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editor: Nancy Sinclair

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MA Arts Management

Year three of AHA as Award Leader of the MA Arts Management at University College Falmouth/Dartington Campus is already well underway. We have five highly involved and ambitious students who (in true AHA fashion) aren't afraid to ask difficult questions, but, also like AHA, work collectively to enhance everyone's experience. Some of them found a bit of time to write about their experiences thus far. *Nancy Sinclair.*

Tuesday morning, and five or six of us with Nancy and perhaps a guest lecturer, are gathered round a table in a modern studio, huge windows overlooking the treetops of the estate, nursing cups of coffee, builders' tea or lapsang souchong — each to his own in this group. Centre table is the chocolate biscuit tin. We feel that we need the energy because there's a lot to do.

What do we do? Well, last week we tried to get to grips with the different kinds of legal structures that arts organizations might operate within. I say tried because this subject is huge and not because Madeline Hutchins is anything but truly expert and brilliant at conveying her expertise. We had a similarly great session with Cat Radford who made a terrific presentation on presentations and enabled us to make pretty good mini ones of our own. And Richard, on health and safety, led a really absorbing morning, amazingly, considering the potential for boring the pants off that subject has.

After Christmas we'll be getting out more, going to visit various arts organizations in Plymouth and around. Meanwhile, on Mondays we meet with all the other MA students to explore the range of research and practice that is going on at Dartington. There is a huge range of possibility inherent in Mondays and we are all engaged and interested by different aspects. I loved Professor David Williams presentation on Animals and Art — art made with animals, by animals, for animals and by people who 'become' animals — and found his range of texts, video and still images both thought provoking and moving.

At this point the full-timers are gearing up towards their dissertation planning. Us part-timers have a more leisurely time of it, but for all of us I think there is a real sense of growing into the roles we have taken on, of step by step becoming 'arts managers'. Karen Townshend.

Well, how to start? The Arts Management MA combines stimulating academic discussions/presentations/guidance on writing... led by John Hall and Mark Leahy, with all the other MA students (visual performance, devised writing, theatre, choreography, arts and ecology, music, curating and so forth) on Mondays with really good hands-on information sessions with Nancy and/or Richard and a fantastic selection of people focusing on their speciality (giving

us masses of information which I need to spend awhile going over afterwards) on Tuesdays.

I'm doing it full time, which is a brilliant, mind numbing and terrifying experience, you just have enough time to get the work done and not enough time to get ill panicking: there's the three minute Monday presentation about your work, the 1000 word essay, yikes!, the ten minute presentation followed by ten minutes of discussion run by you... the 5000 word essay to start thinking about for February and what about the Practical — help? Should I be applying for funding now, we've just had a really good session on that with Richard, and should I be forming a limited company or what? We just had a great session on that with Madeline Hutchins, and so it goes on.... Like all the best things in life if you had any idea what you were letting yourself in for you wouldn't do it, but I'm delighted that I am. Nancy holds it all together, supplies us with excellent relevant info AND we get tea and biscuits, non stop, who could ask for more?! Ella Huhne with input from Tobias Billing.

My name is Anne-Katrin Luther and I joined the MA Arts Management programme at Dartington in mid September. I moved from Big Berlin to Small Totnes as I wanted an education in Britain, at an internationally known College of Arts, which would also provide personal and intense tutoring.

What exactly is Arts Management at Dartington? Part 1 of the course is divided into three taught sections: Theory, Methodology and Practice (which is subject specific).

The assignments include essays, presentations, a dissertation and a practical project. The theory sessions and the practical sessions are a mixture of very interesting guest lecturers and Dartington tutors. In the Arts Management course we are learning practical and theoretical aspects linked to the fields of finance, publication, development of a proposal, marketing, presentations and the arts world in Britain and beyond. I have developed a broad overview in many topics and I am searching for a specialized field for my further research right now. My Arts Management tutors (Nancy and Richard) are not only teachers but also lead one of the leading rural arts organization in the UK. Through their experiences in the field and everyday accounts of their networks and experiences in the arts world my studies are not just theoretical. With this course the College provides a professional education for developing leading Arts Managers and we hope to fulfill this responsibility in future. Anne Katrin Luther.