

The Nomads



PIAW
8



22nd July
2006

8.00 p.m.

Eight Years of Expansion.

Back in 1999 some 25 people, included both those with disabilities and those non disabled gathered one Monday morning and agreed to create a play by the following Saturday. It was a great scramble - rehearsing, sorting out costumes, props and scenery all in one week, but they achieved it.

Each year since then this annual Play in a Week has developed further, and as you can see from the programme the project is much more inclusive with those with disabilities being involved in much more than acting -direction, set painting, lights, sound, video filming, box office and general production administration.

Over the years other inclusive activities have been added. Individuals with disabilities have been cast in main Nomad productions. In 2003 a short successful series of inclusive drama workshops was run and the following year this was extended to two series, one for teenagers and another for people of all ages. During April this year some eight different series of workshops were run, covering acting, singing, voice, mime, lights and sound. Further expansions are already being planned for next year.

Camberley Disability Initiative brought a party over last month for a 'taster' day for people to see if they want to participate in the performing arts and now two of our tutors are planning to go and run a series of workshops in Camberley for them. The Nomads would be happy to run similar days for other groups and will be running a series of half day workshops for SeeAbility in the autumn. Any one interested should contact Bill Pearson on 01306 730582.

'Play in a week' past productions

1999	When did you last see your spectacles?
2000	The Why Files
2001	London Lives
2002	The Legend with No Name
2003	House
2004	Grimm's tales
2005	Quest

The Nomads are very grateful for financial support from
Guildford Borough Council



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Ray Wallis in Memory of Debbie Danaher

And ExxonMobil through their Volunteer Involvement Programme
This recognises volunteer work by ExxonMobil employees
and their families through financial support

From: ~ Motability Lifestyle ~ Spring 2000

1999 EASE Award winners

For making a positive effort to be accessible to disabled people
Nomad Theatre. It's always a delight when a small enterprise wins an award alongside the
big national companies, and this was the case with East Horsley's Nomad Theatre. Their
plays are produced and all the admin work done by volunteers - many of them disabled.
Last year they put on 'Play in a Week' with a cast of 14, 6 of whom were in wheelchairs, and
the mermaid in the Christmas panto was a wheelchair user too. There are lifts backstage so
no-one is excluded from working on props, costumes, lighting and sound systems, and there
are loop systems to allow volunteers with hearing impairments to take part in committee
meetings and play readings.
Since then we have won 3 other local awards for our disability activities

ANITA SULLIVAN ~ Playwright

I've had over twenty plays produced. Several have won awards (including the 2006 Race in the Media award for radio drama). I've been commissioned by companies as diverse as the BBC, RSC, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Pop-Up and Gridiron. My plays have been staged at key new-writing venues... and also on a stream train and in an oil refinery. I like to work collaboratively, and have devised shows with/ for many different groups from schools to drugs projects, as far a-field as Mauritius and Glasgow. www.anitasullivan.co.uk

THE PROCESS

'Forest' is not a conventional play, and it has had an appropriately unconventional genesis. I was approached by the Nomads to work on the project in April. Having seen a previous PIAW (the excellent 'House') I was very glad to accept the challenge. In consultation with Brandon, I drafted five different stories. We developed these with the performers (and with James the MD) on two workshop days. Pages and pages of ideas were brainstormed; movement, music and scenes were devised. At the end of the sessions, the participants chose the story they preferred ('Forest' beating 'Mountain' by a whisker). I then went away to write a script, trying to incorporate as many of their wildly imaginative ideas as possible. The result is tailor-made to their measurements and tastes. During the rehearsal week I've been around to turn up hems and let out seams: to make the best fit possible. I hope everyone feels comfortable in their play and ready to strut their stuff!

PIAW has been a very enjoyable process. I commend everyone involved on their spirit of adventure, their generosity and talent.

A big ***Thank you*** from the Play in a week production team for all the help and support given by the staff of
The Development Centre, Queen Elizabeth Foundation
The Grange Centre
The Lock wood and Harbour Centres
Carers, Personal assistants and everyone else

BRANDON McQUIRE ~ Director

Directors notes

Imagine walking into a room full of people you have never met, the one thing you all have in common is the desire to tell a story. Where do you start? And where will it all end? This is the journey of the cast and crew of Forest.

