



Presents



MOONFLEET

Educational Workshops, Autumn 2009

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ABOUT ANGEL EXIT THEATRE

Formed in 2001 by graduates of the prestigious Ecole Lecoq and co-directed by Tamsin Fessey and Lynne Forbes, Angel Exit Theatre is a shifting ensemble of performers with a shared passion for new dynamic physical theatre.

To date Angel Exit have produced four original pieces of theatre. The most recent production, *The Black Curtain* completed an ACE funded tour of the UK and Normandy where it was co-produced by Le Preau Theatre. The first show, *Imaginary Prisons* was a dark, twisted fairy tale, set in a Sleeping Beauty Kingdom under a mad dictatorship. It played to sold-out audiences in the atmospheric Underbelly venue at the 2001 Edinburgh fringe where it was nominated for a Fringe First Award. Angel Exit went on to create *Bolt Upright*, an Irish ghost story told by a gang of buffoon fairies and set in the aftermath of the Irish famine. *Bolt Upright* toured Ireland and the U.S and was nominated for the best production award in the 2003 Dublin Festival. *Master Shuttlefate* was the company's third show, and with a cast of 12 was something of an epic affair. It played at the 2005 Dublin Fringe Festival.

Angel Exit draw on varied subject matter but the common thread is a strong emphasis on storytelling through physical ensemble theatre, using the European traditions of clown, chorus, melodrama and buffoonery. The company, previously operating from Dublin, has now established itself as a South West based company, and has a mentoring relationship with Kneehigh Theatre Company.

“There is so much vivid theatricality and inventiveness at work here that I am already looking forward to its next show.”

Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian* on *Imaginary Prisons*

“A riot of invention.”

The Times on *Bolt Upright*

“A unique brand of intuitive physical theatre.”

British Theatre Guide on *The Black Curtain*

ABOUT ANGEL EXIT'S MOONFLEET



Moonfleet is a new piece of physical theatre inspired by J Meade Falkner's classic smuggling novel of the same name. It is a co-production between Angel Exit Theatre and The Dorchester Arts Centre and will be touring the UK in Autumn/ Winter 2009.

Presented in Angel Exit's trademark style, *Moonfleet* will feature live music as well as an original score, striking physicality, ensemble storytelling and puppetry. A straggling gang of buffoons are washed up among the flotsam onto the rugged shores of a ghost village, and conspire to spin this yarn of smuggling, dastardly deeds and wicked adventures.

Moonfleet tells the story of a young orphan boy named John Trenchard who is raised by his pious Aunt Jane and schooled by the waxen Master Glennie. Elzevir Block, mysterious landlord of the Why Not Inn, and the local fishermen spin fearful ghost stories to keep the youngsters away from the churchyard and their smuggling trade, but young John swoons after Blackbeard's hidden diamond. His determination to unearth the treasure soon finds him clashing with both smugglers and excise men. Part love story, part coming-of-age tale, *Moonfleet* is, above all, a gripping adventure.

"It is already very striking in its physicality and visual. I liked the complicity - it felt like sharing a dark secret, a story that is risky to tell..."

- Steve Fraser, Head of Drama, Dorchester Thomas Hardy School after January draft performance.

ANGEL EXIT WORKSHOPS



A buffoon workshop

Angel Exit are running a series of workshops alongside the tour of *Moonfleet*. Workshops can be held in schools or colleges or in some cases, at the theatre space. Angel Exit workshops are suitable for all school levels, University students and community groups. The Artistic Directors of Angel Exit can also be booked for seminars on aspects of running a company.

Angel Exit is devoted to the educational aspect of its work, believing that continuous training is essential to our own and other performers' creative development, and trusting that theatre has a unique way of encouraging people to work together which is beneficial and rewarding in all aspects of life.

Workshops are always run by at least two members of the company. Angel Exit's ensemble members are CRB checked, experienced workshop leaders and between them have many years of teaching and facilitating experience. Previous Angel Exit workshops include:

- Residential workshop weeks at secondary schools in UK
- A-level and BTEC students in UK
- Residents of retirement homes in London and Normandy
- Teacher training in UK

- University drama students at Dublin's Trinity College and Albuquerque University, U.S.A.
- Experienced performers at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- Primary school pupils in London and rural France
- Youth Theatre groups in UK and France

Angel Exit tailors every workshop to suit the particular group. Example workshop titles are listed below.

A detailed education pack will be issued to all leaders booking workshops, which details further exercises and contains information about the show, J.Meade Falkner, the history of smuggling and interviews with the designer, composer and actors. A sample education pack from *The Black Curtain* tour is available to download from our website: www.angelexit.co.uk

"There are so many applications for the exercises that I watched and I know that your work will inspire many ideas"

Chair of Governors-Wey Valley School, 2009

"Wonderful, it opened up whole new vistas of my imagination"

Albuquerque participant, 2005



Lyme Regis Youth Theatre-Chorus Workshop

FURTHER INFORMATION

Example workshops:

Ensemble and Chorus work

Using a variety of complicity exercises, we look at different ways in which a chorus may be used to support storytelling. Suitable for all levels.

Devising / Adapting

Using text, memories, pictures or music as a stimulus, we use different exercises to work towards the creation of effective dramatic scenes.

The creation of *Moonfleet*

Similar to the above, but focussed specifically on adapting this adventure novel to the stage. We use exercises from our own creative process.

Buffoonery – An Introduction

Jacques Lecoq described the buffoon as a “body mask”. Using exercises based on his teachings, we work with the students to create buffoon bodies and explore the liberating and mischievous world of the buffoon.

(This workshop is aimed at GCSE and above and requires at least 3 hours.)

Object Manipulation and Puppetry

A series of introductory exercises in the art of bringing inanimate objects to life and a chance to play with puppets based on those used in the show .

Introduction to physical theatre

As it says! A playful look at ways to prioritise the physical and visual over the verbal.

Group numbers: 30 participants maximum (unless by prior arrangement)

Requirements: A clear space with non-carpeted floor, and a height of at least 2.5 m is preferred. Movement clothes are preferable.

Cost:

Full day of workshops: £250

Half day workshop: £175

Price for longer/shorter workshops negotiable.

To book a workshop: Please contact:
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