodrilo Dance
- NACHO PICCHU Spanish Lessons
- Architecture does talk(s): Discussions around the Built Environment
- Free DIY Poetry Film Making Workshop
- Forest Bike Cafe: how bicycles work and some basic repairs
- FREE ENGLISH LESSONS: Beginners and Intermediate
- Capoeira
- Meditation
- THE CREATIVE WRITING LABORATORY: Creative Writing Workshop
- Passionate About Life Drawing: Life Drawing Workshop
- Pinhole Photography
- CHI KUNG LESSONS for beginners
- Self-defence for beginners
- Bellydancing
- Spanish/German/Italian/French/Gaelic lessons
- Saxophone
- Guitar
- Crochet
- Bike Generator - building machine powered by pedaling
- Drumgasm drumming lessons
- The Forest Choir
- xylophone
- Mbira



## SISTER PROJECTS

As well as the scene the Forest has fostered within the Edinburgh community, there have also been a number of projects across the world which have sprung up out from seedbed of creativity and ideas in the Forest.

### **KAFF in Frauenfeld, Switzerland (Kulturarbeit für Frauenfeld)**

“The place we set up is called Kulturlokal KAFF, or just 'KAFF' which is short for 'Kulturarbeit für Frauenfeld' (Culture-work/labour for Frauenfeld). Yes, you can say it came 'out of the Forest': I had such a great time during that month in Edinburgh, living, working, partying, organising stuff and meeting people from different parts the world. And I thought, a place like this is what is missing in my hometown. I took the forest as role model for our event space in small Frauenfeld, because the idea of a non-for-profit-organisation, where young people could take over responsibilities and learn how to manage a business, having their own space, where they could have fun and express themselves is just the perfect combination. Our venue 'KAFF' is in its 6th year by now and still running satisfyingly. Meanwhile the 'new generation' of KAFFians has taken over control and making sure that there is still some good-quality subculture going on in Frauenfeld”

Robin Kurzbein, founder of KAFF <http://www.kaff.ch/>



### **Café Jacobins, Korea**

“there is "CAFE JACOBINS" in my college.  
it has started now, it's growing growing.  
for all about art.  
like Forest cafe where is full of love.

LIBERTE, EGALITE, FRATERNITE OU LA MORT”

Nano Woo, founder of Café Jacobins

### **Octopus Diamond, The Bowery & The Roxy Art House**

These Edinburgh venues were all set up by people who had been involved in managing the Forest Café for years, and it was through the Forest and the Forest landlords (the EUS) that these venues were given the opportunity to exist. The Forest also offered invaluable assistance during their founding stages, both in practical terms and in moral support/advice.

Without the Forest, none of these venues would have existed in the form that they did, and the cultural landscape and music scene of Edinburgh would have undoubtedly been significantly more barren over the past five years.

