

April 2008
Issue 1

Howl From The Pack

Wolf and Water Arts Company

Welcome! to the first of what we hope will be a fairly regular e-newsletter keeping you up to date with the activities of Wolf + Water Arts Company. From 1991 we have used drama, music, film & the visual arts creatively and as part of the therapeutic process with groups who are socially, mentally or physically challenged.

Current Projects



Mind Your Head

From January, thanks to funding from the Lankelly Chase Foundation, we restarted our weekly arts input into the psychiatric wards at North Devon District Hospital. With a mix of visual arts, dance & movement, drama, video and music, the sessions are open to all patients and provide a mixture of activity, relaxation, expression & self esteem.

The other strand of this project is working with patients to create a regular video magazine with patients that both acts as a means of communication & information, as well as an outlet for a whole variety of talents from creative writing to music.



Fredskorpset Residencies

Our regular Norwegian residencies for the Fredskorpset organisation have continued. Young professional Norwegian doctors, journalists, film makers, ecologists & development workers prepare for an extended exchange with their counter parts from Africa, Asia & South America. All come together for a three week preparatory course, & as part of this process we use drama to provide training & reflection on issues of mental health & personal challenges.



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Street Music



During the course the participants have the opportunity to achieve The Arts Council England's Young People's Arts Award.

Participants need only an interest in rap/hip-hop music and culture and a desire to develop, performance, production and promotional techniques whilst working in a professional music environment.

The next course will begin on Tuesday April 29th and will run for 1 day per week for 12 weeks at the Exwick Community Centre, Kinnerton Way Exwick.

To refer a young person or yourself to Street Music please call Jules Walker on 07941 648059 to arrange an interview.

This summer we will be running the fifth of our Street Music courses in Exeter.

The course is a 12 week structured programme of creative, technical and cultural hip-hop music education for young people aged 14 – 25 who are out of, or at risk of being excluded from formal education, training or employment.

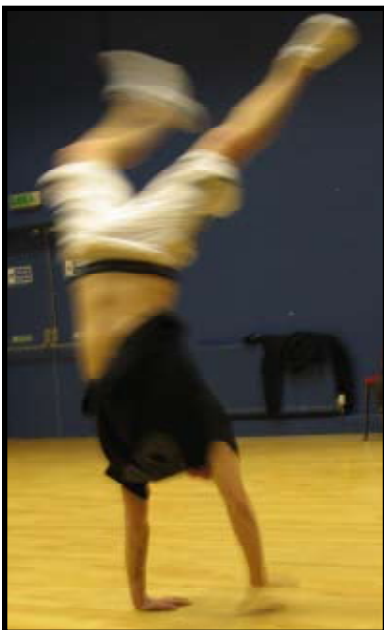
The course covers:

- Music theory and composition.
- History of music and music culture.
- Song writing techniques and lyrical content.
- Music technology and uses of computer software
- Digital Illustration and Graphic design
- Djing
- Performance techniques



[Click here to view the Street Music Myspace page.](#)

Aim Higher - Link Education, South Devon College



Our 4th year working with the young people whom attend Link Education in Torbay.

The young people have been working with Wolf and Water Artists and Link Tutors since October to devise an original screenplay for a film to be shot during June. The group have been working with a variety of artforms including drama, dance and music.

The finished film is scheduled for it's premiere in July.

Check the w+w website for updates.



Recent Productions

The Ballad of Booze the Clown



December saw a typically unfestive Wolf + Water Production performed by our Barnstaple group of adults with learning difficulties Many Directions Theatre Co.

“The Ballad of Booze the Clown” was a devised piece performed at the North Devon College Factory space, which started with domestic violence, plunged into alcoholism & ended up with suicide. Despite it’s bleak themes it was both a moving & funny production which used a mixture of film & animated backdrops, dance & some stunning performances from the cast

“as a piece of drama I thought it was engaging, sensitive, thought provoking, cleverly devised and directed, inherently multicultural and very entertaining. The use of film and music was great as were the narrators”
Audience feedback

The Strange & Extraordinary Case of the Circus of Dreams



Another devised performance, this time with the Get Changed Theatre Company in Okehampton. The Circus of Dreams was a truly strange place where your dreams could come true – but all was not well – the circus money was disappearing, the Mysterious Ringmaster The Enigma is found murdered & there are no shortage of suspects...

