



The Coast: A community play about Dartmoor tourists by the sea.

THE COAST: A Play About Our Relationship With The Sea

As the human race grows increasingly aware of the negative effects that our convenient and 'to-go' lifestyles are having on the environment, and the creatures we share it with, MED Theatre brings you a play about the impact Dartmoor lives have on marine pollution. The culprit: Plastic. Join us in March to explore the relationship that those living on Dartmoor have with the sea, and find out what hidden secrets lie in the small, tourist-driven coastal town of Atlantis.

Fri 9th & Sat 10th: Manaton Parish Hall

Tues 13th: Belstone Village Hall

Thurs 15th: Mary Tavy Coronation Hall

Fri 16th & Sat 17th: Moreton Parish Hall

For more information or to purchase a ticket please contact MED Theatre on 01647 441356 or info@medtheatre.co.uk. Booking recommended.

- This year we are trying a system where tickets must be paid for prior to performances.



Wolf's End, Young Company Play, Dec 2017

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES AND THE LAST WOLF ON DARTMOOR

December 2018 saw the culmination of our Heritage Lottery Funded 'Young Roots' project, after eighteen wonderful months. The project engaged local young people in an exploration of Dartmoor's stories and links with black dogs and wolves, as well as countless other historical and fictional tales, such as the real life of Richard Cabell (infamous local 'vampire') and the origins of Conan-Doyle's novel, 'The Hound of The Baskervilles'. The project ended with a performance of 'Wolf's End', a play written, directed and performed by the young people and accompanied by music they had composed and played themselves. This was joined with a sharing of their film 'The Last Wolf' and both were added to the list of project outputs also including the radio play 'Wolf Whispers' and the community play 'The Howling'. For more on this project please visit our website where you can find links to videos and photographs of all their hard work.



The cast leading the promenade with song, *Whitehorse Hill*, Sept 2017

WHITEHORSE HILL PLAY

MED Theatre's promenade production of *Whitehorse Hill* took place once again towards the end of September 2017. The promenade performance, which explores Dartmoor's journey through time, begins with the introduction of Marwen, the possible Bronze Age Princess whose remains were found on Whitehorse Hill and have since given great insight into the area's rich heritage. This sequence of scenes taking audiences on a journey through time, as well as through the forest by the river at Bellever, was attended by booked-out audiences on two evenings (one very wet!) and accompanied by live music, all bound together through the magic of storytelling and performed by members of the community. Many thanks go to all who performed, volunteered and attended the performances. The play will return one more time in September 2019.

From the Education Officer

It has now been over a year since my role as Education Officer with MED began, and what a year that was! It was an absolute pleasure to work with our young company and other young people from across Devon on our HLF-funded project *The Hound of The Baskervilles* and *The Last Wolf on Dartmoor*, and I'm sure those who attended any of the events resulting from the project will join me in my sentiments that we are fortunate to be surrounded by such an inspiring and talented group of young people. Our main focus recently has been the completion of the film and the writing and rehearsal of the young people's play, which was performed with great success on December 2nd and 3rd. Moving forward, Wild Nights Young Company have begun working towards **Dartfest 2018** - a compilation of writing, plays and monologues to be performed in Autumn. This will merge, in performance, with a music project being headed by Gillian, Dartmoor Rivers, and will take inspiration from the theme of local water eco-systems and river legends. It's fantastic to be getting our teeth into a new project after such a lengthy stint with wolves! Elsewhere, our younger groups - Rising Lights, Bright Lights and Bright Nights - have recently created audio plays of their own, inspired by local folklore and myths. These can be found on our website and were launched in our studio to proud parents and families of the group members. In school news, we have both formed new links and continued many of our regular, annual bookings once again asking to take part in one of our education courses this year, including Moretonhampstead, Whipton Barton, West Exe School, and Hatherleigh Primary, the last for an umbrella project with three other schools. We have also been taking part in DAISI's (Devon Arts In Schools Initiative) Art and Museum Machina training, allowing us to venture into 'new territories' with the digital arts, and as part of this I have now visited two schools, Sparkwell Primary and Coombe Dean Secondary, to share this work with their pupils. Money and time are both tight for the arts and in schools, and so we are very pleased at MED to be able to continue our work in education and keep our links with local community schools. In final, rather different news, congratulations to Abby and her family on the birth of baby Magnus in October! We look forward to having Abby back in the office with us later in the year!

HELEN

Youth Section

From our Youth Representatives:

Wild Nights have recently finished our latest project on *The Hound of The Baskervilles* and *The Last Wolf on Dartmoor*, and in the last few months we have been very busy! In September, some members of the group took part in *Whitehorse Hill*, a play that moves through generations of people on Dartmoor and had been revived for a second time with some new cast. After that, we began planning our play, called *Wolf's End*, which was written collaboratively in small groups of Wild Nights' members and performed in December. The story followed a young woman struggling with the changes to Dartmoor's landscapes in the 1780s and integrated the local story of Kitty Jay with that of real-life character. The Duke of Bedford. In amongst the play writing we had several dance, movement and music workshops. Many of our group are now writing new plays as part of MED Theatre's Dartmoor Rivers project, with the intention of performing them as a part of Dartfest in Autumn 2018.



Rehearsing for *Wolf's End*, Dec 2017

Dartmoor Rivers Project

Young company members attended the first workshop in the Dartmoor Rivers composing project with Gerard McBurney (recently Artistic Programming Advisor with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra) in October, and an underwater sound recording workshop with sound artist Laura Denning in January, capturing the sounds of a Dartmoor stream. Several other composing workshops with Trefor Farrow will follow, with the resulting compositions featuring in the young people's Dartfest performances next autumn. This project is funded by the Michael Tippet Foundation.



Gerard McBurney's workshop, Oct 2017

Bishop Stapledon: Ashburton Community Play

MED Theatre have been commissioned for the writing, creation and performance of a community play, to take place in Ashburton in September 2018. The play, about the life of local figure Bishop Stapledon, will be performed by local community members and musicians in St Andrew's Church. Bishop Stapledon, of Exeter, founded St Lawrence Chapel in Ashburton and rose to be Lord High Treasurer of England, under Edward II. We will be releasing further information regarding the community play and the opportunities involved in April.

Help MED Theatre raise funds - it's easy!

1: Gift Aid
Make sure that any donations, memberships and friend payments made to MED are registered for Gift Aid. This allows us to claim back a little extra!

2: Buying Online
Please buy your online purchases via www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- choose Manaton and East Dartmoor Theatre as your favoured charity
- (NB search for our full name as above, not as MED Theatre)
- the retailer donates a percentage of the purchase price to us (eg 15% from ebay)
- most online stores (Tesco, M&S, Amazon etc) are part of this scheme
- it is called 'easyfundraising' - and there's no cost to you!
- Both are easy to set up, but if you need any help ask Gillian or Helen.
Thank you.

3: Encourage friends and family members to become 'Friends'
We offer many options for becoming a Friend of MED and giving further support to our work. Please take a look on our website or drop us an email if you, or someone you know, is interested!

