



HELL'S MOUTH

by NICK DARKE

KNEEHIGH
CORNWALL'S INTERNATIONAL THEATRE



HELL'S MOUTH by Nick Darke
Directed and designed by **Bill Mitchell**

Kneehigh dedicate this production to the people of the Clay district and all the volunteers who have given us their summer.

Performers

Duke
Gonnieta
Brigadier
Fogou
G&T
Berryl, Dukes wife
Keast
Brothers
Johnny Throttle
Leanburn Bill

Sisters
Ismene
Gorlas
Spiky
Sausage

Second Home Owners Wives:

Press

Blind Archaeologists

Band

Bikers

Will Coleman
Emma Rice
Mike Shepherd
Giles King
Lucy Fontaine
Heidi Dörschler
Lewis Davies

Lewis Davies
Jason Hulme

Andria Hooper
Fiona England
Jodi Watson
Emma Rice

Lucy Fontaine, Heidi Dörschler,
Fiona Layton, Clare Sabey,
Sarah Mooney, Emma Rothwell

Andrew Black, Heidi Dörschler,
Jodi Watson, Dominic Bilkey,
Rowan Stallard, Jerry Goodrum,
Tom Barnecut

Lewis Davies, Andria Hooper,
Sarah Mooney, Lucy Fontaine,
Tom Barnecut, Andrew Black,
Michelle Gardiner, Clare Sabey,
Jason Hulme, Heidi Dörschler,
Will Coleman, Dominic Bilkey,
Fiona Layton, Fiona England,
Rowan Stallard

Colin Seddon, Stewart Barker,
Jodi Watson, Andrew Black,
Jerry Goodrum, Lucy Fontaine,
Mandy Pearce

Phil Grose, Dave Farr,
Bear Lewis, Rik Coles,
Col Treleaven, John Trinick,
Jamie 'off' Grose, Rob Archer,
Anthony Collins, Mike Rowe
and the many other bikers
who burnt rubber for us!

All other characters performed by members of the company

Production

Assistant Director &
Volunteer Co-ordinator
Musical Director
With help from

Assistant Designer
Site Manager/Maker

Makers

Production Manager
FOH Manager
Community Liaison
Photos
Illustrations
Graphic Design
Video
Work in Cornwall Project Director
General Manager
Marketing Officer
Finance Officer
Administrator

Nix Rosewarne
Colin Seddon
Jamie Crowe, Harry Collier,
Rob Elton, Nick Makrory
Fiona Hankey
Jerry Goodrum

Mike Chaiken, Nicola Buxton,
Nell Stiles, Maggie Hutton,
Hannah Bee, Emily Newman,
Ami Mendes-Houlston

Alex Wardle
Imogen Needle
Anna Maria Murphy
Morgan Lowndes
Bill Mitchell
Richard Elwell
Robin Kewell & Steve Tanner
Sue Hill
Julie Seyler
Jane Sutherland
Ali Firth
Frances Guy


Production Thanks

None of this work would happen without the support and generosity of a great number of people, in particular: Dave Farr & Colin Treleaven of S&R Motorcycles, 01208 831774, Daniel & Richard and Jenna Pearce for their help making, Paul Pearce, Bob Gardiner, Rob Stern, Len Smith, Nick Smith, Sonia from Penwithick, Jenny Cleverly, Jackie Salmon, Rex Harvey, Stephanie Hawkes at St Dennis AFC, the Landlord and Lady at The Kings Arms, St Stephen, Mr Ray Bell, Head of St Stephen in Brannel, David Kemp, Les Hosking, Ken Cocks & Bill Roberts for their wrestling skills, Max Evans at Goonvean, Andrew Wilson at Nanpean Social Club, Sally Stiles, Charlie Barnecut, A+E at Treliske and our fantastic team of Stewards.

Safety Considerations

The Hell's Mouth performance requires the audience to move around the site as the story unfolds. There will be loud bangs and fast motorcycles. Therefore we request that you:

- **Keep your children with you at all times**
- **Do not bring your dog**
- **Do not drink water from the ponds**
- **Do not throw cigarette ends into the vegetation**
- **Take any rubbish away with you**
- **Keep to the pathways and be aware of uneven ground**
- **Follow the ushers' instructions**



HELL'S MOUTH by Nick Darke

Hell's Mouth was first performed at the Acorn Theatre, Penzance in 1992 by 27 A-level Theatre students, selected from schools and colleges all over Cornwall. The play was commissioned by The Royal Shakespeare Company, directed by Mike Shepherd, and shown to great acclaim over a weekend in a festival with five other plays from around Britain at The Other Place, Stratford on Avon. My brief was to write a play, based on the Greek tragedy Antigone, which was about Cornwall. The original cast contained the likes of Carl Grose, now a distinguished actor and playwright, Rob Elton and Jamie Crowe who went on to form Root Joose, and Andria Hooper who plays Ismene in this production.