The story began six weeks ago with two days of workshops. During those days we learnt about each other, shared our ideas, laughed an enormous amount and unlocked the cast's imagination.

Anita our writer was presented with a dense forest of ideas. She has created a shining pathway through which she has enabled the ideas of the cast to come to life. Jay our musical director together with his new band has scored a musical journey for this story with new songs and sounds. Helen-Louise, our choreographer has brought dance, magic, and wonder to the forest.

The cast were presented with a script, bursting with their ideas, at 10.30 on Monday morning. Over a hectic and sometimes bonkers (and extremely hot) six days, a complete production has been made ready for your eyes and ears tonight.

It is the cast -whose ideas talent and dedication have made this possible. The journey has been amazing. It has been an extraordinary production. I have been overwhelmed by the good nature and commitment of everyone involved. This is the fourth PIAW that I have been involved with, and I have hugely enjoyed working with Anita, Helen-Louise, Jay and all cast and crew. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work and crazy ideas.

Now sit back, and come with us into... FOREST!

Cast

Birds	Archie Cora	Robyn Frayn Angela Cutteger
Spirits		Eliza Adams Sharon Pollard Terry Sandy Alan Hedger Adrian Voller
Railway men	Joe Sid	Andrew Marber Richard Ross
Pirates	Captain Tar Mate Bosun Pirate	Rory Dyer Mandy Pankhurst Anna Vere Ben Lue Yong Ross Sweeny
Balloonists	Bryant Smithers Bird spotter Harriot	Oliver Forsyth Simon Jones Dennis O'Donnell Kim Jaris
Car	Dad Mum AA Woman Child	Matthew James Katie Powell Carley Salmon Jane Keeley
Spider		Robbie Trewinnard
	Chorus/Orchestra	
Nicky Alcorn Marriane Tate	Sue Crowsley Zoe Stretch Wendy Hempkin	Debbie Squirrell Anne Docwra

Crew

Director	Brandon McGuire
Assistant directors	Andy Cogan, Vince Lloyd
Playwright	Anita Sullivan
Musical director	James Bristow
Choreographer	Helen-Louise Lampard
Lighting and sound	Nick Johnston
Assisted by	Anthony O'Sullivan, Sonas Musana, Elliot Copp
Sound effects	Tim Williams
DVD Presentation	Nick Johnston
Set building	Roger Brandon Jones, Tom Thomas
Set painting	Penny Armitage
Assisted by	Rachel Mold, Sam Keelan, Abbie Salmon, Valerie Cochrane
Wardrobe	Sylvia McKinley
Assisted by	Gill Thompson, Olivia Morgan
Prompts	Jay Forsyth, Mary Brooks, Elizabeth Cross, Gill Thompson, Ross Sweeny, Elliot Copp, Robbie Trewinnard
Props	Lisa Arnold, Rachel Mold
Stage Managers	Anne Thomas, Samantha Mallinson
Box Office	Sarah Thomas
Assisted by	Sarah Nicholson, Becky Pauling
Publicity & Programme	Sarah Thomas, Rachel Mold
Braille script	Ron Carlin SeeAbility
Front of House	Clive Mott
Audio description	John Tweedale
Refreshments	Jackie Mott, Elizabeth Cross, Mary Brooks
Bar	Charles Hope, Margaret Yates, Lauren Fantham
First Aider	Sarah Thomas
Drivers	The Grange Centre ~Elizabeth Cross, Mary Brooks, Sarah Thomas SeeAbility ~Tom Thomas, Arnold Pindar, Bill Pearson, Rosemary Stevenson Lockwood ~ Helen-Louise Lampard Eliza Adams ~ ABC Taxis Freewheelers ~ Bus & Taxis, Bill Pearson
Producers	Bill Pearson, Sarah Thomas
Assisted by	Vince Lloyd

This year we had 2 pre production days.

