



## CWA SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

### Woodland Theatre Workshop 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Hosted by:  
**Morvern Community Woodlands Company**

## EVENT REPORT

Morvern Community Woodlands organised a one-day **Woodland Theatre Workshop** at Achnaha Community Woodland, Morvern led by Kenn Musso and Antti Jalkanen from te POOKa on Sunday the 18th of July 2010. The event targeted members of community woodland groups and others who are interested in learning how to tell a story theatrically in an outdoor environment. The daytime workshop (10-5pm) was followed by an outdoor performance from 8-10pm. The workshop and the performance were also included in the programme of the Morvern Games and Gala Week. The workshop and the performance were both free of charge.

### **The objectives of the workshop were to:**

- 1 Learn how to select and develop a story
- 2 Use the natural scenery to set the production and be sensitive to the natural environment (walking lightly, leaving no trace, use local materials)
- 3 Enhance circus skills, storytelling and acting abilities.

### **Course content**

The morning workshop focused on **storytelling**, using a series of games, warm ups and break-out sessions to explore the following questions in a participative manner:

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- Where do stories come from? We thought about how we had all arrived at the workshop that day and how each individual morning from getting up to arrival constituted a different, albeit commonplace story.

- How can a commonplace story transform itself into something theatrical? We learned about how to add detail, use exaggeration, weave in additional subplots, bring in magical elements, etc.

The afternoon workshop concentrated on the following subjects:

- **Finding locations.** Thinking about space for spectators, the dramatic use of a location in the story and possible practical and logistic problems of a chosen spot. We explored the range of locations available within Achnaha Community Wood and considered the pros and cons of each.

- The **use of natural materials** in set building and props. Think about using abundant materials, e.g. bracken. The session resulted in the creation of shelters, portals, a swan, a leaf circle, and a bracken frame for viewing the huge spider and fly made by Morvern Community Woodlands earlier in 2010.

In the last hour of the workshop the group was split into two groups:

- Kenn Musso led one group into **programming** a little show. The show was based on a story about dragons that came out of the morning session and we decided to make use of the sets and props made in the afternoon session.

- Antti Jalkanen taught the other group **circus skills** (juggling and plate spinning). A family of five who were passing also got involved in the juggling.



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Photos: set making using natural materials

### Feedback forms

There were 18 participants in the Woodlands Theatre Workshop. Eight of these participants were younger than 16 years. Seven people filled in the feedback forms (it was unfortunately difficult to pin everyone down to fill in a feedback form at the end of the day as the group divided into two and some of the participants got very involved in preparing the evening performance). The feedback forms were in general very positive.

### How did they hear about the event

Morvern Community Woodlands 2

Through local paper *De tha dol?* 2

Through local community woodlands 1

Morvern Games and Gala week brochure 2

### Opinions

	Fair	Good	Very good
<b>Location</b>		2	5
<b>Organisation</b>		5	2
<b>Catering</b>		4	3
<b>Facilities</b>	2	4	1

### Expectations

All seven participants found that the event delivered to their expectations.

### Reasons for taking part

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Something different 2  
Fun 2  
Circus skills 1  
Run outdoor theatre 4  
Networking 1

#### Benefits

Circus skills 1  
Rediscover child inside me 1  
Learn about natural sets 3  
Storytelling 2  
Logistics 2

#### What will the participants do with the experience/skills

Run performances 3  
Incorporate stories in events 1  
Give a more magical twist to activities 1

#### Recommendations

All seven participants would recommend others to take part in such an event.

#### Why beneficial

It's good.  
Circus skills  
Fun  
Confidence  
Lots of tips

#### Other comments

CWA should keep promoting arts and culture events.  
Great no Power Point!!  
Event had a slow start due to late comers, but organisers kept things together.

#### **Participants**

Fiona Christian, Dave Christian, Kay Christian, Ella Christian, Anna Samson, Ruby Samson, Veronique Walraven, Jake Willis, Bonnie Mealand, Kyle Mealand, Torran Mealand, Gregor Smart, Stirling, Thomas, Clare Holohan, Kirsty Rosie, Katy Montgomery, Fionn Claussen.

#### **Performance**

The daytime workshop was followed by an outdoor performance from 8pm. The short show that was put together by the participants of the workshop was performed as a warm-up for a cosy and magical storytelling evening by Kenn Musso with some fantastic fire spinning by Antti Jalkanen. There were about 30 spectators: some local people and some summer visitors to Morvern.

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## Afterwards

After the event took place the Morvern Community Woodlands Company sent an article and a couple of pictures of the Woodland Theatre Workshop and the performance to the local monthly paper *De tha dol?*. The *De tha dol?* decided to use one of these pictures as their front cover (see supplement).



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