



MED Education

November 2009

Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Teachers

This newsletter is to keep you up to date with the recent work that MED Theatre has been carrying out in schools across Devon. Our community theatre company takes inspiration from our local surroundings, especially that of the Dartmoor National Park. Our workshops and courses focus on students developing original work of their own with MED Theatre. The students are rewarded with a sense of ownership over their creative work - perfect for enriching the curriculum in a new way, or for a fun activity week.



Movement workshop at CCANW, Haldon Forest, part of the Magic of the Hare project (see page 2)



Young people act in a film shot on Dartmoor

Unique Historical Performance by Young People at Dartmoor Prison

MED Theatre has been working with teenagers to develop their own play which will be performed on November 14th in the site-specific location of Princetown's Prison Museum. Researching the history of nineteenth century Dartmoor, and the effects of the Napoleonic Wars on it, has been integral to the project. One young person said **"I found out a lot more about the prison than I knew before, and it made me consider the emotions of characters"**. Leading out-of-school projects for young people that combine local heritage with creative impulse informs and enriches MED Theatre's education work - see overleaf to find out how local primary schools got involved.

A few words from Devon teachers

"I would recommend MED Theatre. The company provided a successful workshop with some excellent results that was enjoyed by the pupils."

"Thank you!!!! And huge congratulations! The children loved it!... Look forward to another project!"

"The workshop was very successful. The atmosphere was lovely - calm - despite both groups working together for the first time. Students had a positive experience and learned a new way of working."

"Confidence - since children were able to write the play themselves they felt that it was theirs. Less able children got some of the more demanding parts which normally they wouldn't go for."

SECONDARY UPDATE

Castle Drogo Lantern Procession

The National Trust are hosting a lantern procession that will take place in front of invited family and friends on December 4th at Castle Drogo, the last castle built in England. Chagford Primary year 6 students are working alongside Okehampton College year 7 students to create lanterns in teams, mentored by MED Theatre artist Sandy Berridge. MED Theatre is also facilitating the performance element to tell the story of Castle Drogo's history, as part of the procession. The different subjects of Art, Drama, English and Technology are all playing a role in the project.



Sandy Berridge, lantern artist, makes a model bird in the MED Theatre Studio

The Magic of the Hare Pilot

A new workshop, funded by the Dartmoor National Park Authority, is soon to be piloted in two schools on Dartmoor. The workshop will have a movement and storytelling emphasis and students will learn about the symbol of the hare in folklore, as a recurring motif in different cultures, and the current decline of the hare on Dartmoor.

PRIMARY UPDATE

The War Prison at Princetown Project

Teenagers are running their own drama project based on the building of the nineteenth century war prison in the centre of Dartmoor. Part of the project is for a selection of the teenagers to be trained as workshop leaders in order to run sessions with younger pupils in primary schools. They worked hard to develop a drama workshop and a puppet-making workshop based on the subject matter of the history of the war prison. The teenagers worked with pupils from Tavistock and Princetown Primary Schools and the process of older children mentoring younger children was a valuable learning experience for both parties.



Teenagers mentor younger pupils to make puppets

Moretonhampstead Primary School Playwriting and Performance Course

Year 6 pupils are writing and rehearsing their own play after having explored six Dartmoor myths. The idea for the play has grown from the students' own imaginations, and will be performed in December.

DARTMOOR RESOURCE WEBSITE OPPORTUNITY

Students have the opportunity to contribute work to MED Theatre's ground-breaking website, Dartmoor Resource. The website explores the history, ecology, mythology and community of Dartmoor as seen through the eyes of the performing arts.

To see other pupils' contributions visit the site itself:

www.dartmoorresource.co.uk

MED THEATRE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Bespoke Workshops:

MED Theatre specialises in creating bespoke workshops and courses for schools. The school chooses a topic or theme linked to their curriculum requirements and MED Theatre designs a course specifically to complement their request. The menus below are a guide to workshops that MED Theatre already offers.

SECONDARY EDUCATION MENU

Film Making:

Students create their own film inspired by their local community and surroundings

Play Creation:

Students create the plot, write the script and perform their own plays

Radio Playwriting:

Students write as a team or individually, and then produce and record their play using local themes

Why Community Theatre?

Students find how community theatre is used through the eyes of a Dartmoor practitioner

The length of courses can be adapted to suit your needs



PRIMARY EDUCATION MENU

Playwriting and Performance:

Students write as a team or individually and then direct and perform their own plays using local subject matter

Myth-Making:

Students learn about myths from different cultures (including Dartmoor myths), and then have the opportunity to produce their own

Site-Specific National Trust Workshop:

Students visit and learn about a National Trust location through creative writing and drama techniques

TERTIARY/SIXTH FORM OPTION

Ecology of Community Theatre:

Students explore and debate links between communities and their locations, and theatre's role in this partnership

Creative Writing:

A chance to stimulate students' imaginations and stretch their literacy skills, combining creative writing with drama

Prices start from £75 for a taster session to £600 for a course

Please get in touch to find out about our negotiable scale of charges

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What to do next?

MED Theatre is working with a variety of educational and community groups from primary school, up to university level. To find out more about our work, please take a look at the Education Programme overleaf. **Alternatively you can visit our website at www.medtheatre.co.uk or get in touch with our Education Officer, Abby Stobart, by using any of the contact details opposite or by sending back the form at the bottom of this page.**

You may be unsure how a workshop can fulfil the particular requirements of your school; having worked with many different venues we understand that **each school and student is different** so we will always adapt to suit your needs. Very rarely are any two workshops the same in fact!

Worried about money? MED can assist you in finding and applying for grants that you may be eligible for.

Cut-off and return slip:

Name & job title: _____

School: _____ Year Group: _____

Contact email: _____

Contact tel: _____

Contact address: _____

I am interested in the following workshop(s) / course (s):

I have budget available for this: YES / NO

I would like advice about funding: YES / NO