

# TEEN LIBRARIAN

## Monthly

Vol. 2 No. 4 <http://www.teenlibrarian.co.uk/newsletter.htm>

April 2007

### Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of TLM. This month brings you another information-packed issue ranging from manga and poetry library events to upcoming conferences and funding opportunities. We also look at BOOX; relive the Games Workshop training day and the Unheard Voices event held at Random House.

There is also some news about the website and where it has gone. This month's author interview is with the talented J.M. Warwick whose latest book *an Open Vein* is reviewed on the Teen Librarian site – it is well worth a read.

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### Manga Mania in Motion

Have you taken the plunge and started offering manga in your library yet? The Reading Agency seem to think it's a good idea and this publication has also done its best to impart the fact that manga does indeed have the ability to kick some serious ass when it comes to reaching teens and boosting your issues. What isn't always so easy is launching the collection in a way that generates the kind of hype it deserves!

The solution? - Emma Vieceli and Sonia Leong from Sweatdrop Studios!

These two ladies are key members of the only UK manga studio currently worthy of your attention! Frequently featured in *Neo* magazine and recently published authors of the Manga versions of *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet*, these two artists know how to work a crowd!

A recent event in Bexley Borough's Central Library saw 40 teenagers (more than the number of places available) show up for a Manga Art workshop run by Emma and Sonia with very little pre-publicity being released. Some found out about it through totally unrelated sources online. Others were just friends of friends of the TRG members that signed up to the event. They all had one thing in common. They knew this would be a high quality

event with true professionals. Emma and Sonia looked and sounded the part creating a level of engagement with their teenage audience that would make other guest speakers or performers envious. Their artistic skills were phenomenal. The crowd was more than appreciative. The new collection of manga that was made available at the event virtually all went on loan directly afterwards. Resounding success does not begin to describe it.

If you have a little funding spare (and their rates are ridiculously reasonable), you might like to bring some manga magic to your library too. Especially if you have a new collection to promote. Emma and Sonia can be contacted through the Sweatdrop website – [www.sweatdrop.com](http://www.sweatdrop.com)

### Crisis in the Library!

Looking to put on a creative event that will appeal to the kind of teens that like sensitive poetry AND the sort that like modern Hip-Hop music? Look no further than Crisis (aka El Crisis)! This busy but very accommodating spoken word artist has performed internationally and brings a high quality one man show to almost any venue.

Looking a bit like Snoop Dog and sounding a lot like Shaun Paul with a reggae-rap style that's dynamic and fresh, this artist is better than both at weaving intricate tales of lessons learned from youth and commentary on a confusing and dangerous world into superb songs that have amazing depth even when performed without any accompanying music. Crisis can be contacted and booked directly through his Myspace site (where you can also hear a sample of his performance) – [www.myspace.com/elcrisis](http://www.myspace.com/elcrisis). He can also be contacted through spoken word booking agency Apples and Snakes. PF

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### Engaging Teenagers in Library Developments

Tuesday 22nd May 2007  
Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford  
A one day conference for public, school,

college or Schools Library Service library staff involved in, or planning consultation or engagement activities with young people. Topics to be covered will include:

- Stock selection
- Designing a new library
- Book Bars
- Community information for teenagers
- Peer inspection
- Market research techniques

Find out what approaches other libraries have taken to consultation and engagement and how successful these have been. Speakers from around the country will be describing both large and small scale initiatives. There will also be opportunities for informal networking and sharing of good practice.

Full details are available at <http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/events.htm> or by emailing: [ebase@uce.ac.uk](mailto:ebase@uce.ac.uk)

To book a provisional place, go to: [http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/provisional\\_booking.html](http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/provisional_booking.html) SM

### **Using Web 2.0 to engage teenagers in libraries**

Evidence Base at the University of Central England in Birmingham is planning a one day conference for October 2007 to look at how libraries from all sectors (public, school, college and university) can use Web 2.0 technologies as a means to engage teenagers.

We are interested in hearing from any librarians who are using technology such as blogs, social networking (e.g. MySpace, Bebo, Facebook), podcasting, RSS feeds, wikis, instant messaging etc as a way of engaging teenage users and would be prepared to talk about their experiences. Some of the questions the conference will address are:

- What are the benefits to young people of using this type of technology (e.g. engagement, literacy and social skills)?
- What problems have you experienced and how have you overcome them (e.g. security

concerns, staff skills)

- What has the reaction been from: young people, library staff and other library users?

If you're interested in giving a 20 minute presentation, or would just like more information when it becomes available, please email [ebase@uce.ac.uk](mailto:ebase@uce.ac.uk) SM

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### **Funding Application information**

#### **Youth Led Media Projects (England)**

Mediabox is a new fund that offers disadvantaged 13 to 19 year olds the opportunity to develop and produce creative media projects, using film, television, print, radio or online platforms. Mediabox which is funded by the Department of Education and Skills and run by a consortium consisting of First Light Movies, Media Trust, Skillset and the UK Film Council is for young people to; express their own opinions, ideas and views, gain new skills, encourage creativity, boost personal development and get their voices heard.

Mediabox offers three different types of grants to create and distribute youth-led media projects that express young people's ideas and/or views in a creative way, using their preferred media platform. My Mediabox provides grants of between £100 and £1,000 and is open to individual young people and groups of young people. Mid Mediabox and Big Mediabox are open to youth and/or media focussed organisations and provides grants ranging from £1,000 to £80,000. The next closing date for applications is the 22nd May 2007.

