

# KNEEHIGH

T · H · E · A · T · R · E



 FALMOUTH  
Art Gallery

# SKIN OF YER TEETH

20 september - 18 october

foreword

It is with great pleasure that Falmouth Art Gallery plays host to the artists associated with the Kneehigh Theatre Company, who are usually performing to a different audience. The artists included in this exhibition are not in the main spotlight when you go to see a Kneehigh production. They are the people behind the scenes whose creativity and originality make the performance a work of art in itself. This exhibition is an opportunity for these artists to show their work and be in the spotlight.

One of the many aspects of the Kneehigh Theatre that grabs the audience is their unique and their unconventional approach to theatre. This is reflected in their policy of bringing together a wide variety of artists with their plethora of skills, to work on their productions. Costume designers, painters, sculptors, writers, poets, musicians, dancers, photographers and textile artists are all taken on board, and many of them are displaying their unique talents in this exciting and unique exhibition. The work shown is not directly from any of the Kneehigh productions but displays the artists' individual skills and work. Falmouth Art Gallery provides a static stage for you to view close up the skill and craft which help to make up the usually more mobile performances of Kneehigh Theatre.

Catherine Wallace  
Curator  
Falmouth Art Gallery  
September 1997

## THE EXHIBITION

There are several sides to our coins: we hunger to do the things we are not doing whilst doing something else!

Skin of Ya Teeth seemed like a good title for this exhibition, not because we just get away with things but because we never know quite how things will turn out - it's an adventure ...

There's a tidal wave of ideas from makers, musicians, performers, artists, photographers, directors, administrators, people that we work with and who inspire us.

Skin of Ya Teeth will reflect our private and public fascinations, hidden talents and un-aired ideas.

A knife edge, a hair's breadth, a stone unturned

Anna Murphy

## KNEEHIGH THEATRE

*To be truly universal you must be truly local - J.Miro*

Kneehigh Theatre is an international company firmly rooted in Cornwall which has thrived, against all odds, since 1980.

We are a core company living far from the metropolis and creating theatre in a harsh economic climate which requires a wide range of skills, flexibility and native cunning...we live by our wits.

*If you can't farm - fish, if you can't fish - dig. Nick Darke*

Throughout any given year - at home and abroad - we produce large scale outdoor and indoor tours, small scale village hall tours, land and seascape site specific theatre, community events and training programmes. We devise and co-produce, we commission and interpret new writing.

The individuals exhibiting at the Falmouth Art Gallery are some of the people who have helped to create this phenomenon which is Kneehigh Theatre. Kneehigh looks to entertain, inspire and provoke into the next century.

## PAUL FARMER

writer and performer

He has been company writer for Kneehigh's *Wild Works!* Project, *The Lost Stories of Don Quixote* and the St Keverne *Goat Play*, commissioned from Kneehigh by Keskerdh Kernow to mark the beginning of the march to London in honour of the 1497 An Gof rebellion.

His career as a bus driver was interrupted by Miracle Theatre when they needed someone to drive their brake-free touring bus. He went on to co-found A39 Theatre Group, which has toured many of his plays, and Café Frug. He is currently undergoing living hell directing his third film, *Marchers*, performing in cabaret with The A39s and writing *Gwynn ha Du*, which will be the first Kernewek language play to tour in Cornwall for several centuries. Then he wants to go sailing. But he'll probably end up writing something else.

