



Former student Antonia interns on new Tim Burton movie Frankenweenie

Former Havering Sixth Form College student, Antonia Jade Heslop, has gone on to find success after graduating from the prestigious Central St Martins College of Art & Design with a 2:1 degree.

Not only did she achieve highly at Central St Martins, but she managed to obtain an internship on the new Tim Burton movie Frankenweenie which is due to be released in October 2012.

Antonia achieved two grade As, a B and a C in A Level Graphics, Computing, Accounts and General Studies and an A grade in AS Photography. She then progressed to Havering Sixth Form College's Art & Design Foundation Diploma, achieving a Distinction.

This is her story:

"During my time at Havering Sixth Form College I was able to experiment with different media - such as film and sculpture - which I hadn't been able to do so before. The Foundation course tutors gave me really excellent portfolio advice and helped me reach my full potential. They were honest with me and gave me every bit of encouragement I needed to go for the portfolio submission to Central St Martins.

The Graphic Design course structure at Central St Martins is very similar to how the Havering Sixth Form College Foundation course is structured, which allowed me to settle in quite easily.

Even though the course is called Graphic Design, you can still do Photography, Moving Image (which is what I specialised in), Illustration, Interactive Design, Fine Art - pretty much anything! They give you great encouragement to experiment and the course is very much focussed on ideas and processes, rather than how professional and technically accurate a piece of work is. So if you'd rather learn the mechanics of design, this course may not be for you.

However, if you want to have fun experimenting, developing your ideas, and having great opportunities to work with the likes of Sony and Hugo Boss, as well as having Central London as your playground, I highly recommend applying for Central St Martins!

The month after graduating, I got an internship on Tim Burton's new animation Frankenweenie, which was one of the most amazing experiences. It confirmed to

me how much I want to be in the movie business and making feature films, be it animation or live action. I have been called back a few times now to work as a daily.

Oddly enough, I got the internship through the shop I worked in part-time while studying. The art department buyer on the production bought some respirators from my store and I asked if there were any internships. So, no matter where you are, there are always opportunities - you just have to grab them as soon as you see one.

Currently, I am interning for a few different places and getting as much experience as I can in film production. I'm also actively looking for new productions to be recruited onto so that I can work my way up from production assistant to producer or director.

Just because you do a degree course in a certain subject, doesn't mean you are limited to doing just that, it's amazing how free you can move from one field of work to another.

I got a great start at Havering Sixth Form College which I built upon at Central St Martins. I'd definitely advise other students wanting to follow a career in film-making or in the graphics, art or media industry to work hard and enjoy their studies and take every opportunity offered to them."