

ElectricDecember.org
WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

Electric December 2007... getting ready to launch.

Online advent calendar's digital treats selected and presented by young eShedders.

Electric December, Watershed's online Digital Advent Calendar, goes live on Sat 1 Dec offering a delightful digital treat daily throughout the traditional holiday countdown period. Now in its ninth year, **Electric December '07** promises to deliver a range of fantastic digital distractions with a difference. This year it has been curated and organised by young people from eShed.net, a website made by young people for young people aged 14-21 who have a passion for film and media. Each day a new film will be revealed from some of the freshest young film talent in the UK. In addition to online access it is now even easier to enjoy the digital delights as they are available on your mobile via bluetooth from within Watershed and can be downloaded as video podcasts. Also during December, on **eShed.net**, there will be daily updates with more news, reviews and other extra features on each day's film.

Electric December has always sought to introduce local community and education groups to professional media companies, and facilitate partnerships to produce new pieces of creative work for the web. These partnerships have ensured that skills are pooled and shared and the world of online creativity is opened up to all. This potential of the internet and digital tools to encourage and celebrate creativity is now widely recognised and many people are creating their own work, particularly young people.

In light of these developments, **Electric December '07** is a bit different from previous years. It is a celebration of young people's creativity, curated and organised by eShed.net. The eShed group have sought out 24 of the best short films and animations from some of the freshest young filmmaking talent across the UK. Sourcing the selection from existing networks as well as newly discovered enterprises, the final selection of 24 films covers a range of styles, topics and issues that are important to young people today, including: feminism, bullying, loneliness, stereotyping and global warming.

On choosing the final 24 titles, Taran, an eShedder on the selection panel, said: 'I really enjoyed watching all of the films, although it was really hard to pick a final selection, and there were some that we just couldn't choose between. We do feel however that the chosen titles offer a good mixture of styles, topics and talents and we're really excited about putting them out and hearing people's reactions.'

What has really added to the eShedders experience with **Electric December** this year is that they have also developed and executed the entire project, including the organisation of the site itself, the launch and the communication strategy, giving them first-hand experience in project management and professional planning. Taran said of the experience: 'It's been really exciting and interesting to be involved in such a great project - not only have I been lucky enough to be involved with like-minded people, I've witnessed some unique ideas through the films and we've been able to see how such a project is brought to life through working with Watershed.'

Watershed's Digital Development Co-ordinator, Gill Haworth said of this year's project: 'Over the last eight years Electric December has been a great success - at its core is the desire to nurture talent, particularly in young people, exposing them to new areas of creativity. This year is no different, but with the increased participation in filmmaking by young people, we wanted to harness this array of talent and film whilst maintaining Electric December's original objectives.'

Notes:

- For further information/images please contact Dan Fowler dan.fowler@watershed.co.uk or Amy McGuinness amy.mcguinness@watershed.co.uk Tel: (0117) 927 6444.
- The eShed project is run by young people for young people (14-21) with regular events, get-togethers and networking sessions. For further information on eShed, please visit eshed.net or email info@eshed.net
- Electric December is a Watershed project, supported by Arts Council England, Firetv.org.uk (an Avon Fire & Rescue Service's project), with kind support from Quartier Vert (quartiervert.co.uk).

Film details

Sat 1 Dec:

The Fake Tales of Batimo Greenstripe

Two grandmaster yo-yo artists battle it out for the love of a woman.

Made in collaboration between Club Flix (Bath's film club for young people) and Electric December hosts eShed.net at BBC Blast in Bristol during the summer of 2007.

Sun 2 Dec:

The Happy Journey

Two characters, Shi-Shi in the Ground and Sunny-Ghost-Head, really want to find the magic book - The Happy Journey is about what happened when they tried.

Made by the Oska Bright Film Festival Outreach Project. Oska Bright Film Festival is the first film festival managed by learning disabled people, for learning disabled people.

Mon 3 Dec:

Rambling

A young Muslim gives his take on fundamentalism.

Made by Mohammed Ali, with help from Rob Mitchell and Sam Walker, facilitated by Firstborn Creatives.

Tue 4 Dec:

Dead Kid

Zombies, kids and corpses all make an appearance in this short comedy horror.

Warning: children under 6 years can only watch this film under supervision.

Made by young people from Rotherham as part of Picture IT, funded by First Light, a UK Film Council initiative supported by the Lottery, and delivered in partnership by Rawmarsh City Learning Centre and C Media Productions.

Wed 5 Dec:

Boxes

A look at young people's experience of stereotyping and how it impacts on their lives.

Made as part of PVA Medialab's Silicon Coast young people's project funded by West Dorset District Council and Awards For All. Holly Bickle, Dawn Fullthorp and Cevi Staplin of Dorchester Youth Group worked together with James Price and Spencer Nicholls of PVA Medialab.

Thu 6 Dec:

The Face in the Mirror

A man tries desperately to remember who killed his friend as he becomes increasingly paranoid about who is following him.

Made by a group of 15 to 18-year-olds in London. The film was made with London-based production company Mouth That Roars using funding from First Light Movies.

