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WE LOVE NEW  
FRIENDS

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## PSST! WANNA BE IN OUR GANG?

The tiger is a solitary animal. Majestic yet aloof. Belly bloated following a bloodied kill or stretched taut with hunger; this Charlotte Church amongst beasts has no true friends, excepting cornflake manufacturers. The penguin on the other hand is never happier than when mucking about with mates, falling over, picking themselves up and partaking of home-brew cod vodka cut with iceberg tonic.

Should an evil magician materialise upon your doorstep - admittedly an unlikely circumstance - intent upon transforming you into one or the other animal (perhaps he doesn't like your curtains), which of the two would you prefer? A lifetime of total body waxing, or hanging out with a fun loving rabble of Club -30 holiday reps? It's an easy decision. We are social creatures, and so too is the Big Screen.

In this edition of the Screenzine we highlight our current crop of bezzie mates, including the addition of our own Digital Curator, one of just a handful in

the world that we know of who programme solely for a dedicated space in the outdoor realm.

Our interactive gaming programme picks up speed using technology developed right here in Liverpool, plus an obscenely talented local production agency leap aboard with a monthly video trail that will knock your spotted socks off.

We like this working together lark. It's a lot more fun than playing alone, plus you have someone to blame for any embarrassing sounds when it all gets a bit too exciting.

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## INTERACTIVE GAMING

Almost two years ago as the screen appeared newborn and fully formed, we approached **ICDC: International Centre for Digital Content** and part of **Liverpool John Moores University**. 'Hello', we said, all but clutching a wilted bunch of daffs and a box of chocolates. 'Fancy a date?'

Check out their online profile at [www.icdc.org.uk](http://www.icdc.org.uk) and you'll see they whiff of the experimental jet set in terms of creating cutting-edge digital content. Their boffins swiftly recognised the opportunity for public interaction the Big Screens presented, and after frenzied development drew back the sheets on a range of pilot projects that we are now able to begin delivering with the financial support of screen sponsors **Royal Bank of Scotland**.

First out of the bag has been **Rugby Six Nations: Kick for a Ticket**, a virtual rugby tournament that utilizes the motion-sensitive cameras installed atop the screen to detect movement within Clayton Square. The public lined up to kick an imaginary ball visible only on screen and send it soaring over the crossbar.

With a view to the impending World Cup, **Penalty Shoot** followed apace. Take position in a football stadium before thousands of virtual spectators and confront our impatient goalie, who scratches his nethers if you take too long about it.

Voice-activated **Formula 1 Racing** drew bewildered crowds to the screen unsure of the shrieks, groans and laughter emitting from the inbuilt speakers: for this split-screen outing each player must imitate an engine in true va-va-voom style to cause their car to move around the track.

With Wimbledon on the horizon, **Tennis Matchpoint** allowed participants to perform against the computer and return serves by running left to right, movement which was then reflected on-screen by an animated miniature. Who said gaming was a couch potato pastime? New balls please!



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## 37SECONDS

Stop Press! With the backing and financial support of **Arts Council England North West**, the **BBC** have joined forces with **FACT: Foundation for Art and Creative Technology**, the **Liverpool Biennial** and an ever expanding network of local creative organisations to produce a rolling programme of artistic film & video for the Big Screen Liverpool.

This diverse programme is called **37Seconds** and is delivered by our new appointment **Rebecca Lennon**, Digital Curator for the Big Screen Liverpool and formerly of the **Short Circuits** film screening programme in Sheffield and across Yorkshire.

As you approach Clayton Square, it takes approximately 37 seconds to walk past the Big Screen. **37Seconds** is a fortnightly curated programme of

of innovative, original moving image art works that aims to communicate within, and potentially prolong, this 37 second window of persuasion. How? This is up to you.

Submissions are not limited to 37 seconds in length. Anything from 10 seconds to 30 minutes will be considered.

Selected material is screened to a wide and diverse audience alongside works by emerging and established artists of regional, national and international standing. Each programme will be screened for fifteen to thirty minutes, **every day at 10am, 12noon, 2.30pm, 4.00pm and 7.00pm**. Site-specific works or those created for public space exhibition are strongly encouraged.

