

# International Summer School for Street Arts 2010 "Dare... Risk... Win!"



Professional training and development with one  
of the UK's largest street arts festivals



Course Dates: August 29 – September 5, 2010

Festival Dates: September 2 – 5, 2010.

Location: Kendal, Cumbria

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[www.lakesalive.org](http://www.lakesalive.org)

# Mintfest



This will be the fourth year of Mintfest, Kendal's International festival of street arts and already, it has become one of the largest and most significant outdoor arts festivals in the UK.

Each year, Mintfest has brought the very best UK and international work into every pocket of Kendal, a small market town on the edge of the English Lake District.

In 2009, festival highlights included a breathtaking performance from Circus Ronaldo; a mysterious and beautiful fire parade from French theatrical magicians, La



Salamandre and an evocative, visually stunning fire garden from French alchemists Carabosse. During the day, a kaleidoscope of artists could be found lining the town's streets. Theatre Irrwisch, Trukitrek, Antipodes, Plunge Boom and Artizani (to name but a few!) produced exhilarating performances to amaze and thoroughly entertain their audiences.



Highlights for 2010 include critically acclaimed South Asian dance company Akademi. *Sufi Meets Zen* is a sublime exploration into the relationship between the passion of Sufism and the stillness of Zen, performed in an appropriately spiritual setting.



In complete contrast, French musical pyrotechnicians, Les Commandos Percu will provide a primeval and explosive experience via an irresistible combination of percussion and fire. Other highlights include Adrift, Luc Amoros and ATempo, as well as a sparkling array of new, smaller-scale British work.

The festival just continues to grow bigger and better and for 2010 we are extremely proud to introduce our newest addition:

**The Mintfest International Summer School for Street Arts.**



## A unique opportunity to receive specialist training in the outdoor arts

This is an opportunity for new and emerging professional street artists - or students of drama or theatre who have an interest in working in the outdoors - to be immersed in an intensive, week-long residential training course.

You will:

- Be taught by leading UK and International street artists
- Meet and work alongside other new and emerging street artists
- Work on an existing show, created by your course tutor, to learn new skills and further develop your talents as an outdoor artist.
- And finally, perform your work in front of large audiences, world-class artists and industry professionals alike\* at **Mintfest**, Kendal's International Festival of Street Arts.

Students will be taught through a variety of workshops, presentations and discussions.

\*In partnership with X.TRAX, Mintfest acts as a showcase for UK and international street arts. In 2009, we welcomed 40 UK and International companies whose work was seen by 50 arts promoters, festival directors and street arts professionals.



**The Mintfest International Summer School for Street Arts  
is the first of its kind in the UK**



# The Tutors, The Courses, The Shows

Four immensely experienced and internationally recognised street artists will each lead a workshop based on shows that they have already created.

Each will bring their own unique approach to performance, but all are recognised as innovative artists who push boundaries and challenge both performers and audiences.

We have selected tutors who have created performances that new performers can slot into, bringing something new and of their own to the act, yet safe in the knowledge that the infrastructure of the show has already been established.

The resulting work will be highly interactive with the public and risks will most definitely be taken – you therefore have nothing to lose, except your stiff upper lip!

The next few pages will introduce you to the tutors, their shows and give you a little insight into their individual philosophies.



*Mintfest 2008*

# Richard Stamp aka Stompy (dotComedy): *The Whys*

[www.dotcomedy.co.uk](http://www.dotcomedy.co.uk)

Richard studied at the *Mime Centre* and *The City Lit*, London. In the 80's he was heavily involved in the alternative comedy scene, co-running the anarchic *Room 16* in Brixton.

In 1998, Richard co-founded dotComedy with William Wilding and Heather Angel; together they rapidly established a reputation as one of the U.K.'s leading street acts. They mix realistic situations and characterisation with bizarre and surreal overtones to produce cutting edge street art shows, simultaneously delighting and confusing audiences.

## **The Show: *The Whys***

A gaggle of white coated scientists with an eccentric professor at the helm investigate and carry out research on their guinea pigs (i.e. the audience) by asking that overwhelming question that has troubled all great minds from 3 year old children to Einstein... WHY?

