

Spring 2010 Newsletter

desperate men
STREET THEATRE, OUTDOOR EVENTS & COMMISSIONS

Biodiversity Show Goes Live!

Our new show about biodiversity, *Everything Gets Eaten*, launched on April 30th at the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival. *Everything Gets Eaten* is a sequel to the highly successful 'Darwin and the Dodo', and marks the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010. The show can be seen later in the year in London, Bromley and Norwich, as well as going abroad in the autumn.

We are also really happy to be working with two new performers, courtesy of a grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. We auditioned nine people and are now working with the rather fabulous Vreni May (also known as the Pink Gazelle) and the marvellous Martha Locke, who you might have seen performing with the Wonder Club.



Everything Gets Eaten features songs, dances, lots of scientific facts, and - the lunchbox of every creature in the world! - including a particularly fabulous moveable feast of a set by William Datson. We've also asked Chris Lucas, who made the short film of *Darwin and the Dodo*, to make another mini-epic about 'Everything Gets Eaten' so expect some hot Youtube action featuring live insects.



Desperate Men would especially like to thank the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, who we've not previously worked with, and who really went out of their way to back the development of 'Everything Gets Eaten'. We are also proud to be a member of the UK International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

Sefton Park School Gets Desperate This May

Desperate Men will be working at Sefton Park Primary school from 24th – 28th May, taking over the whole school for a week! Sefton Park School is 100 years old this year, so we're planning to bio-blitz the school and find everything that's on site! We're sure they'll be a few surprises as well...

For those of you who're unfamiliar with the concept of bio-blitzing, here's what Wikipedia has to say: 'a special type of field study, where scientists and volunteers attempt to identify and record all species of living organisms in a given area'.

The idea of our bio-blitz is to bring the whole school together into a project, involving staff, children and parents, looking at the whole school as a 'living, connected eco-system'. Children will be encouraged to pry into forbidden corners (like the staff room), investigate trails and clues, and be drawn into creating and discovering stories from different cultures and situations. The project is part of our ongoing work with the Real Ideas Organisation, formerly Creative Partnerships.

The Quest Continues...

We could tell you what's going on with the Quest. But then we'd have to kill you... More news soon on this exciting joint project between Desperate Men and Cirque Bijou...

Pirates Pillage Northern Ports.

Our Eco-Pirates pride themselves on being pretty bad-ass. But even they were scared when they heard they'd been invited to take part in a procession in hell. Then they read the invite properly. So the pirates will in fact be taking part in the Lord Mayor's procession in HULL on Saturday 15th May. Which is almost respectable! Apparently the good citizens of Hull recycle around 48% of their plunder, so with a little prodding from our pirate cutlasses and some encouraging shanty-singing, it should be soaring past the half-way mark. Good work, lads and lasses (but keep rowing)!



Pirates in Heckmondwike.
Morleys Jewellers was later robbed.

The Pirates have been getting quite fond of Yorkshire recently, and have also visited Heckmondwike. They couldn't spell that either. None the less they had a lovely time pillaging the farmers' market. Which also reminds us...

Darwin and Dodo Election Special

While visiting the charming town of Cleckheaton, Mr Darwin and the Dodo had the good fortune to meet the local Conservative Candidate. Afterwards, we managed to conduct a brief opinion poll. 'I would not be a Tory, if it was merely on account of their cold hearts,' said Mr Darwin, who admitted supporting the Whigs. Meanwhile, the dodo confessed a fondness for the Greens, who he said were the only party which took species extinction seriously. STOP PRESS: A preliminary search for the costumes from our 1986 show 'The Tory Bastards' has so far drawn a blank.

For Sale: Van in Need of Good Home



The van in happier times

It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to our old van, which is now much bigger than we need, and has failed its MOT. So this is a first refusal offer to mates, mates' mates and anyone we've worked with. Merc 609 Diesel van, J Reg (1991) 7.2m long panel van, divided into two sections in rear. Front section has wood lining, pull-out beds, cooker, sink, lighting, side windows. Approx 170,000 miles on clock. Needs bodywork and new steering box. Taxed, No MOT. Paint job now plain white. Good for festival touring, loads of room for kit.

We're not really sure what it's worth so if you're interested, come round, have a look, haggle! If no takers within a couple of weeks will go on ebay. Drop us an email/give us a ring if interested.

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