## ANNA MURPHY

writer, performer, maker and teacher

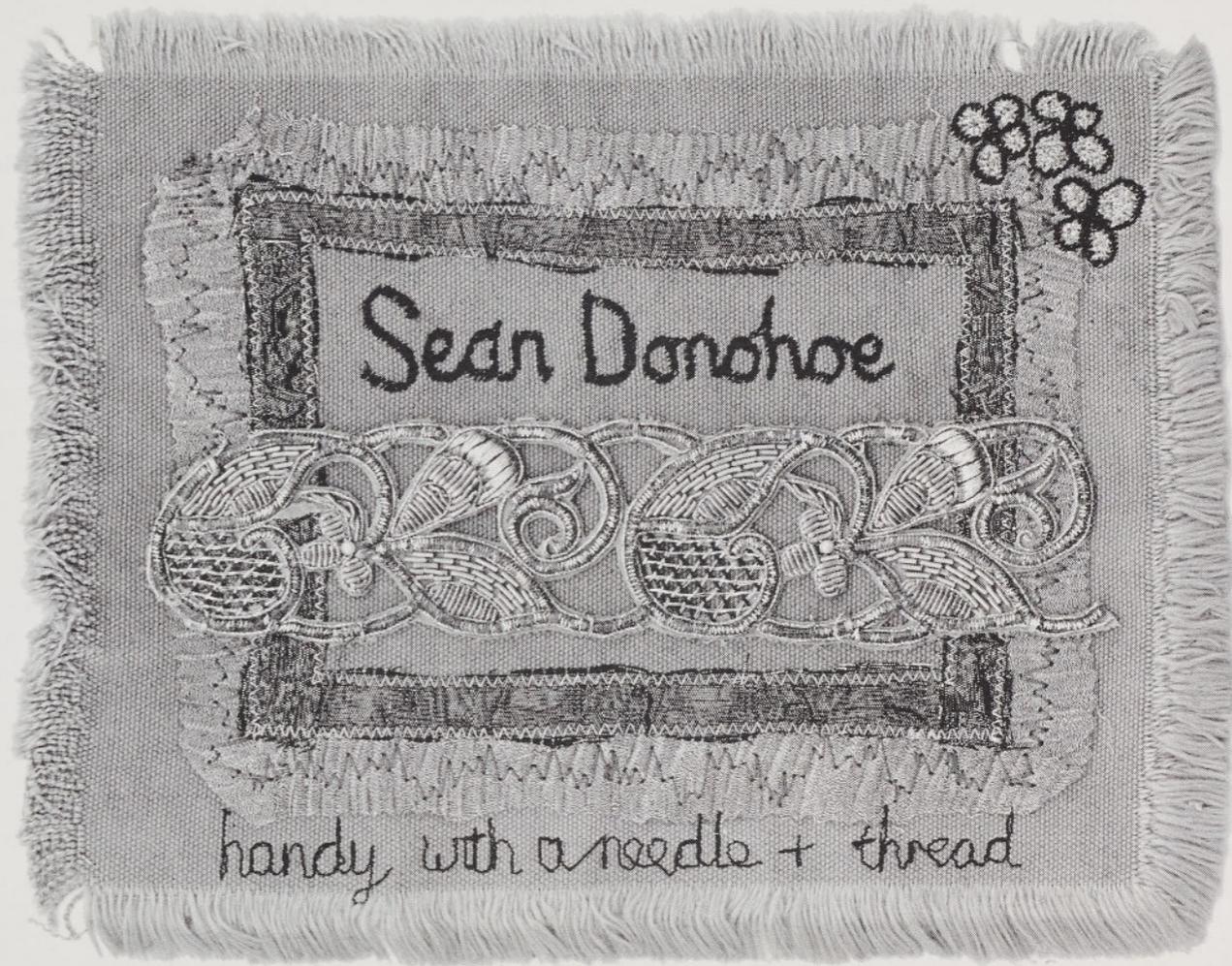
My first skin of my teeth experience was at the age of six. I fell asleep with my teddy on the edge of Polperro Harbour. I awoke in the water to see a sky of worried adult faces staring down, some descending ladders. I had been saved by a cushion of dead conger eels - I won't hear a word against the conger.

Another was having to cross over a ravine in the Nepalese mountains. The bridge had crumbled and there in its place was a finger thin twig. Later that night I met the leech man but that is another story ...

I've had many skins of my teeth, the last one being the birth of my daughter Georgia. My exhibits will be a set of Bantering Banners, dedicated to her.

