

A presentation about why ICE exists and how it works

Lena Nahlous, Ben Hoh and Trey Thomas (aka MC Trey)

Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) supports Western Sydney communities, organisations and artists to engage with arts, information and communications technologies, new media arts and culture in order to build community resilience, autonomy and social energy. ICE manages the SWITCH multimedia and digital arts access centre and produces the critical publication and online resource *Artfiles*, the arts directory for Western Sydney. ICE has expertise and success in developing new media, community cultural development, professional development and arts programs that access thousands of individuals, artists and communities annually.

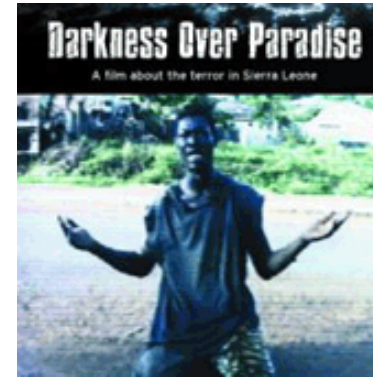
ICE conducts grassroots new media projects with communities, often using popular, vernacular media. *Storybox: write your life online* was an Internet writing project for young people who came to Western Sydney as refugees or recent migrants. Through blogging, participants explored issues of trauma, identity and settlement.

Another important stream of ICE's work is in supporting and developing urban music cultures in Western Sydney. Thanks to the Vodafone Australia Foundation World of Difference campaign, MC Trey is working at ICE for twelve months on inspiring urban music and hip hop projects to make a real difference in the lives of young people, using digital technology for music making and recording. She has delivered a music program for young women – *Suburban Sistas*, *African Soundz* (for newly-arrived African youth), and *Hip Hop 101*.

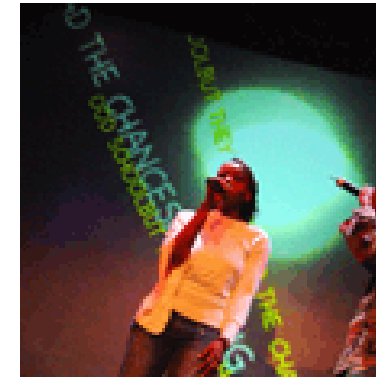
All images courtesy of ICE.

Link:

Information and Cultural Exchange
<www.ice.org.au>



Darkness Over Paradise—documentary about the civil war in Sierra Leone. Image from the video cover.



Hip hop projections at the Sydney Writers' Festival.



storybox: write your life online: a blogging project for young African refugees.



Participants of the refugee radio collective.