



newsletter

no. 32 Aug 2010

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Funding Update

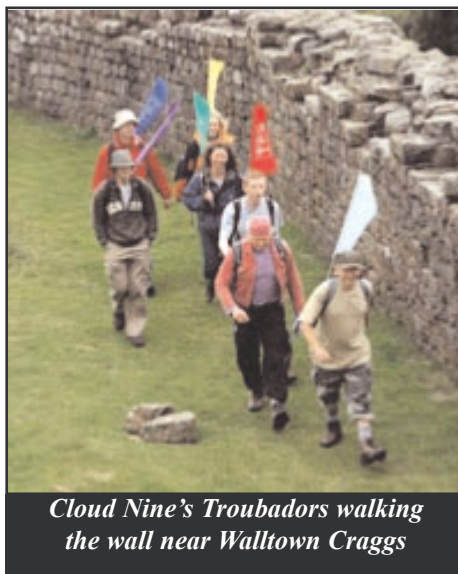
Some of the dust has now settled since the last newsletter, when our zero-grant from the Arts Council made headlines in various newspapers.

We have decided against re-applying this year, instead concentrating on longer term planning and preparation. After a series of discussions with *Dodgy Clutch Productions*, we are now looking to do a joint outdoor production in **Summer 2011** of Kitty Fitzgerald's new take on the Beowulf story, working title: *Grendel & Beowulf*.

With two founder members of *Dodgy Clutch*, Elaine Beard and Ozzie Riley on board, exciting things are beginning to happen. *Dodgy Clutch* has amazing expertise at staging extravagant outdoor events and *Cloud Nine* has experience of creating strong theatre working with text. At present we are talking with both North Tyneside Council and The Customs House. We hope to stage the show both sides of the Tyne, with the small matter of funding the next item on the agenda!

REMEMBER OUR *OFF THE WALL* SHOW, WHICH TRAVELLED THE LENGTH OF HADRIAN'S WALL TO GREAT ACCLAIM IN 2004?

Well, other people do as well. The company has been contacted by Penny Grennan of Hadrian's Arts Trust about a major planned new project to take place in villages along the wall but with no walking this time! Music, animation, and a book could be involved, with the drama content coming from *Cloud Nine*. The idea being to use as base metal, real stories from people who live in the vicinity of this 73 mile long ancient monument, which has survived for nearly 2000 years.



Cloud Nine's Troubadors walking the wall near Walltown Craggs

Sixties Group News



Some Sixties Group actors in the wings before their latest show, *Strangers on a Bus*.

Cloud Nine's Sixties Group are weathering the funding storm, thanks to support from North Tyneside Council. They have been working for several weeks with Peter Mortimer developing the characters and storyline for a full length play which is called, *Playtime*. Subtitled *A Spirited Comedy*, this is the tale of a group of characters who take on the production of a mysterious new play, only to discover they have unleashed powers they were unaware of.

The play, which is part of the *Age Takes Centre Stage Festival* will be directed by Anne Orwin. This next production is at The Saville Exchange, North Shields from

October 27th - 30th.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS.

Any news, info, ideas or letters for the newsletter, and any bookings, audition queries or to be put on our mailing list, please contact: Kitty Fitzgerald at CLOUD NINE, 5 Marden Terrace, Cullercoats, Tyne & Wear NE30 4PD.

T: 0191 253 1901 E: cloudninetheatre@blueyonder.co.uk

our web address is: www.cloudninetheatre.co.uk

PlayDay still goes on

Our PlayDay projects give new writers an opportunity to see their work on its feet before a live audience.

Ray Spencer of the Customs House has agreed to fund the next *PlayDay*, which will eventually see new work staged at the Customs House early next year in a rehearsed reading.

As a lead in to this, Kitty Fitzgerald will be running a playwriting workshop at the Customs House on Sunday September 26.

Interested writers, who need to have a play-in-progress, are asked to contact Peter Mortimer at *Cloud Nine*. Ten writers will attend the day-long workshop, and then be given time to complete their scripts. One or more writers will finally be chosen to have his/her work put on its feet at the *PlayDay* itself. Seven of our previous *PlayDay* scripts have eventually been taken on to full production.



CONGRATULATIONS TO Ray Spencer, Artistic Director of the Customs House, South Shields who recently received an MBE for service to the Arts in the North East. Long may Ray survive, prosper and continue to support the arts in the region, inc. *Cloud Nine*!

Youth Takes Centre Stage

ON SUNDAY JULY FIFTH

Anne Orwin's Senior Youth Theatre performed a fantastic version of Kitty Fitzgerald's dark comedy, *Making Plans for Jessica*, in the main hall at the Linskill Centre, North Shields. This play was originally commissioned by *Cloud Nine* and has been twice produced by the company. It is set in a Care Home for the Elderly, where the residents take control. Anne is hoping for a more extended run later in the year.

God Only Knows Goes Elsewhere

ONE OF THE PLAYS

Cloud Nine was planning to premier, and which the company had nurtured over two years with the authors, is *God Only Knows*, by the North-East duo Trevor Wood and Ed Waugh.

In 2009 we ran a successful full day's workshop on the play followed by a script-in-hand performance before a packed audience. It was directed by Daniel Carver and held in the Community Room at The Customs House.

The writers then went on to write two new drafts of the script, which deals with the thorny issue of Academy Schools, particularly those based on religious beliefs.

On Ice

Arts Council England's funding decision meant our plans had to be put on ice. The play has now been snapped up by *The Gala Theatre*, Durham and will be produced in February 2011.

NEWSLETTERS ARE ELECTRIC

As from the next edition, this newsletter will be available both as hard copy or as an electronic link to Cloud Nine's Newsletter page on the website.

Can we ask subscribers to let us know which they prefer?

Keeping it purely hard copy is very expensive in these cash-strapped times, but we do not wish to deny anyone access.

2PK

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Please email or phone us asap (details at bottom of page one) and we shall adjust our records accordingly. Many thanks.

B r i e f s.....
We have been approached by Toby Bridges of *Day 8*, the Whitley Bay based production company, about a possible future co-production between them and *Cloud Nine*. More anon.....Mixed fortunes for the *Shatila Project*, which aims to stage in 2011 a new production featuring Palestinian refugee children. This will take place in the NE and Beirut. Arts Council England turned down a grant application (familiar?) but both Scottish AC and UNISON North West are interested in bringing it to their own regions.On July 18th, the *Shatila Ramble* raised more than £5000 towards funding.