Find out more, see film stills, peruse the programme playlists and find out how to contribute at [www.37seconds.co.uk](http://www.37seconds.co.uk)



## THE MAN WHO MISTOOK HIS WIFE FOR A HAT



Are you going to live forever? Light up the sky like a flame? No? Most of us are hard pressed for time to pick up something for tea on the way home, never mind chasing that fickle mistress Fame down the street in our slippers. But some have greater skill in delivering more than a boozy karaoke rendition, such as graduate Liz Griffiths of **LIPA: Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts**, the internationally renowned creative seed-bed founded by **Sir Paul McCartney**.

Liz approached the Big Screen to host her final performance project, a short film adapted from **Oliver Sack's** influential collection of case histories studying bizarre doctor patient scenarios, from which the title '**The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat**' is taken.

The concept began as a proposed cross-UK street-theatre performance, but soon ditched the conventional script and barrel of aspirin needed to halt the throb of red tape in favour of a humorous homage to the silent screen.

Accompanied by music and ornate text dialogue and shot in beautifully lit black-and-white, the film follows a despairing wife whose husband mistakes his spouse for a home wrecking skull-cosy.

Liverpool's finest Georgian architecture features as enviable set dressing, as do the beaches of the North West coast, while Vivienne Westwood would be jealous of the burlesque stylings and vintage accessories that litter this superbly realised star of our Spring schedule.

For Liz, her big screen debut is merely the beginning of a national tour of film festivals, prior to setting up her own theatre company with the help of LIPA's own **Angel Fund**. Remember, you saw her here first!

## SPARKLE MEDIA



Last spotted conjuring Big Screen animations to shame the major television networks (amateurs, all), local production company **Sparkle Media** have been chosen by screen sponsors **Royal Bank of Scotland** to produce a monthly, video listings trail to highlight the best of activities across Merseyside. Since day one, local venues, community groups and visiting productions have been keen to showcase a diverse range of events but typically lack the finance required to create a professional showreel. Well worry not, as RBS now pick up the bill, allowing Sparkle loose to work their design magic. Each completed monthly trail will show up to 10x per day, 7 days per week... which, for those who paid attention during maths, makes a maximum of 310 screenings per month! Phew! For consideration in the guide, please email details at least one month in advance to [info@sparklemedia.co.uk](mailto:info@sparklemedia.co.uk) and visit [www.sparklemedia.co.uk](http://www.sparklemedia.co.uk) to view their stonking showreel.

## I XTRA ROADSHOW

As part of **I Xtra**'s 'Homegrown Hits The Road' tour, troublemakers of radio **Ace & Invisible** (weekdays 4 - 7pm) pulled up in Clayton Square to throw a spotlight on **Urbeatz**, a locally based Urban Music Company that specialises in the production, promotion, development and management of Urban Music within the city.

Playfully grabbing control of the mammoth-sized monitor, the fellas jacked-in a games console and immediately began trading beats of a different kind with a bout of virtual boxing! You can hear them on digital radio or online by heading to [www.bbc.co.uk/ixtra/aceandinvisibl](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ixtra/aceandinvisibl)



**GUIDE TO IMAGES**

1: (37s) Scenes from the Boulevard - Dennis Connolly & Anne Cleary 2: Interactive Gaming / Kick for a Ticket 3: Interactive Gaming / Compere and BBC Radio Merseyside Presenter Alan Jackson 4: Interactive Gaming / Formula 1 screengrab 5: Interactive Gaming / Kick for a Ticket 6: Interactive Gaming / Formula 1 7: (37s) The world is all that is the case - Eva Teppe 8: (37s) The Pitch - Mark Lewis 9: (37s) Closer - Dryden Goodwin 10: (37s) Sshh - Meriel Herbert 11: (37s) Hypnomart - Joe Magee & Alistair Gentry 12: (37s) Rabbit - Run Wrake 13: The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat - Liz Griffiths 14: Sparkle Media RBS monthly video trail stills selection 15: 1Xtra DJs Ace & Invisible

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Got a question? Get in touch!

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