Fri 7 Dec:

Tim's BIG Adventure

While Tim is sleepwalking he falls out of his world into the real world animation studio where his animation is being made. Mind-blending family fun happens as a result and, after an exciting chase, Tim is returned to his own world by the kind animator's hand.

Made with support of Exeter Phoenix Media Centre, dMEC (digital media and education centre) and First Light. Creator, director and animator of Tim's BIG Adventure is Harrison Willmott.

Sat 8 Dec:

Fish On A Bike

A contemporary and lively approach to feminism. When a girl comes home to her lazy boyfriend and an untidy flat she leaves for a run, where a number of encounters make her feel that she doesn't need to put up with this anymore.

Made by a group of 15 to 18-year-olds with Scotland's Pilton Video using First Light Movies funding.

Sun 9 Dec:

Creature Creatives

An anthropomorphic take on the Bristol Media scene!

Made by Alan Osborne. Funded by Gallery 37+ and Bristol County Council and facilitated by Calling The Shots Films Ltd.

Mon 10 Dec:

Silver Stampede

A young girl is being bullied by a trio of girls. To escape her harassment she imagines that she is back in the good old days of the Wild West where she comes out on top.

Made by a group of 11 to 16-year-olds with The Arc using First Light Movies funding.

Tue 11 Dec:

On Another Level

An unusual dancer at a drum and bass party.

Made by Vasilis Michael Karatziva as his graduation film. He graduated in 2007 from the Faculty of Art Media and Design at University of West of England.

Wed 12 Dec:

The C.R.U.M.P.I.T

A tongue-in-cheek science fiction parody about a plague that wipes out all women. Two men from the year 2050 return to the present day to find a woman to restore the population of the future.

Made and facilitated by LiveWire, a Cornerhouse education project for 14 to 18-year-olds who want to work with experienced artists and filmmakers.

Thu 13 Dec:

Peak Oil Subvert

Peak Oil Subvert is a pastiche of a TV car ad using public domain material and new filmed material to describe the current Peak Oil crisis through the eyes of an oil junkie going cold turkey as the oil dries up.

Made by Luke Martin and Denzil Monk as a TOR project. TOR is a developmental programme for teams made up of a creative professional working with one or two young people. TOR is funded by South West Screen with National Lottery funding and by Creative Partnerships South West and the Arts Council of England.

Fri 14 Dec:

Time!

Rapunzel has to some shopping on her way home from school and she mustn't be late! School bullies take Rapunzel's shopping money and she spends the afternoon finding ways to get her Mum's money back. But will she get home for 5pm?

Made by Hi8us South working with a group of young women age 16 to 18-year-olds at The Crib Youth Centre based in the heart of Hackney, with funding from First Light Movies.

Sat 15 Dec:

The Child and Me

The story of the transition between primary school to the new Isambard Community school.

Made by Mobile Media, Create Studios, young people at Haydonleigh, Petesmore, Abbeymeads, Haydonwick and Catherine Wayte Primary schools in North Swindon with funding from Arts Council England and Artpoint.

Sun 16 Dec:

Drag Racing

The beginning of a Drag Race between two scooters.

Made by Nicholas Morton, facilitated by C Media Productions.

Mon 17 Dec:

Green Ideas

Did you know that cows produce methane gas? The Digital Fish Film Club green survivors, with the help of a team of supersonic scientists, think up ways to solve this and other global warming problems.

Made by the 'Digital Fish' Film Club at Knowle West Media Centre.

Tue 18 Dec

CCTV Video Sniffin #1: The Commercial

Mediashed makes the point that you don't have to pay lots of money for film equipment and software to produce a piece of film.

Made by Mediashed.

Wed 19 Dec:

Just Do It

Tired of being bullied? Try this new softdrink!

Made by Matthew Nesbeth and facilitated by Club Flix and Suited and Booted Studios.

Thu 20 Dec:

Teens

Exploring issues teens face these days by asking for the opinions of the people of Bracknell.

Made by Unseen Dreams, an Arts and Film Development Agency based in the South East of England in partnership with the Asian Arts Agency.

Fri 21 Dec:

Not An Ordinary Day

An ordinary day in school turns into an Orwellian nightmare for its students.

Made by Stephan Clarke and the East Bridgwater Community School, supported by Engine Room, Media Box and Young People's Film Council.

Sat 22 Dec:

Sometimes I Wonder

Alyce feels alone; it's all she thinks about... "Sometimes I wonder where everyone has gone" But what happens when you are truly alone? An enchanting tale of Alyce and her struggle with reality.

Made by Steffan Donnelly and Nia Wyn Roberts as a result of the Ffilmic Take 1 Five Day Film Challenge with funding from The Film Agency for Wales.

Sun 23 Dec:

Before I Could Remember

Home movies are poetically used to create an image of childhood as a young girl revisits memories of her mother.

Made by St Basils Shaftesbury House with funding from the Independent Cinema Office.

Mon 24 Dec:

Restraints

Imagine waking up to find you could see the things that join us together and restrain us... A story about a girl that can see the restraints of society, and who unwittingly gets involved with the people she encounters.

Made by Laurie Doyle, produced by eShed.net. Laurie wrote this prize-winning screenplay at eShed's first 'Shedloads' event.