



Headliners' Chika with Dizzee Rascal

Good clean fun

By **Charlotte Lytton, 16, Chika Ekemezie, 17, Jason McLeod, 17 & Tajha Myer-Ferreira, 17**

It may not be at the top of every music fan's list, but the Underage Festival, held in Victoria Park, is one of the up-and-coming events of the indie calendar.

This year saw Dizzee Rascal and Gallows headlining a mix of hardcore punk and hip-hop, providing a twist to the guitar-pop feel of last

year's event. Even though it rained, it didn't dampen the mood of the 10,000 strong crowd of 14 to 18-year-olds.

Dizzee Rascal knew how to please the crowd as fans waved their arms and sang along to his set in pure unadulterated enjoyment. He said: "It's good to be able to do something for the kids in the holidays. They don't have to get drunk and drugged up to have a good time."

Although the artists drew the most amount of attention, three anti-bullying films shown on the big

screen stirred up some opinions: "It's a good opportunity to heighten people's knowledge of how bad bullying is. It's an important subject," said 17-year-old Clare.

The films were part of the 'CUT-it-Out' campaign launched last year by former X-Factor winner, Shayne Ward, Vodafone UK and Beatbullying.

Not everyone agreed that it was the best time to be raising such issues. Mark, 14, said: "I wonder how interested people really are. People aren't here to learn about bullying."

Scottish five-piece The Dykeenies lost none of their enthusiasm and spirit despite performing on one of the smallest of the festival's six stages. Another favourite were Foals, who set the crowd alight. Front man Yannis Philippakis said, "There's unbridled energy here. There's a real enthusiasm that's genuine and very youthful."

This year's festival saw even more candy floss, neon footless tights and glow sticks than last year, resulting in a clash of colour, music and good vibes.

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The scheduling of bands on different stages called for some tough decisions, but this didn't detract from the positive atmosphere, which many said had improved since last year. The cancellation by the Mystery Jets caused disappointment, but the general sense of fun could be felt by everyone, as 17-year-old Keith summed up: "It's been really great, bigger and better than before. I know I'll be back next year!" And we will too.

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This page has been compiled by Headliners – a youth journalism charity, that helps young people aged 8 to 19 produce videos, radio, written news reports and podcasts. For more information: www.headliners.org



Young people have transformed a run-down car park in Dalston as part of a legal graffiti arts project

By **Beccy Smart**

A YOUTH group has been helping aspiring artists spread their artistic wings – without breaking the law. Skyway brought in a professional graffiti artist to help 13 young people transform a once neglected space in Dalston, as part of a project called Graffinnit. The group, aged from 12 to 25, worked together for seven

weeks to paint a wall in a car park. Their large, eye-catching artwork depicts London life, from St Pauls in striking dark grey, to the startling red of a huge Tube sign. Charitable development trust Bootstrap, which owns the car park, said the mural has improved its appearance and even 'added air of security' in a space that was previously used as a dumping ground. The pilot graffiti scheme was set up in

response to demand from young people for more creative and artistic youth programmes. More are being planned from mid-September onwards, to cheer up other Hackney sites. There will be an exhibition of the finished art work in November at Rothschild investment bank, which is supporting the project. Shoreditch-based Skyway states its aim is to address the personal support needs of

young people, aged 10 to 25, across Hackney, enabling them to realise their potential and contribute positively to their community through a range of youth led programmes from sport to music production, film making and art.

MORE INFO

Visit www.skyway.uk.com; e-mail: danny@skyway.uk.com or call: **020 7729 6970**



The crowd goes wild (at the Underage Festival in Victoria Park)