

## *The Firestarter* at Aberystwyth Arts Centre

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November award-winning theatre company Big State Theatre's production *The Firestarter* will be performed at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. *The Fire Starter* is a re-tour of the fifth production by Big State Theatre and is touring nationally throughout Autumn 2008.

*The Fire Starter* was devised in only four weeks by the cast and the director John Nicholson, with assistance from Andy Burden. The production is based on the extraordinary life of Dr William Price (1800-1893), an eccentric figure renowned for his radical views embracing vegetarianism, nudity and free-love. He pioneered the practice of cremation, shocking wider Victorian society- cremation was illegal at the time. Big State Theatre use their comic imagination and multi-character style to bring this amazing and truly unique character back to life. *The Firestarter* features over 25 characters including a sheep, a parrot, a spectacularly incompetent vicar, rampant twins and the lovesick Smelly Gwennie- all performed by three stunningly versatile actors.

Big State Theatre was formed in 1996 by a group of professional performers and in September 2001, Big State Theatre became Company in Residence at the Arc Theatre, Trowbridge. As well as devising and performing original and accessible comic theatre, the Company is committed to helping young people develop their imagination and communication skills- in 1998 they founded Corsham Youth Theatre at The Pound Arts Centre and in Autumn 2001 they took over the Arc Senior Youth Theatre. Big State actors regularly work with Hull Truck, The Natural Theatre and Innerroom Theatre Company.

*The Firestarter* was created with the support of Southern and South East Arts, West Wiltshire District Council and Heaven Scent Incense.

**On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, Big State Theatre's production *The Firestarter* will be performed at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. The performances will begin at 7.30pm and lasts for 70 minutes with no interval. Tickets are priced £8 (£7), CC £7.50 (£6.50) and Groups £6. Tickets are available from Aberystwyth Arts Centre Box Office on 01970 623232 or online [www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre](http://www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre).**