## SEAN DONOHOE

costume maker, designer



# STEVE JACOBS

performer and musician

Lantern Jaws

This old fashioned gentleman was nigh fifty years of age, of a hale and strong complexion, thin faced, an early riser and a lover of hunting. Some say his surname was Quixade or Quesada. However, we may reasonably conjecture he was called Quixada i.e. Lantern Jaws. This concerns us little, provided we keep strictly to the truth in every point of this history.

# AMANDA HARRIS

administrator

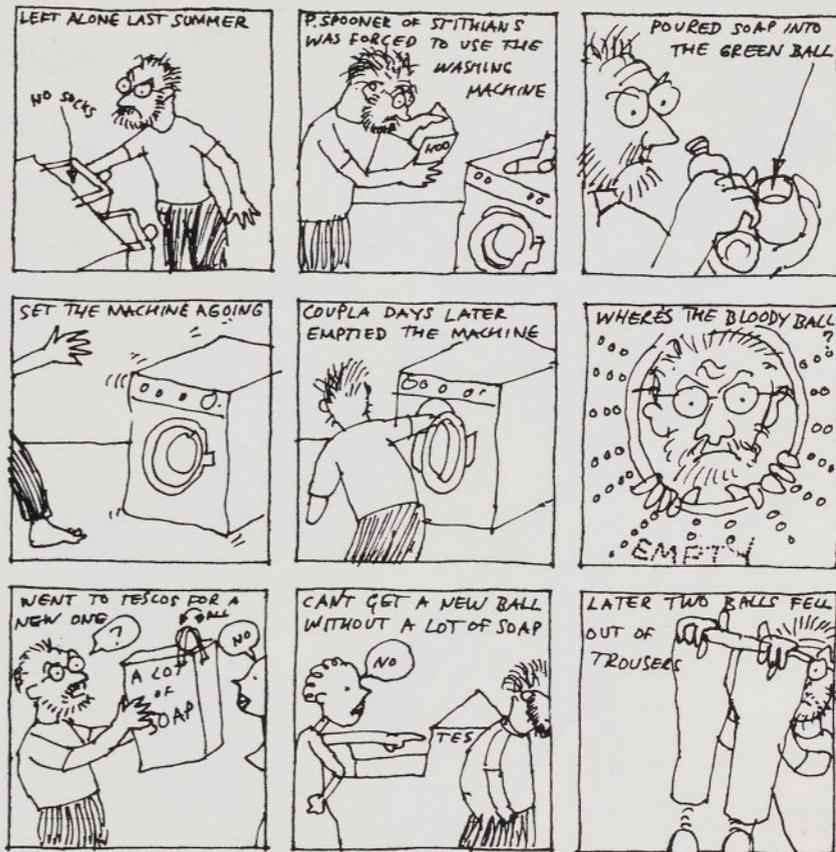
I moved to Cornwall in the early seventies and learnt to ride a horse over hedges, milk a cow, drink spingo and sing Lamorna. In London I studied French and Italian mediaeval literature and the art of living well on very little money. Shunned by the advertisers in the Guardian Arts & Media pages, I boarded a Boeing to Cairo to teach English to Egyptians aspiring to similar executive posts. Taught hundreds to spell accomodation (sic) wrong, learnt Egyptian and managed to say a lot with few words, though misinformed a farmer that my father too kept waterbuffalo.

Returned to Cornwall via Lisbon where none of my previous experiences prepared me for Kneehigh, nor the later phenomena of Kneehigh plus two bouncing babes, still, I learn fast. A rich and diverse first 40 years - hope the next bunch are as rich.

