



Children's Express relaunches under new name

Children's Express, the unique youth news agency charity set up in 1995, will be re-launching as Headliners at a ceremony at BAFTA on Piccadilly on 30th January.

Rt Hon Peter Hain MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Wales, will be the guest speaker at the event, which will showcase some of the successful work that has been produced over the previous 12 years, as well as look to the future.

2007 sees the start of an ambitious three-year expansion programme for the charity, partly-funded by a £900,000 Big Lottery grant, which will grow existing activities and establish Headliners in new areas including the North West, West Midlands and the South-East.

The name change came about after a six-month consultation period with many of the hundreds of young people that the charity works with. Headliners Director Fiona Wyton said: "We work with a wide range of young people, some who felt uncomfortable with the term Children. We also wanted to move away from sounding like a print-based organisation as we have moved into creating much more audio/video and new media output."

In 2006, Children's Express sent two reporters to Kenya to report on how young people were involved in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic in that country. Their report was shown on both BBC News 24 and Sky News, and they were interviewed on ITV News and BBC News 24.

Other highlights for the year include appearances on Radio 4 You and Yours, on BBC World Service as part of the Generation Next season and published articles in a number of newspapers including the Guardian and New Internationalist magazine.

In February 2006 Children's Express started producing three columns each week for the Reach for the Sky website, part of an ongoing partnership with Sky that has seen the satellite broadcaster provide mentoring and training for Children's Express members.

The event will also be the official launch of the new website, www.headliners.org, which holds an archive of nearly 1,000 stories that have been produced by Children's Express since 1995. The multimedia site also contains copies of recent television and radio work that Children's Express members have been involved in, including reports shown on BBC News 24, Sky News and Channel Five news.

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