## **The dotComedy Method**

“There is a freedom to express, to challenge yourself as a performer on the street which avoids the confines of indoor theatre /comedy venues. We work very much in the public domain and with this comes the chance to bend and alter that everyday reality, either to make a political or social point or simply to produce uncontrollable laughter and wonderment!”



*dotComedy in action*

*The best shows have a clear idea of what they want to achieve - where performers have the ability to disrupt*

*normality and engage directly with audiences of all ages. A company who do just that (apparently effortlessly) is dotComedy.*

Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*, UK review of *The Why's*, Brighton Festival, 2006



## Doug Dougal (Surreal McCoy): *The Wedding Party*

www.bigrory.com

Doug has been involved in street performing and entertainment for over 20 years. He has worked on five continents, in six languages, from Japan to Tasmania. Working solo, in double-acts and as part of bigger shows, he has experience in circus arts, contemporary clowning, puppetry, walkabout, stilt work, compeering, stand up, mime and character acting.

### **The Show: *The Wedding Party***

This is the third year that Surreal McCoy will be performing at Mintfest during which time they have lost and found Ochie, (their faithful and chaotic Scottish Beer-hound), gate-crashed weddings, stolen and returned more pies and sandwiches than can be imagined and generally led the town in a chaotic, much loved and very merry dance.

This year, they are delighted to announce that Big Rory and The Gorgeous Morag (sic) are to be married and as Rory says, 'Yer all invited!'

Students will create and develop larger than life characters, alive with inner integrity and over the top charms, to provide an entertaining entourage to enliven this much-anticipated event. The aim is to build a bold and entertaining host of personalities and a hysterical and chaotic environment for them to play in.

### **Why Street Arts?**

"Good question, here are a few answers..."

The circumstance of theatre in this setting frees the audience and performer from the constraints of formal theatre and in this gap lies room for the invention, improvisation, interaction and confrontation that is missing from 'straight theatre' and intrinsic to street arts.

This interchange provides moments of sheer creative excellence and absolute joy, moments that are shared in the instant and completely unrepeatable and this magic is a huge part of our pleasure in street performance."



*Big Rory at Mintfest 2009*



## Jon Beedell (Desperate Men): *Acts of Desperation*

www.desperate men.com

Jonathan Beedell is the artistic director and co-founder of Desperate Men. Jon is an actor, director, musician and dramaturge who has worked extensively throughout the UK and Europe.

Desperate Men began life in 1980 as a two-man physical theatre outfit. It has grown into a multi-faceted company with a national reputation for producing and presenting outdoor performances and interventions on various scales and in all manner of situations.

### **Acts of Desperation**

*Acts of Desperation* will offer an intensive debate about what a 'Radical Intervention' on the streets might be and the doing of it within the confines of acceptable risk, health and safety responsibilities and legality. From these conversations the group will devise scenarios and provocations.

Looking at outdoor sites and the social interaction within those spaces, the group will analyse and deconstruct associated behaviour patterns. They will devise, invent and investigate subversive techniques, disturbances, disruption and humour. The ideas are paramount and the interventions are the vehicle.

The aim is surprise, invention and extraordinary happenings.

### **Why I work in Street Arts**

"I love the danger of the immediate interaction, I love fooling people, ( i.e. lying ), I love being subversive, I thrive on low level confrontations, being disruptive, being provocative...

...it seems to me, I make a political statement when I say 'I want to go out on the street and play with ideas and images and disturb the status quo and the conventions of social interaction' - to make people laugh, but also make them think about issues that concern us all, and confront them (and ourselves) with taboos and the controversial. It can only be done with fun and compassion, with wit and with wisdom, with a nod to the raw realities leavened by an open embracing of romantic foolishness."



*Desperate Men in action*



# Jean-Luc Prevost (Les Goulus): *The Krishnous*

www.lesgoulus.com

Jean-Luc has been an actor, writer and Director since 1979 working with many French companies on cabaret, theatre and clowning shows including performances in Paris, the Avignon Festival, Sydney and on tour.

In 1994, he co-founded 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 Show: *The Krishnous***

The Krishnous are a saffron (partly) clad sect who wander the streets recruiting new members for their ashram - a performance that could be real.

*The brothers of the Krishnou sect wear out their sandals across the town, looking for new followers. Mystical chants, proselytism and insincerity - everything is allowed in order for them to convince, recruit or obtain a little charity. Le Mans, June, 2001*



*Kendal, 2005*

## **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 languages, different cultures and different experiences.
- 4) To place artists into daily life.