All these people took part:-

Day1 *Freewheelers*:-Andy Cogan, Sam Keelan, Anthony O'Sullivan, Laura Marchal, Wendy Hempinkin, Matthew Jane, Anthony Agar, Sarah Nicholson, Anna Vere, Sonas Musana, Andrew Marber, Rachel Mold, Kate Hillier. *The Grange*:-Sue Crowley, Debbie Squirrel, Richard Ross, Mandy Pankhurst. And Tom Thomas, Viv Colvill

Day 2 *Discovery*:- Oliver Forsyth, Carly Salmon, Eliza Adams, Zoe Stretch, Ashlinger Warren-Jones, *Lockwood/ Harbour*:- Melanie Ford, Kerry Sandy, Alan Hedger, Richard Froggart, Sally Bicknell, Adrian Voller, Janet Marchal, Simon Jones, Sue Appleton, Janet Bowyer, Sharon Pollard, *The Grange*:- Jane Keeley, Dennis O'Donnell, Ben Lue Yong, Marrienne Tate, *See Ability*:- Angela Cutteger, Anne Dowcra. And Rory Dyer, Arnold Pindar, Roger Brandon-Jones, John Tweedale, Mary Brooks, Jay Forsyth.

Both days Brandon McGuire, Anita Sullivan, James Bristow, Bill Pearson, Sarah Thomas.

Lockwood and The Harbour Day Services

Lockwood and The Harbour Day services are based in South West Surrey and offer opportunities to adults with learning disabilities.

Although the centres are 10 miles apart they work together to offer a wide variety of life skills, community projects and the arts.

The centres have both been involved in Rhythmic collision dance shows and Enigma dance showcases. Previous Nomad theatre performances and Nomad drama workshops.

The Grange Centre

The Grange Centre in Bookham provides supported housing, small group living and skills training for adults with physical and learning disabilities. As well as enjoying the wide range of opportunities offered by the Nomad Theatre, students access drama through the on-site skills training programme and through workshops run by the Scarat Theatre Company

The Freewheelers Theatre Company

The Freewheelers are currently the Music, Dance and Drama Groups at the Development Centre of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation in Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead. Supported by a magnificent group of volunteer technicians, set builders, puppeteers and musicians we have delighted audiences all over the South of England since 1995.

This is the eighth time that the Freewheelers have worked with the Nomads on Play in a Week. It is a favourite week of the year, and we are so very grateful to the dedicated Nomads who make it possible.

The Freewheelers have no plans to perform in the immediate future. We have just finished a project funded by the Arts Council as part of which a report was produced on our future. The recommendation is that the Freewheelers should leave the Development Centre and move out into the community where we can be of more value to a wider group of actors and serve the artistic community more fully.

Watch this space!

For more information about us,
and to offer your help please ring 01932 860950

Discover Drama Group

The Discover drama group was formed specifically for young adults aged 16 plus who experience moderate learning difficulties. Group members have the opportunity to develop communication, co-ordination and social skills, to build confidence levels through performing and visual arts activities, and to increase their knowledge of theatre skills during workshops and performance.

The Group, which attracts young people from *Surrey, West Sussex* and *Hampshire*, meets each fortnight during 'term time' for workshops in drama, dance, mime, music, and mask. They have participated in workshops at the Theatre Museum in London and '*Cats*' and '*Stomp*' workshops with cast members of these London productions.

The Discover Drama Group very much appreciate receiving such a warm welcome from The Nomads, allowing them an opportunity to participate in Forest and perform in their wonderful theatre.

All about

The Nomads

For almost 70 years the Nomads have been entertaining the local community, first in hired halls, later in their own self-built theatre and now in a state of the art new building with exceptional facilities. This has enabled them to improve the quality and production values of the eleven or twelve shows they now present every year, which include productions in the small studio space.

But the Nomads don't just put on plays. Early in their development they created a section specifically for younger people, and instituted regular drama classes for the youngest age group. Now all levels of membership benefit from drama workshops and training in specific skills.

The Nomes

This is the youngest group, for ages from 7 to 14, which is split into smaller units based on school class membership. Drama workshops are held on evenings and mornings at the end of each week in school term time. The Nomes present the results of their work twice a year in main auditorium shows.

The Young Nomads

This group is open to people from 15 to 25. The Young Nomads meet every week and organise workshops and training as well as rehearsing their own shows, which take place twice yearly in the main house. They often provide backstage and technical skills for the Nomads' principal productions.

Both Nomes and Young Nomads regularly take part onstage in the major productions in the theatre.

The Nomads are very active socially and keep members informed of coming events through a monthly newsletter. Only full members can take part in productions, but there is an associate membership which entitles its members to receive the newsletter and to participate in social events and the regular Club Nights, when members present one-off productions.