



MEDIA RELEASE

Event Date: **Sat May 19th 2007, 6pm-7.30pm**

The 2007 PMZ Nick Thomas Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement

Plymouth's biggest community music organisation is launching a new music achievement award for young people to honour the life of a talented musician who died suddenly a few years ago.

The *PMZ Nick Thomas Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement* has been created to commemorate the life of aspiring rapper and DJ, Nick Thomas, who died from an undiagnosed heart condition called SADS (Sudden Adult Death Syndrome). At the time of his death, Nick's family donated money to Plymouth Music Zone to ensure other young people had the chances they deserve through music.

Plymouth Music Zone Director, Ben Ballard, says:

"Nick Thomas left Plymouth about the time PMZ was first being set up. There were no opportunities in the city then for him to use his talents to inspire and make a real difference to young people's lives through music. Now there are plenty and his family thinks Nick would have found a real home here at PMZ doing what he loved. So for us, The *PMZ Nick Thomas Memorial Award* represents the powerful musical journey Nick wanted to continue – a journey we hope will now live on in the hearts and minds of all the winners honoured in his name."

The 2007 winner of the award is being chosen from 5 Finalists picked not just for their passion and skill with music but for the way they have inspired and helped other young people and PMZ. The Nick Thomas Memorial Evening will showcase some of that talent before the winner is announced. Nick's family will be attending the evening and his sister Natasha will be presenting the award as well as performing.

Nick's mother, Jenny Thomas, says her family feels very proud to have Nick remembered in this way: **"Anyone who knew Nick knew him as a charismatic, energetic and positive person. He always looked for the solution to the problem instead of simply giving into it. I think the award should pay tribute to Nick's personality and that the winner of the award should be positive, dedicated, energetic and inspiring. And it would be amazing if you could see that music is really a part of this person, like it was a part of Nick..."**

The Nick Thomas Memorial Evening is at Plymouth Music Zone on Sat 19th May at 6pm-7.30pm. The event is free. For further information about the finalists **please contact Debbie Geraghty on 0787 579 9882 (mobile).**

-ENDS- See below for *Notes to Editors*

Plymouth Music Zone Ltd

Raglan Road, Devonport, Plymouth, PL1 4NQ

T - 01752 213690 F - 01752 509888 E - info@plymouthmusiczone.org.uk W - www.plymouthmusiczone.org.uk

Company Number - 4653409 Registered Charity Number - 1100878



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Notes to Editors:

For more information on the condition SADS please see www.c-r-y.org.uk

AWARD FINALISTS

Sam Doel, 13
Zoe Fell, 16
Elize Kellman, 16
Luke Lundin, 21
Jacob McTighe, 14

THE AWARD

The *PMZ Nick Thomas Memorial Award* attempts to recognise the outstanding achievement of a young person who has excelled at Plymouth Music Zone by using music to make a difference to their own and to other young people's lives. The winner of this award will be someone who is dedicated and passionate about music and PMZ. The person must also demonstrate a desire to value music as a vehicle to not only empower themselves but to inspire people around them. However, it is not strictly about musical skill and achievement - and not defined by set criteria. The winner will be someone who embodies the spirit of being passionate about music and using it as the powerful force that it can be. And it will be someone who has had a recognisable impact on PMZ and the people around them.

PRIZES

The actual main *PMZ NICK THOMAS MEMORIAL AWARD* has been commissioned from local sculptor, Amanda Bluglass, in collaboration with Nick Thomas's family. The resulting piece is a perpetual award that will be displayed all year round at PMZ. Every year the name of the new winner will be added. This year's winner will receive an individual trophy especially designed by Katie Lake, a metalcraft artist from Flameworks.

All 5 finalists will receive a framed certificate of achievement. In addition, the 2007 Finalists will also be invited to bring together their talents to create a unique piece of music to be performed at next year's award ceremony.

Plymouth Music Zone hopes to extend the award ceremony in years to come to fully recognise the breadth and depth of the wonderful work being done by all the young people we work with.

- **Plymouth Music Zone** is a dynamic community music organisation providing high quality opportunities for young people and training for adults. We passionately believe in the power of music to make a positive difference to people's lives. We achieve this by working with highly skilled Music Leaders who can respond to the diverse needs of young people and deliver practical music workshops that are vibrant, engaging, inspiring and fun.
- **Plymouth Music Zone** is part of a network of Youth Music Action Zones set up in areas of social and economic need by national charity Youth Music, providing music-making activities to young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity. It is also one of 4 Space for Sport and Arts facilities in the city.

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