

Bradford School of Art Students Produce a Documentary in Italy

Prepared by Casey Shaw for T&A

Eight Music and Creative Media students from Bradford School of Art recently flew to Italy for a two-week residency in the Province of Marche to produce a documentary film about their cultural experiences in a new place.

The students travelled with Programme Leaders of Music and Film, Nic Sykes and Casey Shaw and documented their travels through music performance and documentary filmmaking practices. The documentary short film 'Poema D'Italia' has been accompanied by a score, written, recorded and mixed by students in collaboration with 'FeelSound Studios' in Pesaro.

Abi Swift, a musician and music student from Bradford College said 'being able to discover different cultures, architecture and work with new people was amazing and acted as a huge inspiration for the music we created for the short film.'

As part of the trip, which was supported by 'Everything is Possible' a not-for-profit organisation which offers informal education through cultural exchange programmes and volunteering opportunities, the students visited the 15th Century Renaissance City of Urbino, the beach resorts of Fano and the historic Piazza del Popolo in the heart of the City of Pesaro - which includes the birthplace of the 19th-century opera composer Gioachino Rossini. The students travelled by bicycle and lived collectively in a country house, overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Students shared skills, performed, cooked together and tried new dishes as part of the cultural offering - they even got to experience and get involved in the recording of a live Jazz Band experience.

Programme Leader for Film & Creative Media Production, Casey Shaw said 'It was an incredible opportunity for the students to apply their knowledge and skills surrounding music and media in an entirely new place, inspired by new experiences. Not only did they benefit from the

chance to experience life in Italy but they also learnt from each other - their diverse interests and backgrounds. On the first day of Ramadan, all students fasted in support of our Muslim learners and learnt a little more about each other in doing so. We really look forward to sharing their work with the rest of Bradford.'

Casey, who aims to connect Bradford School of Art students with the emerging screen sector in Bradford - hopes that the example students have set in working collaboratively to produce a beautiful film full of sentiment, will encourage other young people from Bradford to engage in creative disciplines to tell their stories.

The students have since featured in the Italian press. The film will be screened alongside a collection of interviews with the participants at Bradford School of Art in Spring.