

NOVEMBER CLUB

Previous Work 2007 - 2017

Artistic Director Cinzia Hardy


Northumberland
County Council


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Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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Novocastrian Philosopher's Club 1 September 2007 The Lit & Phil, Newcastle

Image (c) Fiona Ellis



The Novocastrian Philosophers' Club was created as an extraordinary theatrical journey of exploration around the hidden world of Newcastle's historic Literary and Philosophical Society and the neighbouring Mining Institute. The project aimed to challenge preconceptions of the organisation and to open up a new understanding and recognition of the Lit and Phil's continuing tradition as a North East hub for philosophical, cultural and scientific debate.

The production was a promenade performance for small groups of 15 at a time. Taken on a tour through the building, the audience became members of the Club and were introduced to a world where books came to life, paintings seemed to speak and an explorer re-emerged from a forgotten century to fall in love with a librarian.

The performance was created in response to archival material, the people who inhabit the institutions and of course the buildings themselves. The production opened as part of Newcastle's Heritage Open Days 2007 programme.



Image (c) Fiona Ellis

We Got Mittens Too!
4 November 2008
The Lit & Phil, Newcastle

The German soldiers' motto was: 'Gott Mit Uns' (God is with us). The ever resourceful Tommy had his own version: We got mittens too!

On the front line momentous events are looming, behind the lines the 'Little Phils' Concert Party keep the troops entertained... back in Blighty those left behind work and wait - and are given the chance to keep up with fashion...

Based on a dramatic original text written by Head Librarian Kay Eason to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the production was inspired by the archives and collections housed at the Lit & Phil and the stories of the people who inhabited the buildings at that time – the members and the staff and those who fought at the front and those left behind.

In partnerships with Newcastle College and the cadet branch of the Northumbrian Territorial Army, *We Got Mittens Too!* was developed as a promenade performance that took place throughout the Lit & Phil and Mining Institute, following a period of research and development in Ypres, Belgium.

With 18 performances over a two week period, every audience member had a different experience and took away different stories and memories. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive including those from young people who attended as part of Juice Festival.



Traces and Graces
11 September 2009
Whalton Manor Gardens

Image (c) The Image Farm

The performances were woven from a combination of historical information and memories of Whalton Manor House. They were inspired by the property's heritage and architecture, and creatively explored the links between garden design, historical dance and heritage. With original music composed by Katie

Doherty, the audience was invited to enter the garden through the beautiful central archway, rather as Alice was drawn into an alternative world through the looking-glass.

Together with professional artists, performers and local people the project included a series of promenade performances at privately owned Whalton Manor Garden during Heritage Open Days 2009 as well as research conducted by staff at the Northumberland Archives.

An arts and heritage project commissioned by Trading Places in partnership with the Northumberland Archives, Greater Morpeth Development Trust, Dance City, Whalton Manor House, Whalton First School and Whalton Village Hall.



**Twelfth Day with the Delavals
1 October 2010
Seaton Delaval Hall**

Image (c) Reed Ingram Weir

Taking the ancient custom of the Twelfth Day Cake and its characters, November Club brought artists, designers, ceramicists, musicians, poets, food historians, professional performers, National Trust volunteers, local historians and local people together to tell the stories of National Trust property Seaton Delaval Hall and the many people connected to it.

Twelfth Day with the Delavals at Enchanted Parks. Seaton Delaval appointed its very own mustachioed Lord of Misrule, who then set forth for Enchanted Parks, in Saltwell Park, Gateshead, to find the best pastry chef in the land, so that Lord Delaval might have the best Twelfth Day Cake in England. A group of itinerant strolling players were discovered in the park arguing over how best to make the cake, sharing their Christmas mummeries, songs and dances with 10,000 visitors over three evenings in December.

Back at Seaton Delaval, the itinerant players and their cake continued to make their way to Delaval Hall by way of Astley Park Pavilion, where they showed their cake to the local care home, collected their Christmas recipes and memories and invited local toddler groups and young people to visit them.

Twelfth Day with the Delavals at Seaton Delaval Hall. On arrival at the Hall on 17 December, a rival cake had appeared in the window of the Crescent Café and was paraded up to the Hall with much pomp and circumstance on the 18th. Following a 'cake-off' on the steps of the Hall, the Lord of Misrule had to choose the winning cake, which was placed on the table setting in the Hall.

Twelfth Day with the Delavals ended with performances around a beautiful Twelfth Night table setting, created by Imogen Cloet and Kathryn Hodgkinson, in consultation with food historian Ivan Day. An amazingly huge Twelfth Day cake, made by Jill Fisher, adorned the table and riddles, written by Jacob Polley, were embedded in the plates and the table setting.