# PAUL SPOONER

automata maker

## THE GREEN BALL



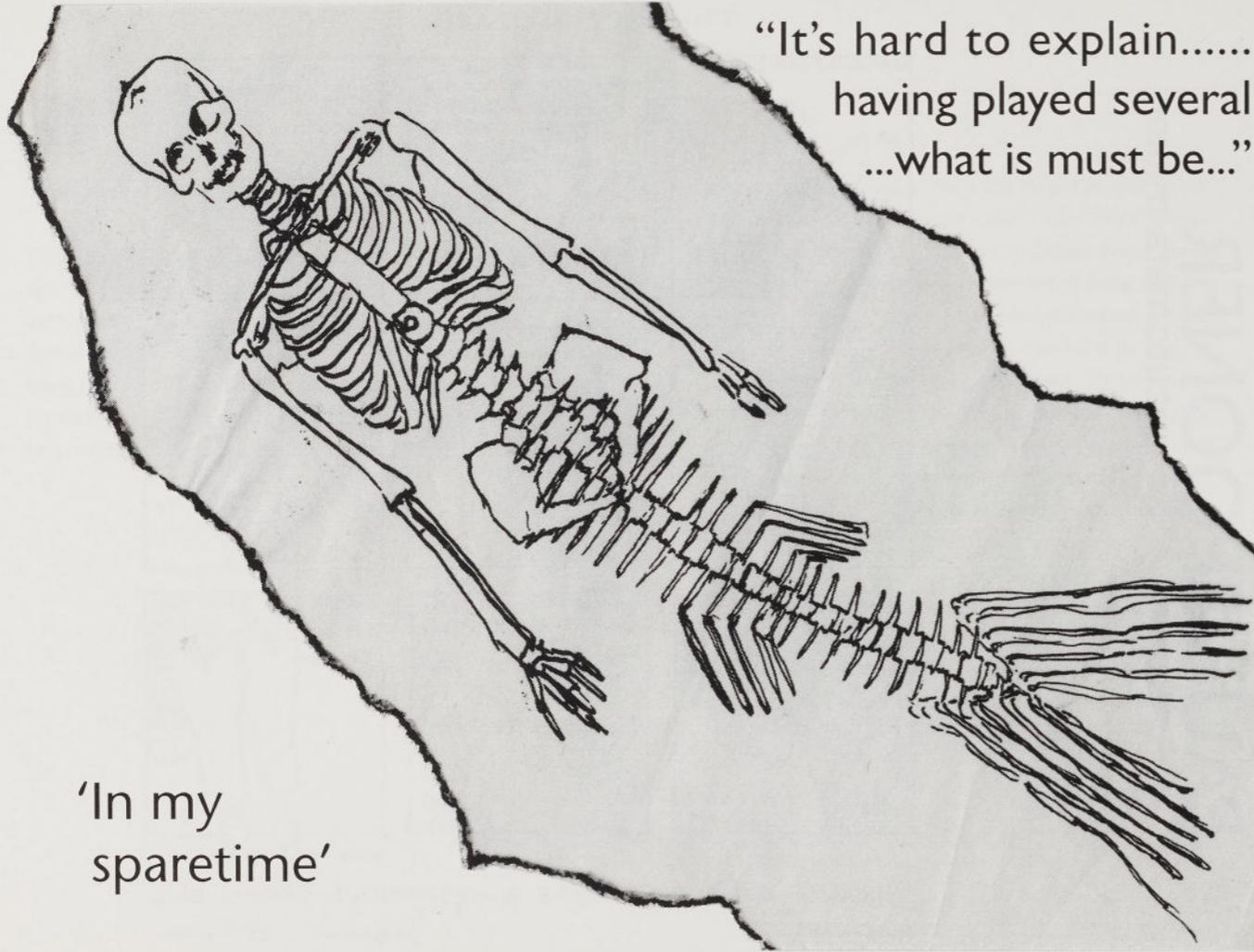
STRANGE EH? SO I MADE A MYSTERIOUS GREEN BALL MACHINE.

p. spooner stithians

# BEC APPLEBEE

performer, maker

'In my  
sparetime'



"It's hard to explain.....  
having played several  
...what is must be..."

# JANE DARKE

artist



## JANE DARKE

NICK DARKE-PLAYWRIGHT-  
AND MYSELF HAVE LIVED  
TOGETHER VIRTUALLY  
24 HOURS A DAY FOR  
17 YEARS. OUR LIVES  
ARE INSEPARABLE. MY  
WORK HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL  
AND THEREFORE IS  
LARGELY A RECORD OF  
OUR LIVES TOGETHER-  
PLACES, OCCASIONS,  
RESPONSES.