<http://www.media-box.co.uk/>

#### **Transforming Lives (UK)**

The Camelot Foundation has announced that the next funding round under its "Transforming Lives" programme will be launched on the 30th March 2007. The Transforming Lives programme spends £1.5 million each year to develop new approaches and creative ideas for re-connecting marginalised young people (aged 11 – 25) to the mainstream of UK life.

The funding is open to registered charities that work with young people that fall within the Foundations priority groups. These are; young parents or those at risk of becoming young parents; young exiles,

newly arrived in the UK; young people with mental health problems; and young disabled people. Each funding round of this programme focuses upon a different theme. Recent themes have included; hate crime and victimization; tackling negative stereotypes; young People living in rural areas; and sexual health information.

<http://www.camelotfoundation.org.uk/>

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## BOOX

BOOX is the reading offer The Reading Agency is developing for young people aged 13-16. At its core will be an interactive website about books and reading, designed for and by young people.

They are currently consulting with focus groups of young people about the detailed content they want to see on the site, after which the plan is to develop a prototype and offer subscriptions. They are in the process of planning links with publishers and other partners, so if you would like to be part of this exciting new development please contact Ruth Harrison [ruth.harrison@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:ruth.harrison@readingagency.org.uk) for more information and a chance to be more involved.

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## Games Workshop training day

Redbridge 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007

We few we happy few, we band of brothers...enough of the Shakespeare. A select group of librarians gathered at leafy Woodford Green Library to be indoctrinated in all things war gaming. The day started with a potted history of gaming and Games Workshop's origins taking in 19<sup>th</sup> century Prussians, HG Wells and the (in)famous Peter Jackson trilogy of Lord of the Rings films.

From there the day headed into more practical, but not hostile territory with Archie Black's personal experiences of running the Woodford Green club, and then Bek Hawksby and Judith Hawcroft's guides to the basics of setting up clubs.

We then broke for a hearty lunch and returned to some real hands on activity with a painting workshop and a demonstration of the basics of how to play a war game (skirmish rules). Our team of powerfully armoured ultramarine Space Marines won a resounding victory (yay) against the evil alien Genestealers (boo hiss!!).

The day ended with an excited Q&A and a final brief guide to administration of a club.

Over all the day was a good introduction to war gaming and a great starting point for planning a new club. It was also a fantastic chance to mingle with like minded librarians and ponder the problems and interest of working with teens and young people. GK

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## Unheard Voices

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March I was privileged to be one of the few invited to attend the celebration of *Unheard Voices* – an anthology of poetry and prose collected by Malorie Blackman at Random House in London.

It was an amazing evening listening to Jonathan Douglas of the National Literacy Trust in conversation with Malorie Blackman, Grace Nichols, Sandra Agard, and Catherine Johnson. The conversation was varied running the gamut from why there were no Black Daleks in Doctor Who to experiences of growing up Black in Britain and refusing to be give up or forget their heritage while embracing a new way of life.



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## Website news

As those of you who use the Teen Librarian website regularly may have noticed – it is no longer there. At the time of this article being converted to .pdf I have had no contact from web host although they are working on resolving the problem. I hope that normal service will resume as soon as possible and thank you for your patience during this ongoing problem.

**Editor:** Matthew Imrie

**Contributors:** Paul Fisher, Gabrielle Koenig, Sarah McNicol & Matthew Imrie

**Special thanks** to J.M. Warwick for giving up her time to answer the eight questions.

## Eight Questions with... J.M. Warwick

### **Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?**

I have six children, four are teenagers. It was kind of an automatic :). My girls are avid readers, and wanted stories they couldn't find on the shelf. (I also write YA romance under the name of Jennifer Laurens)

### **Q2. How do you get into the heads of your characters?**

They get in MY head, first. With An Open Vein, I formulated the story for years before actually putting anything on paper. By then, I have an internal grasp of each character to the point where I know their inner thoughts, their reactions, even physical movements and. The scenes, the writing is then second nature.

### **Q3. Do you know instinctively what will appeal to Teens or is it more a hit or miss process?**

I write what I want to write and let the chips fall where they will. That way, I'm satisfied on a creative level. Whether or not a book sells is then secondary, though nice as that is.

### **Q4. What is the most satisfying part of the writing process for you?**

Holding the hard copy in my hand. Readers "getting" my work, enjoying it and connecting with me. I like having friends in readers.

### **Q5. Do you ever read the works of other Teen/YA authors? If yes what can you recommend?**

I do. I love Celia Rees; The Wish House was one of my fav reads last year. I also loved An Abundance of Katherine's and my all time favourite YA book so far is: Fighting Reuben Wolfe by Markus Zusak.

### **Q6. Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?**

All of my books have pieces of me in them. In An Open Vein, I drew directly

from my life as an only child with an overprotective mother.

### **Q7. What are you working on at the moment?**

I'm finishing up a YA novel and beginning another.

### **Q8. Do you ever do Library visits to Teen Reading Groups? If yes, what is the best way to get into contact with your or your agent about it?**

I'd LOVE to do teen reading groups. I'd LOVE to do Library visits! I also love to teach writing workshops.

My agent is: William Reiss at John Hawkins & Associates in NYC.