

Summer 2010 Newsletter

desperate men

STREET THEATRE, OUTDOOR EVENTS & COMMISSIONS

FESTIVAL OF DESPERATION!

Desperate Men are pleased to report that the Festival of Desperation will go ahead in October, thanks to support from the Arts Council and Bristol City Council.

The Festival of Desperation is our 30th birthday celebration as well as a celebration of all things desperate! We'll be hosting a whole weekend of desperate street events, as well as an exhibition, talks, discussions, a cabaret and of course a party!



The Festival of Desperation will be taking place in venues throughout Bristol including the old motorcycle shop on Stokes Croft, The Cube Microplex, Bristol Old Vic and the Full Moon, as well as outside on the streets.



The festival will also be packed full of exciting Acts of Desperation – a series of new commissions from young and emerging artists from Bristol, funded by Bristol City Council's single project fund. Look out for some desperate postpeople, a desperate drummer, Desperate Dan (in translation), and a woman dressed as a toilet – just for starters! We're hoping this will be a chance for Desperate Men to work with some of the hottest new talent around in Bristol at the moment.

We're also not forgetting those who've been around a little longer! A few other theatre companies celebrate their thirtieth birthdays this year, and we've invited them to come along, celebrate their work as well as ours and have a discussion, over the course of the weekend, about content in street arts and how old and new artists can work together. Expect more details on this shortly.



If you'd like to contribute to the festival of desperation in some way – by performing, putting on a desperation-related show, or helping out with stewarding, publicity or production, we'd love to hear from you. Please drop a line to our desperate festival co-ordinator, Liz Lavender. That's Liz@desperatemen.com, or call us on the usual number.

NEW ANIMATIONS LAUNCH!

Pig Pen Riots

Desperate Men were commissioned by Merchants City Festival (Glasgow) to create two new animations for their festival in July. The first of these is the Pig Pen Riots. The Pig Pen Riots allows you – Joe Punter – to vent your frustrations, whatever they are, in a safe manner. We provide the placards, suitable attire, and even a set of foam bricks for you to lob at the department store windows. Then we herd you all into a pen to have your five minutes of mayhem, before letting you out to go home in a calm and responsible manner. There – who said protest was dead? The Pig Pen Riots will also feature in the Festival of Desperation.

The Funnels

We also took 'The Funnels' to Glasgow – three strangely dressed musical beasts with funnels on their heads that play familiar tunes on a series of brightly coloured plastic pipes. Bizarre but beautiful!

Carbonopoly!



We were also recently commissioned by Bristol City Council's sustainability team to create a game for the Festival of Nature and the Harbourside Festival – Carbonopoly! That's like Monopoly but instead of making loads of money you have to see how far you can get round the board without using up all your carbon allowance. Land on the farmers' market and buy some local veg, and that'll cost you nearly nothing. Land on a big shop and go on a spending spree – that'll cost you a load of smackers, thanks. The person with the most credits left at the end of the game wins.

Balloon Toss Finds Biggest Ever Bunch Of Tossers

Once again Desperate Men played a starring role in the Bristol Harbourside Festival by assembling the biggest bunch of tossers ever for the now legendary balloon toss. We had more than 250 tossers on the Sunday! It was a pretty busy day for the Desperates as we were also running Carbonopoly and doing Darwin and the Dodo, all at the same time!

Everything Gets Eaten Eats Out Abroad

Our show about Biodiversity, Everything Gets Eaten, will be trying out some foreign food this autumn as it goes to Hong Kong in November, courtesy of the British Council. In other foreign jaunts, Darwin and the Dodo will be making a return visit to Estremoz in Portugal for the science festival. We also have some other exciting foreign trips in the offing for 2011!

Desperate Men Let Loose Amongst Girl Guides!

In a startling development, Desperate Men were recently booked to appear at the Girl Guiding Centenary Celebration at Harwood House in Leeds, attended by more than 15,000 Girl Guides from around the globe. Darwin and the Dodo were just one of the many street acts appearing at the Fusion event on the 4th August. Mrs Dodo proved particularly popular, and also met some fellow avians. A lovely day out was had by all, despite the damp.



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