THIS WORK HAS A DIRECT  
RELATIONSHIP IN TERMS OF  
STIMULUS WITH THOSE  
PLAYS OF NICK'S WHICH  
KNEEHIGH HAS PERFORMED.

# ALICE KING

maker, sculptor, community artist



Noah, starch resist, 1995



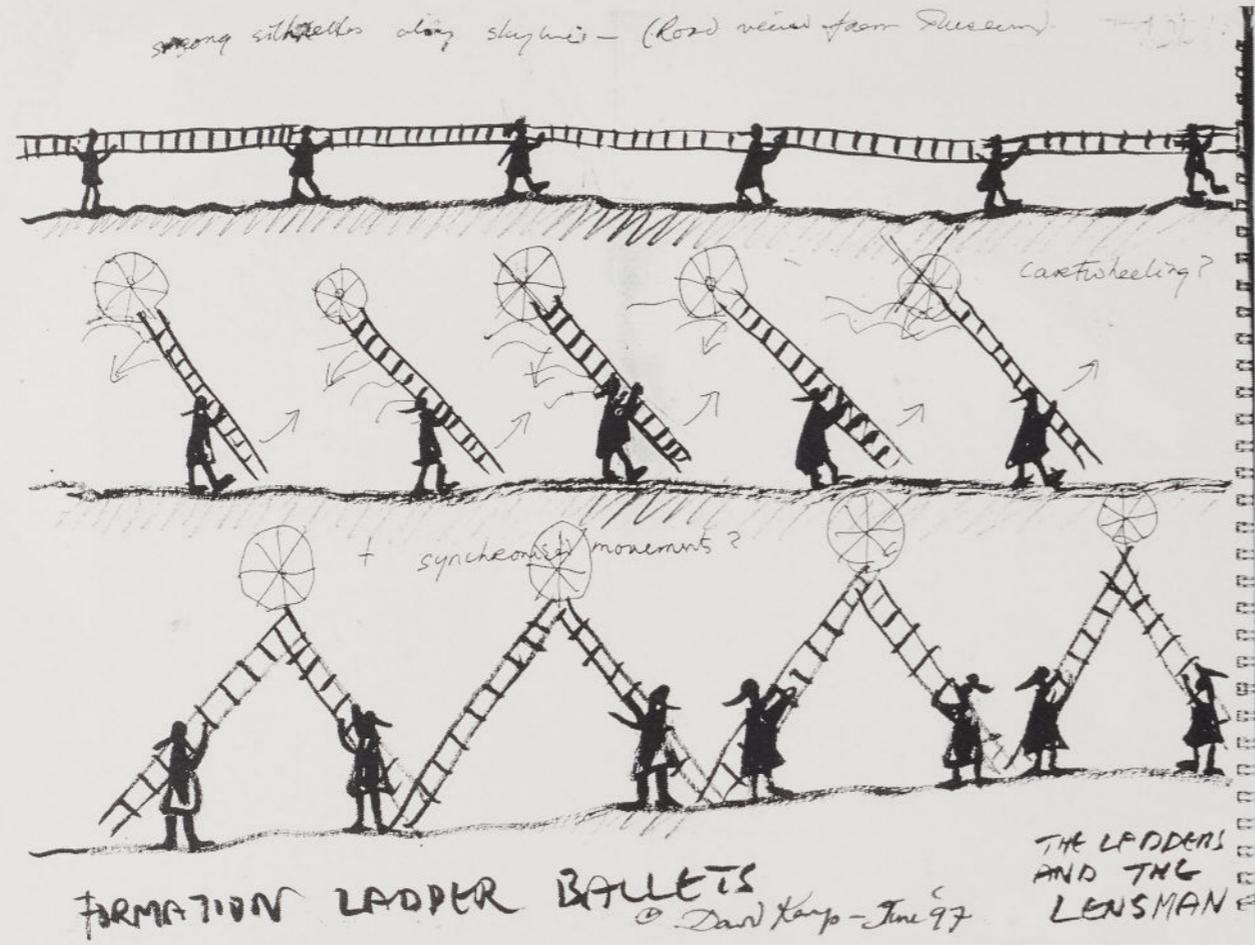
# JOHN VOOGD

set maker, community artist,

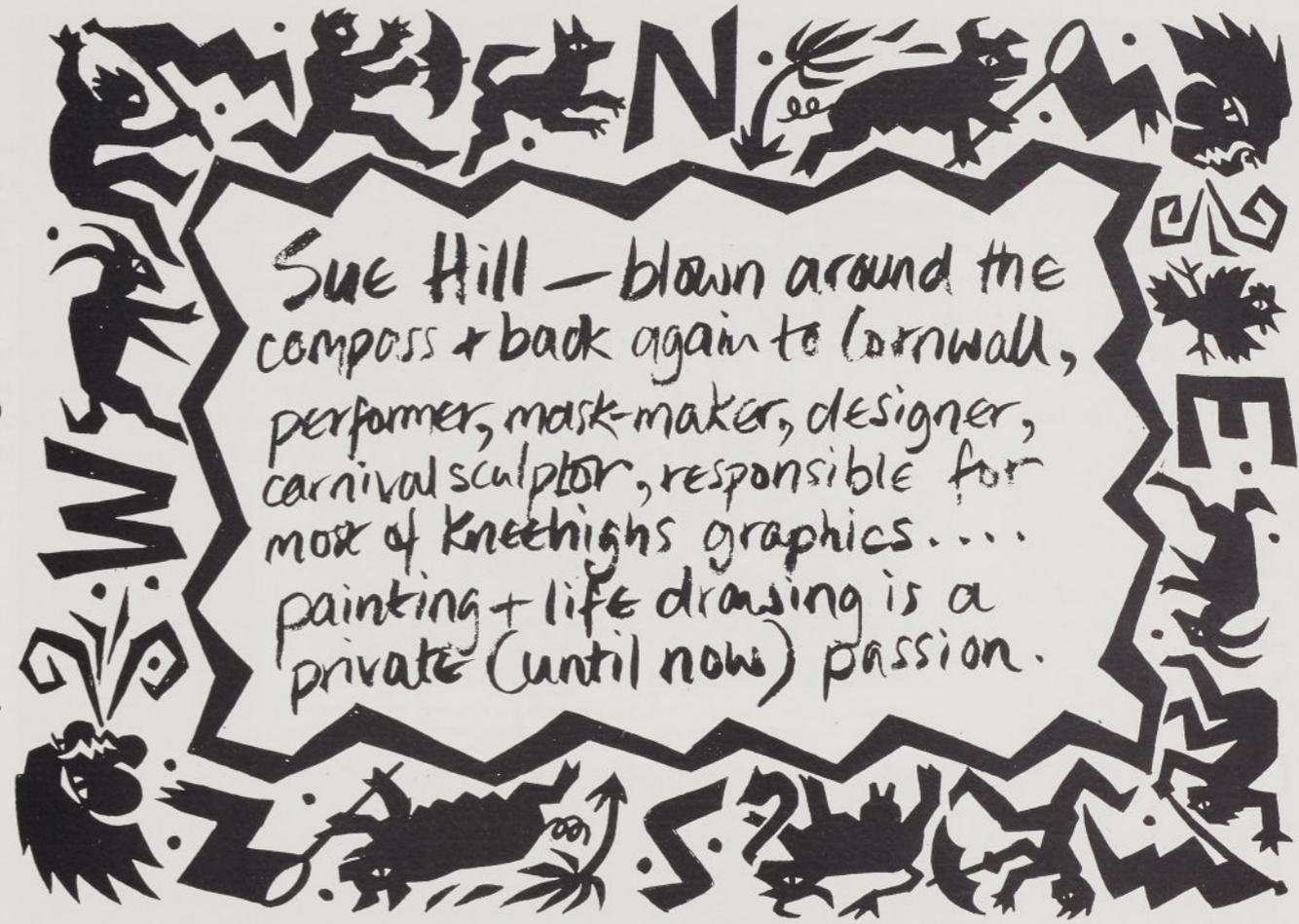


Boy with wings (detail), monoprint, 1995

DAVID KEMP  
sculptor



SUE HILL  
performer, designer, maker



# JO KING

artist, musician, mother, friend

Her work is soft, luxuriant, vibrant, strong, beautiful. Her banners grace towns and villages all over Cornwall and up the big City. Her pieces are often made