

Welcome to our March 2008 newsletter

If you have any colleagues who may be interested in the work of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust please pass this newsletter on and encourage them to join our mailing list. Please contact us at any time with queries or suggestions. We are always happy to hear from you. Call us on **0845 838 1883** or email enquiries@hmd.org.uk

HMD09: Stand Up to Hatred

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2009 (HMD09) will be "Stand Up to Hatred".

This theme examines the impact of hatred on people's lives, the different ways that hatred can be expressed - including through propaganda, legislation and action - and hate crime in Britain today.

The theme examines how the growth of hatred in the 1930s allowed the Holocaust to happen and how the violent expression of hatred has led to genocide in Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda and today in Darfur.

HMD09 challenges us all to "Stand Up to Hatred". It urges all of us to look at our behaviour to others; to understand how hate is directed against different groups in Britain today; to explore how each of us can help make our communities stronger and safer.

HMD09 is an opportunity to forge links across ALL the diverse strands of local community lives, to build understanding and to unite in common cause.

For a copy of the full theme paper please visit www.hmd.org.uk

If you would like to discuss with a member of the HMD team how to incorporate the theme into your own commemorations please call 0845 838 1883.

HMD Virtual Candle

Over 25,000 people took the time over Holocaust Memorial Day 2008 to light a virtual candle on the HMDT website www.hmd.org.uk

Each flame lit during the three weeks that this ran on the website represents 440 of the Jews, Gypsies, gay men and lesbians, Black Germans, mentally and physically disabled people, Trade Unionists and Jehovah's Witnesses killed under the Nazi regime.



Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Dr Stephen Smith thanked

everyone who had taken the time to light the candle and said: "Our theme for HMD08 was 'Imagine...remember, reflect, react'.

Remembrance is important, because the people who became the victims of the Nazis were not only killed, but all trace of them was removed. Remembrance reminds us that their lives as individuals were important. Reflection gives us time to work it out, to think it through, to wonder, to question, to challenge ourselves. The reflection is not a pause for meditation, but a personal challenge. Given similar circumstances, regardless of background, what would we have done? In the community today, how do we make an impact? Do we stand up and speak out, or are we complicit through our silence? To remember, reflect and react does not change history; it does not change the world. It changes us."

Book Club Activities

The HMDT website has a range of book club activities for both adult and child readers. Activities already online include:

The Pianist; Suite Francaise; The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas; Refugee Boy; The Suitcase; The Lily Cupboard; The Colour of Home

Books being added over the coming months include Schindler's Ark, A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali, The Search, Escaping into the Night and The Secret Purposes.

If you would like to recommend any books for consideration please email enquiries@hmd.org.uk

Your Event

Preparation of the Commemorative Book which lists all of the events that we know took place in the UK for HMD08 is now well underway. If you haven't yet let us know about your HMD08 event please do let us know as soon as possible. Please email details to louise.hector@hmd.org.uk



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HMDT Welcomes New Trustees

We are pleased to welcome The Minister for International Development, Shahid Malik MP, and the Councillor for East Peckham Council Ward, Andrew Pakes, to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's Board of Trustees.



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Africa's Hope Tour 2008

Rwandan youth theatre group, *Mashirika*, return to schools and theatres across the UK, bringing their internationally-successful and highly-relevant play telling the story of Rwanda's genocide.

Inspired by their personal experiences as survivors and refugees of genocide, the 12-strong cast share their memories, challenge perceptions and leave students inspired to keep themselves informed and educated about the world. Pupils are challenged to confront the tragic outcomes of prejudice, division and racism in society. Described by UK teachers during the 2006 pilot tour as "an incredibly high quality piece of work" and "education for life", this is an opportunity that can't be missed.

"The performance by Mashirika provides hope. It is a moving and stunning piece of theatre that deserves to be seen." Gregory Topalian, Teacher, Hockerill Language College, Hertfordshire.

"An education for life. All pupils should see this." Harkireet Sohel, Deputy Head and SST Lead Practitioner, Rushcliffe School, Nottingham.

Tour Dates: Autumn Term 2008 (15 September – 30 November).
Bookings are being taken now.

Oscar-winning Film Available on DVD

The Counterfeiters, Academy Award winner this year for *Best Foreign Language Film* will be released on DVD on Monday 17th March.

This powerful and challenging film tells the story of the largest counterfeiting operation in history, which was established by the Nazis with the intention of flooding the British and American economies with fake currency. Enlisted to assist were any concentration camp inmates with skills in the right department - among them master forger, gambler and playboy Salomon Sorowitsch, 'Sally' is a charismatic rogue who is at first energised by his new task (and by the superior quarters and treatment that his status affords him). But as the war grinds on, the moral frailty of Sally's position becomes more and more apparent, and he must choose which side he's on.



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Film Competition Results

Congratulations to the winners of the HMDT 2008 Short Film Competition. All of the entries we received were of an exceptionally high quality and we would like to thank everyone who took part.

There were three winners in the 13 - 18 Age Group:

[All Different... But Together](#) by Kim Knight, Amy Cartwright, Owen Donovan and Stacy Wilkinson

[Holocaust Poem](#) by Elish Waller and Georgia Stephenson

[Eternal Flame](#) by Abigail Sharman, Heather Smith and Katie Bloor

There was one winner in the 19 - 25 Age Group:

[Disability and the Holocaust](#) by Emily Perkins and Ryan Almond.

Winners will soon receive a copy of *The Counterfeiters* thanks to the generosity of Metrodome Distribution.

Resistance - A New Art Installation

A new film-based art installation exploring disabled peoples' experiences of Nazi persecution and discrimination today is currently being created.

Resistance uses history to understand the present and shape the future conceived by renowned Bristol-based artist Liz Crow.

Resistance is a platform for disabled people's voices – to demonstrate the contemporary experience and declare their presence. In protest and celebration, disabled people's voices are key to directing change and to revealing this as an issue that affects us all. *Resistance* raises difficult and often painful questions, but also carries a message of strength and defiance which will bring each person who experiences it to question their own contribution in creating a truly inclusive society.

Over a 12-month period, a group of disabled people (writer-director, actors, partners) will investigate Aktion-T4 - the Nazi programme of euthanasia against disabled people - and the way the underlying values still profoundly influence their lives today.

For more details of this art work and how to bring it to your community please contact Roaring Girl Productions.

info@roaring-girl.com

Human Rights Watch Film Festival

The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival supported by Time Out returns to London for its 12th year from the 12 to 21 March with a packed programme of films dedicated to raising awareness of human rights issues and campaigning around the world.

Films on show include Ted Braun's *Darfur Now* and a documentary comprised of trial footage *Milosovic on Trial*.

For more details visit www.hrw.org/iff/2008/london