Nick Darke,
Writer



Kneehigh in Cornwall

Last year we saw Mrs Noah's beautiful Ark beached and burnt in Carn Marth Quarry, Lanner; a bewitching Mermaid luring a host of rafts in the Mevagissey Raft Race; 20 volunteers run into the waves, only to return with a single rancid fish in *Ghost Nets 2* at Godrevy; help with the creation of a giant phoenix in Penwithick and a ghoulish clan in Nanpean, and the vision of three resurrected Carnival Queens walking on the water here at Hendra Pit in *Mannel's Mango*. Kneehigh's site specific summer work and volunteer scheme has continued this year, with *Jack and Jenny* at Carn Marth, two summer schools and the Clay district residencies, funded in the main by China Clay Area LEADER and the Esmée Fairburn Charitable Trust.

Looking to the future... something very special is brewing for Summer 2000. Following the success of Kneehigh's site specific work in Cornwall over the last few years we are focusing all the company's resources into an epic and unique event exclusive to Cornwall. Watch this space....




Directors Note

I love making site specific work. Each production is unique, spiced and cooked in the Cornish landscape. This year, thanks to China Clay Area LEADER, we have again been able to work in this strangely beautiful man-made moonscape of Hendra.

This place reminded me of the Greek countryside, and I was struck by memories of a project that Nick Darke and Mike Shepherd had worked on a few years ago based on *Antigone*, an ancient Greek tragedy, which they had reset in the Clay district.

In *Hell's Mouth*, Nick invented a wonderful chorus, the blind archaeologists, who introduce us to his tragic, comic world. I realised one morning, walking round the site that that's what we were doing, making this show. Our team, made up of Kneehigh regulars, locals and graduates of our summer school were all blind archaeologists, groping around, finding clues to the production, step by step; a family connection with the Cornish wrestling champion of the Transvaal, a lad on a motorbike who introduced us to Mike Rowe, a 61 year old local biking legend. Then friends of friends made contact with Col Treleaven and other bikers in Bodmin and we had discovered how we were going to tell our story. You will be the judge of why we are telling it.

Bill Mitchell,
Director and Designer



Lead up to Hell's Mouth

During July Kneehigh hoisted a marquee in St Dennis and St Stephen. The idea was that we would offer our skills if appropriate to fit in with the Clay Carnival season, and in return we would meet people, find new resources and materials and learn more about the area, whose history, stories and landscape we have been inspired by. Also to give ourselves the challenge of turning perceptions of a place on it's head.

We realise that to step over the threshold of our huge flapping tent must have been quite daunting – what on earth goes on in there? I think people know now. We're quite friendly, make a good cup of tea and create extraordinary theatre in extraordinary places.

So thank you to all those people who gave us their time and curiosity.

Anna Maria Murphy,
Community Liaison

A Cast of Thousands

We have traditionally worked with a big team of willing 'victims' – the volunteers. Most of these have come to us through our summer school in landscape theatre. Luckily for us they have chosen to stay on and give up their summers, working with us, making extraordinary worlds in beautiful places.

The transition from summer school into this work allows people the chance to make a further exploration into site specific theatre, this time in a much larger context, with real deadlines and a real audience (and real weather!) It also gives us an experienced 'cast of thousands' with which to populate our spaces and to whom we are deeply thankful.

Nix Rosewarne,
Assistant Director and Volunteer Co-ordinator



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HELL'S MOUTH

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Reg. Charity No. 290218

The China Clay Area LEADER project is proud to be associated with Kneehigh Theatre and its work, especially its workshops at the heart of china clay country and this production in Hendra Pit.

Our Community Theatre project plays no small part in raising the profile of the area and encourages the participation and enthusiasm of the community.

Len Smith, China Clay Area LEADER

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE KNEEHIGH STORY
SO FAR, ALL THE COMPANY NEWS, FUTURE PLANS
AND THE SHOP OF STORIES....

www.kneehigh.co.uk

SCAT T'LARRAPS



A **KNEEHIGH** PRODUCTION

CORNWALL'S INTERNATIONAL THEATRE

Kneehigh were formed in 1980. To commemorate our 20th Birthday we have produced our first CD of the best music from Kneehigh shows, including *The Riot*, *Tregeagle*, *The King of Prussia* and many more. CD includes Kneehigh Interactive, with music, pictures and video footage. *Scat t' Larraps*, is available at the box office priced at £10, or send a cheque, including £1 p&p to Kneehigh Office, 14 Walsingham Place, Truro, TR1 2RP.