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**TOBACCO
FACTORY
THEATRE**

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

GETTING THE KnowleEDGE!

This summer Tobacco Factory Theatre and Bristol-based puppet-masters Green Ginger joined forces to deliver an education project at The Park Local Opportunities Centre in Knowle West.

The project, which ran for the whole of August and involved a group of almost twenty 11 – 13 year olds from the Knowle area, presented its participants with the chance to learn the skills involved in manipulating life-size latex puppets and make a film which explored their relationship with The Park.

Under the expert guidance of Green Ginger's Terry Lee and Laurence de Jonge, the project's participants created an 11 minute-long film that is reminiscent of Creature Comforts, Monty Python and a local tourist board infomercial. KnowleEDGE is an irreverent and at times very funny mockumentary-style film, all the more impressive because it was created over quite a tight timeframe by youngsters the vast majority of whom had no experience of manipulating puppets, shooting film or, indeed, of expressing their thoughts to anyone beyond their immediate circle. A couple of participants came to Voxpups via Project X, which specifically works with youngsters who are described as 'most likely to offend', and the project's co-ordinators were delighted that one of them emerged to be one of the most able and committed puppeteers of the group.

At the end of the month KnowleEDGE will be screened for the first time at The Park's Daventry Road base. The screening will be attended by the project's participants, their family and friends, as well as the large number of people who helped run the project on the ground. Each participant will be presented with their own dvd copy of the film as well as a certificate of participation. It is hoped that the occasion will be in the main a celebration of the youngsters' achievements, whilst providing an opportunity publicly to thank the project's sponsors.

The project has been made possible by the generous support of Beachcroft LLP. Senior Partner Mike Bothamley said:

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“We are delighted to be able to support another project at the Park. After helping to get the Building Skills programme off the ground over the last three years, we were keen to find an arts-led project we could support and one aimed at younger people. We also wanted to do something in conjunction with the Tobacco Factory Theatre, another great South Bristol institution whose mission is to use the arts to help regenerate that part of the city. At Beachcroft, we believe whole-heartedly in encouraging creativity, self-expression and ambition – particularly amongst young people whose skills and talent might one day be reinvested in the local community. The Voxpups project is another showcase of the tremendous potential which exists here in Bristol and we congratulate everyone involved in making it a success.”

**For more information, images and interviews, please contact
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Notes to Editors

The Tobacco Factory Theatre

The Tobacco Factory Theatre is a dynamic, innovative and popular studio theatre located at the heart of one of the fastest growing areas in Bristol. It is a hub of creation, development and learning, which produces and presents a diverse and exciting programme of theatre and other performing arts. It has a growing education programme, which provides an increasing number of opportunities for people from all walks of life to get involved with its work. www.tobaccofactorytheatre.com

Green Ginger

Green Ginger makes award-winning theatre and films with complementary educational activities. Founded in 1978 to create innovative and accessible entertainment featuring puppetry, the company now regularly tours throughout the world. Since 2001, Green Ginger has given voice to different communities through its short puppet films. Working throughout Europe with groups that span all ages and social boundaries, the company has developed a technique of provoking dialogue, real and imaginary, about issues that are important to the people it is working with. www.greenginger.net

The Park

The Park Local Opportunity Centre opened in 2000 as a hub of community activity including learning, business, support services and leisure. It occupies a 15-acre site on the main bus route through Knowle and local people are at the heart of everything that goes on. The Park tries to offer something for everyone and everyone who uses the site is seen as equally important. The Centre sits within the Children's and Young People's Service (CYPS) of Bristol City Council and is run by a small management team. It opens 7 days a week. www.theparkknowle.co.uk

The West Country's most enterprising theatre. The Times

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