to celebrate weddings, births and anniversaries. They would be at home in a Hindu shrine, Persian palace or our own humble homes. They brighten up a grey day, lift the spirits and make us feel exotic.

This woman can sew like the wind.  
A.M.

# GILES G KING

performer and musician

Turn it Inside Out

I can't stand it when it snaps off and there's not a hope in hell's chance of fixing it. There are no nuts and bolts, no moving parts, it's another piece of 'solid state' junk, chuck it away and go buy another one. Ooo that makes me mad!

But with old machinery...splines, gears, brass spindles and woodruff keys, cams, cogs, endless adjustments and endless pleasure. And here's the best bit, when it does go horribly wrong - turn it inside out and make something new!

# STEVE TANNER

photographer

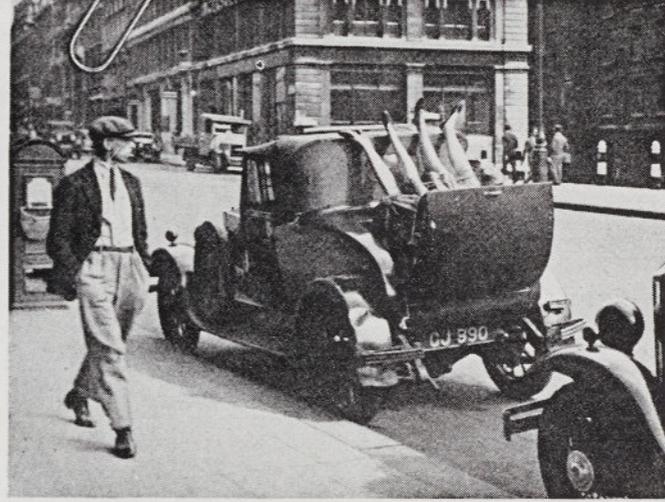


FIG. 36. Be prepared for the "semi-topical" picture of this kind which you are likely to come across at any time. Always carry a camera with you.

— Steve Tanner

# TONY CROSBY

graphic designer, maker and community artist



Lamledra, Gorrán Haven. Site of Kneehigh's Summer Schools

# MIKE SHEPHERD

founder, co-artistic director, actor and teacher

Started Kneehigh in 1980 and has stayed afloat as time flies towards the millennium.

