

PROJECT UPDATES

• **Wild Nights Young Company** – *The War Prison at Princetown* project is in full swing with filming taking place at the end of August and a site-specific performance in Princetown planned for October. At the same number the company is creating poetry for The Edge (Sculpture Trail) at High Heathercombe in early September.



The Brown Hare - This new dance drama project is running recruiting workshops for young people on September 5th in Manaton Parish Hall, and at CCANW (Haldon Forest) on October 18th. For more information, contact MED Theatre.

Lantern Procession - MED Theatre is working in partnership with The National Trust to create a lantern procession in December at Castle Drogo in collaboration with local schools, Okehampton Community College and Chagford Primary School.

Dartfest 09 - Dartfest 09, which will include a performance of the play being written for *The War Prison at Princetown* project, will take place on 27th and 28th November.

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The War Prison at
Princetown



News from Wild Nights Young Company...

In the last few months Wild Nights has been busy working on our new project focusing on Princetown Prison. Along with finding three new Youth Representatives for the upcoming year (Sarah Stewart-Watson, Tara Boyland and myself,) and studying the history behind the prison, we have created a strong plot for our new play. We have begun the distribution and writing of the scenes for this exciting new project. Last Tuesday a group from Wild Nights set out to shoot the film that will accompany the play. The shoot was extremely successful and we look forward to seeing our efforts on screen. Despite a mixture of rain and sunshine typical of Dartmoor, we had a productive and enjoyable time. We look forward to rehearsing and performing the play and showing it in the autumn.

Mollie Millward-Nicholls



Dartmoor Resource



Dartmoor Resource was officially launched on April 30th at a reception at the MED Theatre Studio.



Volunteer Lucy Edmonds photographed the White Lady of Lydford Gorge (with permission from The National Trust) to illustrate volunteer Max Quick's article on the Gubbins tribe said by legend to have inhabited the gorge during the 17th century

The final act of the Dartmoor Resource project was the reconstruction and filming of a Robin Hood play, adapted by Max Quick, in the prehistoric 'round' on Spitchwick Common near Ashburton, where Hood plays are recorded from the 16th century.

www.dartmoorresource.co.uk

sample the animations
contribute an article
visit the interactive forum

News from Abby Stobart, Education Officer

Looking back on MED Theatre's school year I see a steady and gradual growth of a larger school network, and as I look forward to the oncoming year I am excited by the potential which can be fulfilled in the space ahead. We already have a range of school bookings for 2009/2010 and I am hopeful of more schools returning to us as a result of their experiences with MED Theatre this year.

At the end of last term MED Theatre visited Widecombe Primary School and Kenn Primary School where students created their own plays through playwriting and devising methods. Widecombe students produced an imaginative and topical tale about climate change forcing a rise in sea-levels, with the highland areas of Exmoor and Dartmoor being the only land left in Devon. Kenn Primary students put their comic skills to work by devising a parody of the popular reality TV show Britain's Got Talent; the students went on to perform Kenn's Not Got Talent as their end of school show. Braunton Community College hosted a film day for gifted and talented students run by MED Theatre, where students created, wrote and produced their own film from start to finish!

MED Theatre has also been employed to run summer courses for young people: a radio playwriting course in Coombehead College and a drama course in Tavistock College. Running summer school sessions is a route that we will start to pursue more over the coming year.

Wild Nights Young Company's project *The War Prison at Princetown* is now in full flow. The young people have been working with other teenagers from Princetown on a residential trip to the moor, whilst also leading workshops in Tavistock and Princetown primary schools. The young people are presently shooting the film that will accompany the play, to be performed in October. Watch this space for more details of the forthcoming performance!

Best Wishes, Abby

News from Mark Beeson, Artistic Director

It has been a while since the last newsletter, due in part to the departure of our company manager Iona, who used to produce it for us. We have now appointed Gillian Webster as Company Development Officer, a new name for the post which has more emphasis on fundraising and publicity than previously. She will be working with us three days a week from September, and Abby and I are both looking forward to working with her and having the team back up to strength.

Dartmoor Resource has come to the end of its initial phase, signing off with the re-enactment of Max Quick's adaptation of a Robin Hood play on Spitchwick Common in June. The site will continue to be added to over the coming years, and is designed to make it easy for others to contribute research and recollections about the performing arts on the Moor in relation to its history, ecology and folklore. It involved around twenty adult volunteers, and a team of eight freelance professionals, working alongside Abby, Iona and myself.

Dartmoor Resource was a project for adults. Our two projects currently running are both for young people - *The War Prison at Princetown* and *The Brown Hare* - and we have a busy autumn in store before we head into the next community play.

Best wishes, Mark



Brown Hare Workshops



DANCE WORKSHOP

Saturday 5th September 2009, 2pm-5pm

Venue: Manaton Parish Hall

Young people of any ability aged 13-21 who are interested in drama and movement will have the opportunity to take part in this three hour workshop, run by choreographer Rosalyn Maynard. The participants will explore the symbol of the hare in local and international traditions and will respond creatively through the medium of dance. Please book your free place on the workshop by calling MED Theatre on 01647 441356 or emailing info@medtheatre.co.uk

MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

Sunday 18th October 2009, 2pm-5pm

Venue: CCANW, Haldon Forest

Workshop: Hare – moving arts in the natural environment (14-21 yrs)

Admission free but places are limited so book in advance to avoid disappointment. Email info@medtheatre or call 01647 441356.

The participants will explore our relationship with the Hare symbols found in myths from Dartmoor and beyond through movement, writing, drawing and story. The workshop forms part of MED Theatre's *Brown Hare* project and is led by choreographer Rosalyn Maynard. Please bring comfortable loose-fitting clothing suitable to the time of year, i.e. wet weather gear. Be prepared to get dirty and work on the ground at times. Water, a drink or a snack advisable.



As part of the *War Prison at Princetown* project, artist Kat Thomas gave the young people the skills to create their own puppets, equipping them to mentor children in workshops at local primary schools. In July they practised these new skills by mentoring Junior Drama Club in a puppet-making workshop.

Company Development Officer - Welcome to Gillian

At the beginning of September Gillian Webster takes up the post of Company Development Officer, working at MED Theatre three days a week. Gillian is no stranger to the company, having worked with us previously on a smaller scale as an administrator and a publicity officer, but also as a musician. Her priorities will be raising funds and the company's profile.