

## Creative Industries in Kent & Medway

- The Creative Industries are an important part of the Kent economy and consist of a wide variety of innovative and dynamic companies, predominantly small niche players. Over **3,000 people** are employed in some **930 companies**, over **300** of which are in **Media & Production**. Key growth areas evident in Kent are **software, broadcasting and design**.
- As a fast growing and evolving sector (in the UK the sector is growing twice as fast the rest of the economy), the Creative Industries are fully supported by local authorities, for example **Kent County Council** through the **Kent Film Office** is promoting Kent as a prime location for film and TV productions, whilst **Medway Enterprise Gateway** is dedicated to nurturing the cultural and creative industries.
- With over **6,500 students**, the **University College of the Creative Arts (UCCA)** in Kent & Medway has been ranked among the top 10% of university level institutions and is a leading provider of specialist art and design education, including art, media and communication.
- As well as UCCA, the University of Kent's school of drama, film and visual arts has an excellent reputation for teaching and research. It has also launched a consultancy service to help businesses, local authorities and other organisations to put together imaginative and artistic events.
- The regional importance of the sector is evident in the success of former Kent students **Tracey Emin, Zandra Rhodes and Karen Millen**. In addition to the university excellence outlined above, there are a number of Further Education Foundation courses related to the Creative Industries.
- The £15 million **Turner Contemporary**, an international centre for the visual arts, is scheduled to open in Margate in 2010. This centre will help in the regeneration of East Kent and reflect the importance that local authorities are placing on creative and cultural industries.
- Television production has a major presence in Kent & Medway with both **Maidstone Studios** and **Meridian** located here. Meridian specialises in news broadcasts and Maidstone Studios operates a range of facilities including 3 production studios and state of the art editing and dubbing facilities.

- Production companies working out of the studios include Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer's Pet Productions, children's TV producers Media Merchants, quiz channel Challenge TV and prize winning documentary maker Peter Williams International.
- **Clio Barnard**, Lecturer in **Film Studies** at the **University of Kent**, is one of only two artists who are the first to receive funding from a new £1m commissioning arts fund. **The Jerwood/Artangel Open**, in association with **Channel 4** and **Arts Council England**, was launched last summer and received almost 1000 proposals by artists working in sculpture, film and performance who imagined transformations of sites and situations across the UK.
- **Gravesend's** Paul Greengrass has directed many recent blockbusters including **The Bourne Ultimatum** and **United 93** and it is for the latter that he has received much interest from his peers. He has just won a **BAFTA** for his efforts and was nominated for an **Oscar**.
- [MediaTree](#) helps people and businesses in the creative and media industries to work together to raise the profile of Kent's creative talent. MediaTree provides regular events, networking, workshops, jobs and opportunities to tender to achieve a creative collaboration. MediaTree has a monthly column in **The Kent Messenger's 'Kent Business'** paper where they highlight some of the success stories of their members. When companies are seeking creative input MediaTree is the first place to seek out the talent the county has to offer.
- The **Creative Foundation** is a charitable organisation in Folkestone, aiming to regenerate the Old Town area. A large number of run-down properties in the Creative Quarter of Folkestone have been renovated and let out as affordable workspaces for artists and creative businesses, creating a vibrant and exciting environment and providing a long-term sustainable future for Folkestone as a centre for creativity.
- Kent & Medway is also home to many cultural festivals, such as the **Folkestone Triennial, Whitstable Biennale, Deal Festival, Broadstairs Folk Festival, Canterbury Festival, Dickens Festival, the Hop Festival and the Will Adams Festival**.
- Recent investors include **Coast Communications; WSK Marketing Communications Ltd; Pseudo Hero; Q Creative Ltd; Jam Media and Shock Solutions Ltd**, all predominantly in the field of marketing and advertising.

- For further information on the Creative Industries sector in Kent and its company base, please visit [www.locateinkent.com](http://www.locateinkent.com) or contact us on 00 44 1732 520700 / [enquiries@locateinkent.com](mailto:enquiries@locateinkent.com).