



International Summer School for Street Arts 2011



A unique opportunity for street artists to work intensively with a leading national or international artist...

10-day residential course:
August 27 – September 05, 2011
Festival dates: 02 - 04 September
Location: Kendal, Cumbria

www.lakesalive.org

Main Sponsor:



Funded by:



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



About us...

The Mintfest International Summer School for Street Arts (MISSSA) offers a unique opportunity for outdoor artists.

In just five years, Mintfest, Kendal's international festival of street arts has become one of the largest and most significant outdoor arts festivals in the UK. Year on year, watching the festival grow ever bigger and better, we felt that we could offer something really special to outdoor artists, and / or those aspiring to work outdoors.

We could bring artists together for a genuine experience of the collaboration, creation and development process. Fully immersed in a residential experience, participants could work intensively with a leading national or international artist, experimenting and playing with ideas together whilst receiving critical feedback and support from a highly experienced professional. They would then perform their work as part of the festival, along side world-class artists and in front of large and loyal festival audiences.

There was no comparable opportunity for outdoor artists in the UK at that time, so 2010 saw the pilot of the very first Mintfest International Summer School for Street Arts.



Compagnie Luc Amoros at Mintfest 2010



2010's MISSSA students



MISSA 2011

And here we are already, bursting into year two! The next few pages will give you all the details about this year's course: who will be teaching it, what you can expect to get out of it and practical details about how the course will be run.

In a nutshell:

The course will run for 10 days and is residential. It is designed to be intensive and fully immersive. You will spend your time in a mixture of workshops, rehearsals, lectures and either watching or taking part in performances. Each student will work in one of three workshop groups with a leading national / international outdoor artist. You will work on a show that you will perform at the end of the course as part of the festival. There will be evening lectures midweek given by visiting street arts professionals and once the festival gets under way, when you're not rehearsing or performing your own work, you will have the opportunity to see a large selection and a good variety of professional work at the festival.

About you:

This is an opportunity for 'new and emerging', or aspiring street / outdoor artists, or for more experienced artists wishing to refresh themselves and their practice by trying something new.

By new and emerging artists, we mean students of drama or theatre who have an interest in working outdoors; outdoor artists with limited experience of performing outdoors or established artists of any art form who have little or no experience of working outdoors, but have a keen interest in taking their work outdoors.



At MISSSA you will:

- Meet and work alongside a new group of artists, all at varying stages in their careers
- Collaborate, experiment, exchange thoughts, ideas and techniques with each other
- Work with, learn from and receive critical feedback and support from highly experienced professionals
- Be challenged
- Build your confidence
- Perform your work in front of large audiences, world-class artists and industry professionals*
- Meet and network with industry professionals and professional artists
- See a vast range of professional work
- And develop a greater or broader understanding of the street arts sector generally



*In partnership with XTRAX, Mintfest acts as showcase for UK and international street arts. In 2010 we welcomed 45 companies to Kendal, whose work was seen by 90 arts promoters, festival directors and street arts professionals. Festival highlights included a primeval percussion and pyrotechnic performance from Les Commandos Percu, stunning live visual art from Compagnie Luc Amoros and captivating performances from Motionhouse, Tuig, and Akademi – to name but a few! This year's highlights will include a varied daytime street programme, installations and curiosities at The Garden of Delights - a pleasure garden for the 21st century - and 'As The World Tipped' a very exciting new commission by Without Walls from Wired Aerial Theatre



The Tutors

This year we have selected three highly experienced and innovative street performers who will each lead a workshop group. Each tutor will bring his or her own unique approach and style to the experience, so the next few pages will introduce you to each of the tutors and explain a little about their individual philosophies to give you an idea of what you will do, if you spend your week working with them...



Les Goulus 'at large' on the streets of Penrith at Lakes Alive: Penrith 2010



Lina Johansson: mimbre

www.mimbre.co.uk

Lina Johansson is one of the founders and joint artistic directors of mimbre, an acrobatic company who fuse highly skilled acrobatics with movement and physical theatre to create unforgettable images and tell beautiful stories. mimbre have toured their productions widely and to great acclaim at outdoor festivals and events across the UK, Europe and worldwide.



Photo by www.kinho.com

A physical Language

Bodies flying, falling, stacking up, one person carrying the weight of another, all images bursting with content. As soon as two people connect physically: hold hands, touch, push, catch each other, it immediately paints an image of the relationship, without any words added.

