

desperate men

STREET THEATRE, OUTDOOR EVENTS & COMMISSIONS

Desperate Men – Directors' Biographies

Jon Beedell - Artistic Co-Director

Co-founder of the Company in 1980. Actor, Teacher, Director, Musician. After training at Bradford College of Art under the influence of **Albert Hunt, Welfare State, Jeff Nuttall, Roland Miller** et al, he got the performing bug and worked with the legendary **Crystal Theatre** in 1972 in Holland which led to tours of Europe with **Friends Roadshow, Footsbarn, Mummerandada** and many others. Jon worked, taught and directed in Portugal for many years and was on the staff at **Chapito** in Lisbon. He has been instrumental in setting up **NASA** (National Association of Street Artists) and is currently agitating for a higher profile for street arts in Bristol and the South West through **CAST**. He is proud to have played piano for **Vivian Stanshall's** very last tour. He believes that street theatre can change the world – or at least, that it's worth a try....

Biography: Richard Headon – Creative Producer

Desperate since 1995.

Ideas creator, actor, teacher, writer, deviser, director, administrator, co-coordinator and saint.

After gaining a B.A. (Theatre and Politics) at Rolle College, Exmouth, Richard toured cabaret round Devon with 'The Fat Cat Floorshow'. From there he worked in community touring, at The Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, in pantomime at The Wilde Theatre, Bracknell, and devised shows at The Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood. As a drama worker with Newham Health Authority he created cross art projects, whilst with 'The Crew' in Bristol he created outdoor spectacles. In addition to his Desperate work he can also be found as a Tutor / Role Player for Bristol University Primary Health Care Dept in Communication Skills where he specialises in angry and depressed characters.

Shirley Pegna – Musical Director

Desperate Men's composer, musician and workshop leader since 1992, including music and soundscapes for **Miracle Show, Rick, Dick and Vic – Extreme!**, the **Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse** and **2 Wildstreet** events (street music spectacles). Shirley trained at Rolle College, (Cert Ed), and Dartington College (specialist music diploma). Recent work includes '*music for a farm*' - **Light Horse**

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in Shropshire (2006), commissioned music for the **Brunel Celebrations** in Bristol. She has also produced, played and composed music for many other theatre and dance companies including **Traveling Light, Pickled Image, Ra Ra Zoo and Angela de Castro.**

Biography: Richie Smith - Artistic Co Director

Co- founder of the Company. Actor, Teacher, Director, Musician.

After gaining a degree in Education, and setting out around the world, he got as far as Amsterdam and began his performing career with Friends Roadshow. He subsequently worked with many other companies including Mummerandada, Kneehigh, Fortunati and the late, great Vivian Stanshall. Combined being Artistic Director for Circus Burlesque with playing in the band in their ground breaking show – 'Alice' – which travelled to the USA for the World Theatre Festival in Knoxville, Tennessee. His directing talents have benefited Parachute Puppets, Le La Les, No Fit State Circus and Swamp Circus among others. Richie directed Green Ginger in their award winning production - 'Bambi - The Wilderness Years', and The World Famous and Peepolykus in the outdoor spectacular 'Blast'. Has lectured at Hereford College of Art and Design, Bath Spa University College and Bristol University.

Switched career in 2003 after re-training in Countryside Management. Currently Rebuilding Biodiversity Project Officer for Dorset Wildlife Trust, but continues to stay in touch with all things Desperate. Sits on the Board of Directors. Used to be famous for blowing up tomatoes on his head.