

Year of Music continues with series of composer talks

OSCAR-WINNING FILM composer Dario Marianelli visited Ricards Lodge High School in Wimbledon last month to give a talk about composing for the screen to the school's branch of FILMCLUB. Marianelli, who has composed scores for films including *Atonement*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Warrior*, began by showing a clip from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, in which humans and aliens communicate through music, as an example of an

inspirational use of music in film. He followed this with various clips from his own films, with explanations of how the music had been conceived and demonstrations at the piano of how a simple idea can be fleshed out into a complete piece.

'I didn't realise how two notes could be developed into a whole movie theme,' said Year 10 student Elysha, referring to the origins of the *Pride and Prejudice* score. Community Arts Co-ordinator James Farrell

said, 'The girls loved meeting Dario and thoroughly enjoyed seeing how he creates his film music. The session made them much more aware of how important music is in a film – something that people don't often think about.' Year 7 student Rhianna added, 'It was very exciting to hold Dario's Oscar!'

FILMCLUB is a network of after-school clubs, funded in part by the Department of Children, Schools and Families, that runs weekly screenings of thousands of films free of charge in over 2,500 schools nationwide. It also runs a series of events called Close Encounters, offering children a chance to meet industry names, from actors and directors to costume designers, editors and journalists. In a show of support for the government's Year of Music, FILMCLUB is devoting several of its Close Encounters events to film composers. In addition to Marianelli's talk, composer Seanine Joyce visited St Matthias Primary School in Tower Hamlets; Alastair King, contributor to the score of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, visited two schools in Bath. For information on how to set up a film club of your own, visit the website and click on 'Want to set up a film club?' or call a member of the schools team on 0207 288 4520.

www.filmclub.org

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