My big interest for working with physical material is how much you can say without talking. Using impressive physicality is a classic way to get attention when performing on the streets, but more than that I am interested in exploring the more subtle ways physicality can be used for imagery, not only representing thrill and spectacle, but also human relationships, atmosphere, narrative and character.



Why street arts?

My passion for working outdoors is the proximity of the audience and the fact that there is no fourth wall. Despite the competition with shops, traffic and an array of unexpected interruptions, when you work on the street and hit the magic, you can touch, surprise and reach people much more than within the safe container of a theatre.



mimbres performing at Stockton International Riverside Festival 2009 Photo: Gilmar Rebeiro

My Course

I will teach a mix of acrobatic and acrobalance (partner-acrobatics) techniques (suitable for and adapted to all levels and abilities), which we will use as a starting point for you to find your own physical language. With this, a little humour, some music and your own skills, we will create vignettes for the urban landscape at Mintfest.

'The female trio mimbres astonish with their excess of poetic agility.' Journal de Tourcoing (sprung)



Brian Popay: Fine Artistes

www.fineartistes.com

Brian was a founder member of the Natural Theatre Company of Bath and has worked in improvised comedy-based street performance since 1970. He was Director of Interactive Performance at the Millennium Dome and has worked with many other UK companies including British Events, Forkbeard Fantasy and Avanti Display. In 2007 Brian formed Fine Artistes, a company that employs the visual arts in performance. Fine Artistes were guest performers at the UK Pavilion, Shanghai Expo for August 2010.



Leonard and The Two Moaners

Why work outdoors?

Working outdoors, which for me ideally means the street, offers the most dynamic arena in which to present artistic ideas. Reactions and emotions are raw; you never know whether you're going to get a big thumbs up or a poke in the eye; whether you'll be applauded or arrested – or perhaps, worst of all, ignored. It's quite simply dangerous and danger is exciting. I want people to stop and stare, to be both delighted and intrigued, but best of all to be drawn in by and become part of the fantasy as it unfolds.



What will we do in Kendal?

We will be exploring the town and its history, getting the “feel” of the place by going out and doing some “artistic field work”, finding and learning stories about what has happened in Kendal. By the end of the workshop process we will have created a unique piece of work, based on our discoveries. In the mixture we will have added a number of other vital ingredients that I’ve found essential for a good street piece: plenty of mischief making, some memorable visuals, lots of humour and a good splattering of self-deprecation. We will have created a bespoke piece of work inspired by Kendal itself.



Funeral Party, Somerset arts cuts protest.



Jean-Luc Prevost: Les Goulus

www.lesgoulus.com

Jean-Luc has been an actor, writer and Director since 1979 working with different French companies on cabaret, theatre and clowning shows, performing in Paris, the Avignon Festival, Sydney and on tour. In 1994, he cofounded The Obsessionels which in 2000 became Les Goulus. Les Goulus are one of Europe's leading exponents of walkabout street performance with an international reputation that has taken them to all of Europe's major street festivals and around the world. The distinguishing characteristic of all their work is bravery – an 'in your face' approach that stays just on the right side of their own personal safety.



The Cosmic Yellow Force...

Nobody knows it, but for a few years several members of the Cosmic Yellow Hand have been living in Kendal and recruiting new members for their ashram every day. Their goal? To invade the town with the Cosmic Yellow Force's members... and to possess it!

This year, the sisters and brothers from the sect, though almost hidden, have already taken possession of a street...It's an inspiring beginning as their Guru has told them that he will come and visit them in person, but only if the town is belonging to the Cosmic Yellow Force.



So! There is no time to waste, sisters and brothers must inspire and recruit more people from the town by whatever means necessary. Mystical chants, dances, proselytism, confessed secrets, even the Guru's own personal story; everything will be allowed for them to convince, recruit and grow members of the Cosmic Yellow Force...



...You will live a unique and incredible experience!

"Tomorrow will be different than today" Master Albert, The Guru, Cosmic Yellow Force.

A personal note...

I define myself as a theatre adventurer because I do not want to restrict my intellectual mind and my theatre practice to what I'm already known for. The necessity of taking risks is at the forefront of my work.

There are four main aspects to my artistic direction:

- 1) An in depth exploration of non-frontal performances
- 2) The search for a close complicity with the audience turning them into participants rather than consumers
- 3) The search for a synergy between different arts, different cultures and different experiences
- 4) To place artists into daily life!