Team

Cinzia Hardy, Maurice O'Connell, Katie Doherty, Imogen Cloët, Kathryn Hodgkinson, Jacob Polley, Margaret Lonergan, Alex Elliott, Richard Bliss, Joy Sanders, Melanie Carss, David Jones, Paul Knox, Kate Eccles, Julia Dobson, Ivan Day, Jill Fisher, Lisa Bain.

Volunteers

Val Ellis, Terry & Lynne Mountford, Dick & Rickie Thompson, Bill Gunn, Mike, Susan & Alice Dungworth, Declan & Joanna Riley Snitzer, Jill Read, Elspeth Gould, Wendy Tate, Christine Wilson, Eileen Wardle, Gordon Liddle, Kirsten Swift, Pat Gray, Mo Ritson, Joan Wardle, Jim McDine, David Stocks, Malcolm Dickman, Kyle Norris.

Commissioned by: National Trust | Supported by NewcastleGateshead Initiative,
Inspire Northumberland and Gateshead Council.



Image (c) The Image Farm

Lord Sangers Circus Heritage Trail 9 September 2011 Morpeth

Inspired by archive material about Lord Sanger and Sons Circus in Morpeth and the runaway elephant, November Club worked with Year 3 pupils from St Robert's RC First School, Oldgate, to create a very special heritage trail around Morpeth.

Presented as part of Heritage Open Days 2011, Morpeth, Northumberland.



Teacups, Zebras and Dancing Kaisers 1 November 2012 National Trust Wallington

Image (c) Topher McGrillis

The subtitle of this performance was 'Unfolding Wallington' as it aimed to give glimpses into the historic house and the extraordinary family who lived there.

Each group of sixty guests was divided into three parties of twenty people who each experienced one of three distinctive and intimate tours. The ropes that usually stand between guests and the rest of the rooms were taken down so the audience could become guests of the house and its unusual family. Audiences encountered some of the guests of the socialist MP Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan, from George Bernard Shaw to Gertrude Bell and Sybil Thorndike.

"I am still thinking about it, trying to express to myself what it was that made it so wonderful. I have definitely never experienced anything like it before."
Audience Member.

Crew

Production - Richard Agar
Installation - Viv Anderson
Scenic Artist (Attics) - Alan Wood
Floor Manager - Christine Plumme
Technical installation and lighting - Hi Lights

Musicians

Katie Doherty - Vocals & Piano
Paul Knox - Fiddle & Northumbrian Pipes
Ruth Ball - Fiddle
James Boyle - Fiddle & Melodeon

Credits

Text development - Fiona Ellis
Director - Cinzia Hardy
Design & Costume - Imogen Cloet
Soundscapes and Original Music - Katie Doherty
Creative Associate - Maurice O'Connell
Lighting Design - Kevin Tweedy
Production Management - Zoe Bottrell, Culture Creative
Costume Supervisor - Joy Sanders
Costume Assistant - Kate Eccles
Graphic & Website Designer - Julia Dobson
Website - John Stafford, ThreadMedia
Box Office - Helen Sheerman, Culture Creative
Project Assistant - Louise Tarrant

Cast

Ben Martin - Teacups Narrator
Zoe Lambert - Zebras Narrator
Joy Sanders - Kaisers Narrator

Supported by National Trust and
Arts Council England



Dr Mullins' Anatomy of the Theatre Royal 1 April 2013 Theatre Royal, Newcastle

Image (c) Topher McGrillis

Dr. Mullins' Anatomy of the Theatre Royal was inspired by the true story of a performing elephant, Mademoiselle d'Jeck, who appeared in The Elephant of Siam and the Fire Fiend at the old Theatre Royal in Mosley Street in 1830. Mademoiselle d'Jeck was put on trial after crushing her keeper to death during their journey to Newcastle and let off with a fine of 5 shillings because of his cruelty. Unusually for November Club, this production took place in a traditional theatre although the action took place everywhere but the stage! The extraordinary story is told through the stories of Billy (a messenger), his girlfriend Rose and the diva-like actress Miss Fanny Montmorency.

Written By Fiona Ellis | Directed By Cinzia Hardy | Designed By Imogen Cloet | Music By Katie Doherty

Supported By: Theatre Royal Newcastle upon Tyne, Lit & Phil, Arts Council England



Cautionary Tales from the Trenches
25 October 2014
Lit & Phil, Newcastle

Image (c) Richard Kenworthy

It's 1914... and the world is at war.

The Lit and Phil's head librarian has gone to fight for his country, leaving hapless Miss Hedley to step into the breach. Visitors were taken on a quest to search through the countless shelves and archives for lost items, urgently needed for soldiers at the Front. They followed a map through nooks, crannies and rooms full of secrets, uncovering stories from the trenches and the library's special children's collection which was created during World War One.

The quest was informed by November Club's work with Year Five pupils at Walkergate Primary School, Newcastle, who came to Miss Hedley's rescue by delivering a lecture on the reasons behind the outbreak of the war and life as a soldier in the trenches.

