

MOUTH THAT ROARS

FILM MAKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Company Information

“Often it is those we least expect to have an opinion, who actually offer the most thought provoking and challenging perspective on the world.”
Mouth That Roars©

Who We Are ...

Mouth That Roars (MTR) is an independent not for profit youth media organisation, dedicated in giving marginalised young people access to media. Good youth work and children’s rights practice underpins MTR’s approach. MTR uses media literacy and film making as a way of engaging young people. Our projects create spaces and opportunities for marginalised young people, who are often misrepresented within society, to be heard and access, to a medium through which they can voice their thoughts and feelings. They learn to review and critically analyse their worlds and others and use these skills to produce films that represent their lives from their point of view and challenge the negative representations of young people today.

Why We Do It ...

Children & young people have a lot to say, but not always the means or skills to express it effectively. As stated in Article 17 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, children and young people have the right to:

“...reliable information from the mass media from all over the world. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand and should not promote materials that could harm them.”

Media portrayal has a profound impact on public attitudes towards children and childhood and the images children see of themselves can influence their expectations and future life aspirations.

“Television media has failed to create a dialogue with children, rather seeing them as passive recipients and as a result they feel disconnected and ignored.”

(Potter et al, 2008; de Block and Buckingham, 2007)

These research findings resonate with our own consultation with children and young people, who tell us that they feel the media does not portray them positively and fails to represent their interests. MTR aims to address this gap and develop a platform to encourage debate and challenge common misconceptions and enable young people to understand the mechanisms of the media, as well as use it to empower their lives.

Our projects aim to benefit marginalised children and young people who find it hard to access mainstream services and may have low self esteem & confidence; little financial backing, security or family support and may not be in education, employment or training.

How We Do It ...

MTR uses informal education techniques and a process of experiential learning to train young people in film and TV production. The learning environment increases young people's awareness of their community, wider social issues and encourages cultural exchange.

Our experiential media training supports young people to develop essential life skills, such as communication, negotiation and teamwork, as well as encouraging them to assume leadership roles and responsibility, acquire new technical skills and practice literacy, numeracy and computing skills. They will often have to make quick thoughtful decisions, negotiate their ideas, think critically about what is being produced and manage their emotional response to the feedback of others. As a result of their involvement in a creative process, which is inclusive, they will build on their feelings of self-worth and self-confidence.

“When we get given the camera, it makes us responsible for it, which enables us to build our confidence in other situations, which makes us feel we can do other things, such as now I work in child care and I don't think I would have ever thought I could be responsible for someone else if I hadn't had that experience.”

Smiya, 16 Years

MTR does not adopt a 'one size fits all' training style, but strives to constantly develop and adapt our workshop skills, so that we can be responsive to the learning needs of young people. Young people's training is completely 'hands on', giving them access and use of professional broadcast quality equipment and ensuring a professional broadcast standard product.

Young people script, shoot, direct and control film content which immediately gives them ownership over the process and product. However, this does not mean that they can produce anything they like, anyway they like and without any educational input. MTR will challenge young people to generate creative ideas that do not perpetuate negative or internalised stereotypes, to think critically about their work and engage fully with people round them.

“You have to work with people you might be really nervous about working with! Media makes you communicate and this can help you in your future in a job interview and even just walking into a new space... It's always challenging your confidence.”

Anthony, 17 Years

Our Experience ...

Mouth That Roars Management Committee consists of a range of professionals whose experience represents:

- 15 years directing and production for Television.
- 24 years qualified Youth and community work including probationary work with young people and lecturing.
- 15 years experience initiating innovative issue based project work with young people.
- 15 years experience budget planning and legal procedures for TV and Production Management.
- 15 years managing staff and volunteers.

MTR employs a professional team of experienced youth media professionals. All staff are DBS checked and have attended current Safeguarding and Anti-discriminatory Practice & Diversity training.

MTR Projects ...

MTR has been commissioned to deliver a range of short, medium and long term media projects by local authorities around the UK. Currently Young Hackney support MTR as a commissioned provider. We have an excellent reputation in this field and have also completed film projects for NGO's, such as Barnardos, National Children's Bureau, UNICEF, UNESCO and the Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE). Our work has been instrumental in supporting policy change. National policies such as Care Matters and Every Child Matters. Also various Looked After and CAMHS participation projects around the UK.

MTR Studio ...

In April 2005, MTR opened MTR Studio, a unique media space based in East London, designed specifically for young people. The Studio provides free membership to any young person, 8-19 years old, who completes a film/media project with MTR. As well as exhibiting and promoting young people's film work, young people can access the following facilities:

- studio training,
- professional film equipment & editing facilities,
- unique world cinema and youth film collection,
- film literature & resources,
- personal DVD viewing portals,
- large screen events and film programmes,
- supervised internet access,
- supportive and professional youth media team and advice.

Our Everyday Lives TV (OEL TV)...

OEL TV is an online channel dedicated to enabling young people to share their lives, from their perspective, with the wider community.

OEL TV hosts:

- 'OEL TV Debate': News & current affairs style programme where young people talk about and debate issues that are important to them.
- 'Improving OEL': a series of short films that focus on how young people can improve their everyday lives.
- 'OEL Estate': a series of short films made by young people exploring the lives of young people from various estates in London and challenging audience perceptions.
- 'OEL International': see information below.
- 'Special Features': a collection of short films, music videos and experimental films made by young people participating in MTR Studio workshops.

All OEL TV films and programmes are designed, filmed and directed by young people.

Our Everyday Lives (OEL) International ...

MTR's international programme of work produces films by young people from other cultures living in areas of disadvantage in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia.

'It's important to learn about other people's lives and I hope they learn from watching us'
Ahmed 16 years – Egypt

Our opinions of other cultures are generally formed and influenced by what we see in the media, rather than from first-hand experience. Our values and norms evolve from information fed to us through different mediums, on a daily basis. Often we describe other people's lives, without ever having met them and depending on where we gained our information; these perceptions can often fuel prejudice. OEL International projects invite us to explore different cultures and aims to increase global awareness by provoking dialogue about local and global identity; our own, and that of others.

OEL International aims to implement and develop sustainable media projects run by young people and supported by their local communities, so that they can:

- produce films and resources using their own experiences, that can be shown within their communities and the global community;
- provide opportunities for young people and the wider community to develop creatively and use media as a learning tool;
- enable young people to connect with other young people across the world and learn from each other;
- enable young to explore children's rights and share this information locally and globally;
- bridge the gap between those that have access and those that have not.

In recent years, MTR has recognised the need for young people in the UK, regardless of cultural background, to be more aware of the lives of young people from other countries. In particular, to challenge some of our young people to see beyond the material world. MTR believes that we can get a unique perspective on our lives and environment, from seeing other ways of living. OEL International offers a series of DVD education packs which can support schools and youth projects to enrich their global citizenship programmes. (Packs are available to purchase from Mouth That Roars)

"You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect other people's rights and values"

Article 29 – UNCRC

Exhibitions, Awards & Festivals...

MTR actively advocates young people's work by promoting them at the studio and entering them for international film festivals. For further information please visit our website www.mouththatroars.com.

To view MTR film projects and for further information please visit our websites:
www.mouththatroars.com **and** www.oureverydaylives.tv