

**March 2010
PRESS RELEASE**



Aberystwyth Arts Centre Youth Theatre presents...

**Dreaming
By Peter Barnes
Director - Richard Hull
Original Compositions - Jak Poore
Thursday 29 April - Saturday 1 May 7.30pm**

From Thursday 29 April to Saturday 1 May Aberystwyth Arts Centre Youth Theatre presents *Dreaming*, a haunting and brutally funny story of heroism and human values.

In the bloody aftermath of the Wars of the Roses, Captain John Mallory leads a band of renegades across a war-torn landscape on a breathtaking quest in search of a dream - a dream of home. *Dreaming* premiered at the Royal Exchange Theatre in March 1999 before moving to the West End. The Youth Theatre are delighted to bring this strange mixture of poetry, black humour, satire and tragicomedy to the main Arts Centre stage

"*Dreaming* is a play that has always been in my mind to direct." says Director Richard Hull. "I appeared as the chaplain 'Jethro Kell' in David Ian Rabey's 2003 production of the play, and it was one of the most positive acting experiences I'd ever had so I look back on the show with very fond memories."

"I asked David's opinion on the Youth Theatre taking on the show when we working together on our premiere of Howard Barker's *A Wounded Knife* and he was very enthusiastic - and that made the decision to do the show even easier. It has a very large cast of larger than life characters, so all of the members of the group have a substantial amount of stage time. Some of the actors are having to play two or three very different characters which is a challenge to actors of any age, but these youngsters have given it their total commitment with fantastic results."

Richard Hull describes the play as both a tragedy and hilarious comedy. "It follows a group of fighting comrades (led by John Mallory played by Oli Strong) after the end of the War of the Roses, who are not quite sure what to do after their final victory. They all have dreams and desires which they wish to fulfil, and spend the play pursuing them - with differing degrees of success. As they travel, they meet colourful characters who help or hinder them in all manner of ways. It is filled with song, dance (choreographed by Rachel West) and some outstanding performances from the young talents of Aberystwyth, and I urge anyone who has been to the Youth Theatre productions before not to miss this one."

Richard Hull says: "We are extremely lucky to have original compositions for the show from Jak Poore. He recently composed the score for the UK tour of *Skellig* and he and his music will be transferring for a two week run of this production on Broadway next March. I'm delighted that the Arts Centre's Youth Theatre is able to offer the young people of our community the unique opportunity to work alongside such talented and creative professionals as Jak. From a personal point of view, it has been strange to hear the songs of the play being sung completely differently to the 2003 production - but very much fitting the direction that the production has taken."

Richard Hull is also director of the Youth Theatre and says: "I am delighted with how the Youth Theatre continues to grow in size and quality. As ever, we've had several of our members successfully auditioning for Drama and Dance Schools this year, and it is with great pleasure that the staff of the Youth Theatre are continuing to guide the students who wish to enter the profession in the right direction. I would like to thank all of the staff who have made the last year of Youth Theatre the most successful to date. We are very lucky to have so many local talented professional people prepared to be involved with our group, and following our LAMDA examinations in July, we look forward to new productions in the Autumn, and the opportunity for our members to audition for the biggest and longest running Christmas production to date - *The Wizard of Oz*."

Tickets for this performance are £8 (£6) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre Box Office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Notes to editors:

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