# 2010 provisional timetable

	Sun 29 Aug	Mon 30 Aug	Tue 31 Aug	Wed 1 Sep	Thu 2 Sep	Fri 3 Sep	Sat 4 Sep	Sun 5 Sep
09.00 – 10.45		Vocal and Physical Warm Ups	Vocal and Physical Warm Ups	Vocal and Physical Warm Ups	Vocal and Physical Warm Ups	Vocal and Physical Warm Ups	Perform at Mintfest. Times tbc.	Perform at Mintfest. Times tbc.
11.00		Introductory Sessions 1 – 90 mins	Group Wkshops	Group Wkshops	Group Wkshops	Group Wkshops		
13.00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
14.00		Introductory Sessions 2 – 90 mins	Group Wkshop	Group Wkshop	Group Wkshop	Group Workshops – Full Dress Rehearsal		
	17.00 Students Arrive	16.00 Feedback on Introductory Sessions				17.00 Each group to perform their work for others		
	18.00 Breaking the ice / getting to know you workshop	18.30 Workshop groups announced				18.30 Supper	Meals will be in the Town Hall with other Mintfest artists.	18.30 Feedback Sessions
19.00	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper			
	21.00 Tutors outline their projects	20.30 Wkshop groups get-together	20.30 Guest Speaker: John Fox	20.30 Guest Speaker: Raymond Gabriel	Attend Commandos Percu show	Enjoy Mintfest		

**Guest Speakers:** Lectures from visiting street arts professionals – Tue/Wed eves:

**1) John Fox (Welfare State International): *The Spectre in the Spectacle***

John Fox is an AHRC funded Senior Research Fellow in the Creative and Performing Arts in LICA and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His celebratory arts company Welfare State International (1968 -2006) pioneered influential prototypes of socially engaged art including site specific theatre, installations, community carnivals, lantern festivals and Lanternhouse, a 2.2 million lottery funded art centre in Ulverston. In 2006 with Sue Gill he started Dead Good Guides to create new ceremonies for contemporary rites of passage.

[www.welfare-state.org](http://www.welfare-state.org); [www.deadgoodguides.com](http://www.deadgoodguides.com)

**2) Raymond Gabriel (Les Commandos Percu)** Raymond Gabriel is the Artistic Director of the French Company, Les Commandos Percu who specialise in large-scale performances that fuse together percussion and pyrotechnics to create truly spectacular shows – one of which will inaugurate this year’s festival. [www.commandospercu.com](http://www.commandospercu.com)

# Course Information

## **Fees**

The total cost of the course is £200. This includes tuition fees, accommodation and all meals during your stay.

## **Bursaries:**

There is a subsidised rate of £100 available for Cumbrian artists and students. Limited bursaries may also be available in certain circumstances and/or for international artists.

Please let us know if you would like to be considered for a bursary, each application will be considered individually.

## **Payment:**

A £50 deposit will be required from all successful applicants once we have confirmed your place. The full balance will then be payable by Friday 16 July 2010.

## **Accommodation:**

Accommodation will be at Kendal Youth Hostel. Rooms will be in shared dormitories, with a mixture of small and medium sized dorms.

## **How to apply:**

Please complete the application form (attached separately or available from [www.lakesalive.org](http://www.lakesalive.org)) and return it, with an up-to date copy of your CV and a short statement of why you would like to take part in the 2010 Summer School, to Jenny Graham [jenny@kendalartsinternational.com](mailto:jenny@kendalartsinternational.com)

Electronic applications are preferred, however, if this is not possible please contact the office on 01539 720252 to organise an alternative.

Please ensure that you enclose all the information that is requested on the application form. The more information that we have about you, the better your experience with us will be.

The deadline for all applications is **Friday March 26**. There is a maximum of 30 places available and we expect demand to be high, so please apply as early as possible.

All applicants will be notified whether they have been successful or not by **Friday 30 April**.



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.

Find more information and details of our 2010 programme online at [www.lakesalive.org](http://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.

**Kendal Arts  
International**



Lakes Alive is presented by Kendal Arts International and Manchester International Arts.

### Mintfest International Summer School for Street Arts

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