

25th March 2008

North Devon museum wins prestigious media award

An educational DVD designed to help students learn about local history scooped a prestigious media award last week.

'Think Tank', created by Maniac Films, the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon and Means of Production Community Arts, was judged best entry in the Media Innovation Awards 'DVD or CD Rom' category.

It was filmed as part of a North Devon Council project to give children greater access to the museum's collection and accompanies items borrowed by schools. The DVD includes interactive games that encourage thinking, speaking and listening skills as well as learning about history.

Forty entries were short-listed for the competition and, with over three thousand companies across the South West eligible to enter, it is a tremendous accolade for the project to receive the award.

This follows the Museum and Maniac Films' success last year in the awards, winning best 'collaboration between business and young people' for their documentary, North Devon Surf History, filmed in collaboration with Braunton College students.

Cllr David Butt, North Devon Council Lead Member for Cultural Services (Youth and Diversity) says: "It is fantastic that the museum and Maniac films have been recognised once again for their creativity and ability to capture the imagination of young people. The Think Tank really gets students involved in learning about history in a fun and imaginative way."

Mark Brindle, Director of Maniac Films says: "The Think Tank was a really fun project to work on, with lots of live action sequences combined with 2D and 3D graphics and I'm stoked we won again this year."

Jon Croose, Means of Production Community Arts Script Writer says: "It hasn't quite sunk in yet. It is great to have our work recognised in this way and we hope it will lead to bigger and better things in the future."

The £30,000 project was funded by the Renaissance Programme through the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter.

Schools interested in booking the Think Tank can contact Julian Vayne at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon on **01271 346747** or email julian.vayne@northdevon.gov.uk. Bookings can also be made online at www.museumthinktank.org.uk.

For more information contact:

Alison Mills
Museums Manager
Museum of Barnstaple &
North Devon
North Devon Council
01271 346747
alison.mills@northdevon.gov.uk

Cllr David Butt
Lead Member for Cultural
Services (Youth & Diversity)
North Devon Council
07818 037726
david.butt@northdevon.gov.uk

Mark Brindle
Director
Maniac Films Ltd
Croyde
01271 891140
mark@maniacfilms.com

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