Three key moments -  
Retrospective

First Fire  
First Kiss  
First Journey

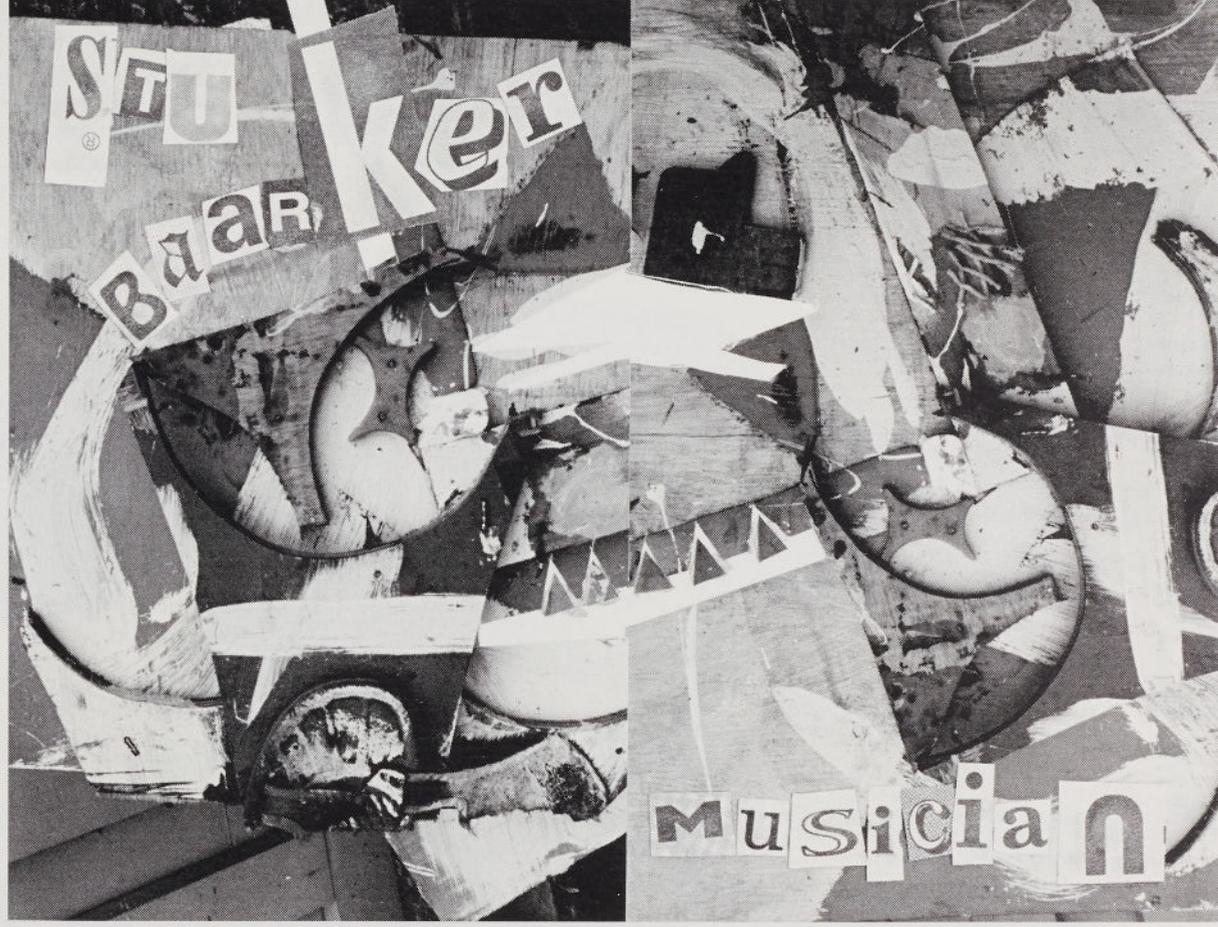
# LAURENCE SUTHERLAND

graphic designer

Graphic designer for 24 years, trained at Redruth College, Faculty of Art and Design (now part of Falmouth College of Arts).

# STU BARKER

musician



**BILL MITCHELL**  
designer and director



**BILL MITCHELL DESIGNER AND DIRECTOR**  
**WITH KNEEHIGH THEATRE SINCE +1988**

**FALMOUTH**

*College of Arts*



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Woodlane, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4RA Tel (01326) 211077

A University Sector College

**Friday 14th November**



## Mary Mabutt

Mary Mabutt has lived and worked in Cornwall for eighteen years. She has had a number of successful exhibitions in London at the Paton Gallery and has works in the Metropolitan Museum, New York. She also has works in the Arts Council in London but she has never had a show in the Duchy. The Hall for Cornwall is therefore proud and excited to be the first Cornish gallery to show the work of this important artist.

**Private View:** Friday 14th November from 7.30pm

Exhibition open to the public in the Assembly Rooms until Christmas.

**BOOKING HOTLINE: 01872 262466**



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Kneehigh Theatre is a registered charity no.290218