Production Team: Cinzia Hardy | Sarah Hudson | Imogen Cloët | Katie Doherty | Paul Vinton-Knox | Arianne Nixon

Cast: Christina Berriman Dawson | Jacob Anderton

Supported by Juice, Heritage Lottery Fund and The Joicey Trust



Why Are You Here?
1 January 2015
National Trust Bickling, Norfolk

Image (c) Kenny Gray. Courtesy of National Trust Bickling Estate

Why are you here? explored how and why houses like Bickling were left to the National Trust and invited visitors to think about the people who owned the houses not so long ago when they were handed over the national heritage organisation.

November Club developed a playful collection of sounds, objects and smells evoke stories of the most recent resident of Blickling Hall.

Created and Produced by November Club | Commissioned by National Trust Blickling



**The Great Performing Rope
22 October 2015
Berwick upon Tweed**

Image (c) The Image Farm

Inspired by the town's rich history of rope making and traditions of rope walks, The Great Performing Rope created a 900-metre long piece of rope that wove its way through Berwick Town Centre carrying the personal stories, memories and hopes of the people of Berwick and its visitors.

A series of installations, live performances and free activities brought the route of the rope alive from 23–25 October 2015.

November Club worked with individuals and communities in and around Berwick to build up a collection of memories and hopes – celebrating the town's 900th year in history and looking forward to another 900 years, to reveal the many stories of Berwick, its history, its future, its people and places.

The Great Performing Rope was co-produced by November Club and Culture Creative in association with artist Carl von Weiler.

Presented as part of Berwick 900. The 900 stories formed a digital archive of Berwick's 900th year at the Woodhorn Museum and Archives to be explored by future generations.

Created by Carl Von Weiler | Julia Barton | Katie Doherty | Dan Fox | The people of Berwick.

Supported by Arts Council England | Active Northumberland | The Community Foundation | Ernest Cook Trust | Sir James Knott Trust | Berwick upon Tweed Record Office.



Reflections of Newcastle 1914 – 18
1 July 2016
Lit & Phil, Newcastle

Image (c) Donna-Lisa Healy

A mixture of fact and fiction, the iBooks feature three city walks and combine intimate storytelling with a rich collection of archive materials – telling stories of the city as never heard before.

Choose a character to lead your tour - young munitions worker Addy Dixon, injured soldier Johnny Atkinson or siblings Harry and Emmy Fisher whose father has gone to war. Watch footage of your guides as they recount their wartime experiences, listen to the music of the time and discover the fascinating archive materials which inspired and informed these stories of life on the home front.

Written by Fiona Ellis | Directed by Cinzia Hardy | Filming & Photography by Matt Jamie & Donna-Lisa Healy | Costume Design by Imogen Cloët & Joy Sanders | iBook Designed by Julia Dobson

Partners: Lit and Phil, Northumbria University | Newcastle College



The Perfect View
16 July 2016
National Trust Wallington

Image (c) The Image Farm

Marking the 300th anniversary of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, November Club invited you to explore Wallington in pursuit of the perfect view over a weekend of promenade performances.

Audiences joined our own celebrity landscape gardener, played by actor John Cobb, on a playful guided walk around the grounds of Wallington to discover the estate through the eyes of Capability Brown.

A series of giant, elaborate frames invited visitors to create their own personal Perfect Views over the summer months.

Written by Fiona Ellis | Directed by Cinzia Hardy | Designed by Imogen Cloët



**Great North Explorers
25 October 2016
Great North Museum Hancock**

Image (c) Phyllis Christopher

Tales of ceremonial masks, wild cattle, enchanted crystals, a make-up goddess and the afterlife - presented in poetry and performances by our intrepid team of young explorers from Heaton Manor School.

Artists, performers and museum staff helped the explorers bring the museum's collection and its hidden stories to life in new and creative ways, whilst the group's 'Museum of Now' provided a peek into the current lives of teenagers and what's important to them now.

Produced in partnership with Great North Museum: Hancock, for Newcastle/Gateshead Juice Festival 2016.

Project Manager & Workshop Leader, Sarah Hudson | Visual Art & Design by Imogen Cloet | Drama by Christina Berriman-Dawson.



**Moving in:
Lady Molly makes a house a home
1 May 2017
National Trust Wallington**

Image (c) The Image Farm

In September 1928, Sir Charles Philip Trevelyan inherited Wallington after his father, Sir George Otto Trevelyan, died aged 90 and left the house badly neglected and the whole estate run down. His wife Lady Molly and their six children, aged between 8 and 22 move in and the family gather in the Central Hall to shout as loudly as they can to wake up the house...

Conceived by November Club with the Wallington House Team. Moving In tells the story of how the Trevelyans begin to turn a rather cold and sombre house into a family home through a series of installations and soundscapes to help animate the house and recreate what it might have felt to be there in 1928.

Designed by Imogen Cloët.