David Burbidge: Physical & Vocal Warm-Ups

www.lakelandvoice.co.uk

David originally trained in voice work at drama school and has since been influenced by the work of voice teachers, Frankie Armstrong, Kristin Linklater, Enrico Pardo and Augusto Boal.

Using movement, creativity, and group interaction to free the natural voice, David's warm ups will draw on his training in several different disciplines including yoga, Feldenkrais, Tai Chi and the Alexander Technique. He will include games, movement and group interaction to free up both the body and the voice for movement and expression.

David lives in Sedbergh, near Kendal where for several years he has led cultural exchanges between Sedbergh and Zrece in the former Yugoslavian republic of Slovenia. He has led the Discover your Voice class at the Kendal Brewery Arts Centre for over 15 years and also leads the Brewery Harmony singing ensemble and the South Lakeland community folk choir, Lakeland Voices, who sing in outdoor locations throughout the Lake District. The groups sing songs from around the world in several different languages.



How to succeed in street arts...

...guest lectures

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, two visiting street arts professionals will give guest lectures about their experiences in the sector, from an organiser's and artist's perspective:

Maggie Clarke, Director, XTRAX



Maggie is the Director of XTRAX, an organisation that she founded in 2001 to develop and produce events, performance showcases and outdoor festivals. In addition to live events, XTRAX runs strategic programmes and projects to support artists in the creation and touring of new and innovative work. This includes an online directory of outdoor artists, which currently features over 400 outdoor artists. Maggie is also a founder member of the Without Walls consortium, a partnership of outdoor festivals that has commissioned and supported more than 40 new projects by UK artists.

www.xtrax.org.uk

Edward Taylor, Whalley Range All Stars

Edward Taylor formed the Whalley Range All Stars in 1982 with Sue Auty. Since then they have produced over 60 different shows and theatrical installations touring to 21 countries over 5 continents. They have won artistic, critical and popular acclaim for their vivid, imaginative work, which reflects their background in visual arts. The drawings from the company's latest show, Imaginary Friends, which will be performed at Mintfest, will be on display in Kendal during the festival www.wrass.org.uk



Photo: Paul Herrmann



Course Information

Fees:

The total cost of the course is £400.00. Please note that this includes all of your food, accommodation costs, workshop fees and materials for the whole 10 days. You will only need to arrange your travel separately and bring a small amount of 'pocket money' on the course with you.

Bursaries:

We will be able to offer some students bursaries and / or travel grants; especially those travelling internationally or with significant travel costs. Bursaries will be awarded according to each individual case.

Payment:

A deposit of £150.00 will be required from all successful applicants once we have confirmed your place. The full balance will be due by no later than **Friday 22 July**.

Accommodation:

Accommodation will be in shared dormitories within Kendal Town Centre.

Research and Evaluation:

Research and evaluation of MISSEA is being carried out by CRESC, University of Manchester in partnership with Kendal Arts International. We would be grateful if students would be willing to share their aspirations and experiences with us, both at the beginning of the course and at the end. The MISSEA 2010 evaluation report is available from our website:

www.lakesalive.org/mintfest-summer-school/



How to apply

Application forms are available to download from:

www.lakesalive.org/mintfest-summer-school/

Please ensure that you complete the form fully and send to Jenny Graham: jenny@kendalartsinternational.com along with:

- An up-to-date CV
- A short statement (no more than 500 words) about why you would like to take part in MISSSA 2011
- If you would like to apply for a bursary or a travel grant, please include sufficient details explaining why extra financial assistance will be required. (There is a limited amount of funding available, so assistance will go to those most in need first)

We would prefer electronic applications, however, if this is not possible please contact the office on 01539 720252 and we can organise an alternative.

Please do include all the information that is requested – the more information we have about you, the better we will be able to make your experience.

The deadline for all applications is **Friday 27 May** and we will confirm whether you have been successful or not by **Friday 10 June**.

We very much look forward to hearing from you!



Images from 2010 MISSA Performances:



The Why's



The Krishnous

The Wedding Party



*Performing by firelight in the
River Kent*



Mintfest is the flagship festival of Lakes Alive, a four-year programme of world-class outdoor performance events set in the spectacular landscapes of Cumbria and the Lake District.



www.lakesalive.org

Lakes Alive is one of three annual programmes commissioned for WE PLAY, the Northwest cultural legacy programme for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

WE PLAY is funded by Legacy Trust UK, an independent charity set up to help build a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games.

Lakes Alive is presented by Kendal Arts International in partnership with Manchester International Arts.



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