The cast did two performances to packed audiences at the Octagon Theatre in February.

“I was so amazed on Saturday I was truly taken back with such brilliance. Well done to the group and Wolf + Water”

Audience Feedback

The Ghostly Vows Bed and Breakfast



Performed in March at the Shaftesbury Theatre in Dawlish “The Ghostly Vows Bed and Breakfast was a devised performance created by students from Oakwood Court College.

The audience were welcomed to Britain’s spookiest Bed and Breakfast where ghosts inhabited the kitchens, zombies the cellar and things really do go bump in the night, unexpected guests including two Elvises, Micheal Jackson and the Health Inspector create havoc and true love really does last forever.

“My children and I were thoroughly entertained by the wonderful spectacle that was the production of “The Ghostly Vows Bed and Breakfast”. The performance was a joy to watch and it appeared that the performers were having as much fun as the audience. Amazing and wonderful entertainment”
Audience Feedback

Exeter Forum Theatre Schools Tour



The EFT Youth Homelessness Prevention Schools Tour was a partnership project with the Meaningful Occupation Project (MOP). We toured an original devised production and workshop around 9 venues, reaching more than 500 young people, with a cast of homeless, ex-homeless and vulnerably housed actors.

The production was aimed at young people of year 10 and upwards and raised issues of substance and alcohol misuse, family breakdown, poor relationships and bullying. It also highlighted the dangers and perils of life on the streets or in a squat. Research was carried out prior to the

production and the current main causes of youth homelessness were incorporated into the plot.

Forum theatre allows young people to be really engaged in the drama and to problem solve, test their own understanding and ask questions of the characters.

The project was successful in developing the personal skills of the cast through an ambitious and demanding project which required a high level of team work, communication and presentation skills as well as asking the group to work under the pressure of having a job to do.



The cast rose to the challenge, often despite difficult personal circumstances, and as a result fed back to us that they found the experience worthwhile and beneficial. Many of the cast members have gone on to talk about doing similar projects, going back to college or feeling inspired to make things happen in their lives.



To Find put more about Exeter Forum Theatre please visit www.exeterforumtheatre.co.uk

Samuel Taylor Coleridge project.

The Rime of the ancient mariner, on bicycles!
We've just completed our Heritage lottery funded Samuel Taylor Coleridge project. Taking to their bicycles our 4 intrepid Artists travelled from Nether Stowey in Somerset to Bristol, following the route that Coleridge walked to make his famous speech against slavery.

Along the route the team worked with a wide varieties of groups including a primary school, a school for people with learning difficulties, several community groups, 2 homes for elderly people and a pub. Each group spent a day telling their own version of "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" through drama, reminiscence, writing & animation. The resulting film knits all this together in 50 succinct minutes.



DVD - available now for £7.50

Please send name and address with cheque to our office!
or click [Here](#) for our shop.

Up & Coming Projects

For more information about any of the projects here and all our work past and present visit the w+w website.

All of Wolf + Water's work is individually tailored to meet the needs of the groups we work with.

Please contact us at the office to discuss the needs of your group or organisation.

Cancer Comic

May sees the start of a big summer project working with a group of young people who have or have had cancer & leukemia to create a comic book about their experiences which can be used to help other young people on diagnosis.

Working with Bristol based graphic artist Joff Winterhart the group will be running over the summer in Exeter, with national publication of the finished book scheduled towards the end of the year.

Dance & Movement Taster Workshops

Over the summer period Wolf and Water's two dance practitioners Grace Nicholl & Helen Venn are offering a series of dance & movement taster workshops designed for groups of older people, in day centres, residential homes or social clubs. Mixing movement with reminiscence work on the theme of summer.

Free hour long taster workshops are on offer as we develop this programme, with a view to applying for funding for ongoing further work, initially this programme is focusing on the North Devon and Torridge regions, although we would be interested to hear from you even if you are outside these areas.

If you'd be interested in your group taking the opportunity to have a free taster workshop then please contact Wolf and Water.

Wolf and Water Arts Company

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