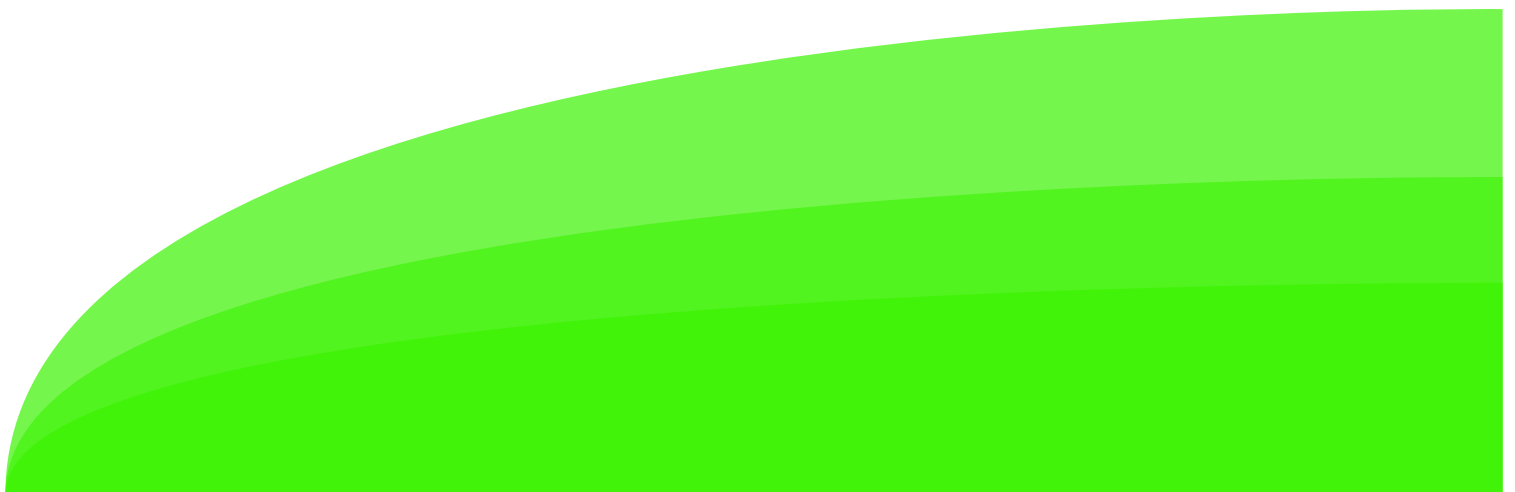


theatre nemo

A brief overview of six creative months





During the period of October 2008 to March 2009 we ran a total of ten projects in Prisons, Hospitals and the Community. Participants were offered a variety of activities such as clay animation, drama, visual art, circus skills and sound production. Our projects are designed to increase confidence and self-esteem, reduce isolation, to learn/develop new skills and decrease stigma people with mental health issues might receive.

“Theatre Nemo has been a good experience for people to interact and use talents they probably thought they never had. The workshop facilitators are very thoughtful and good people.” - Participant HMP Barlinnie



Projects

Somewhere Over The Waterfall (Gartnavel Hospital, July/August 2008)

Normally working in hospitals we come across people who are quiet and shy, with this group however there were a few people going through a manic period in their illness. This meant that the challenge for them was not to gain enough confidence to speak in front of the group but rather to try and focus on the same topic and concentrate on one task for extended periods of time. When we recorded the voices, some of the more outgoing participants created excellent character voices. This gave the quieter participants courage to step over some of their inhibitions and they too gave energetic vocal performances.

Taiko Drumming Workshop (Woodside Hall, Maryhill, July/September 2008)

This traditional Japanese art form of drumming was introduced to a group of people from the community in the West End of Glasgow who took part in a 13 week project exploring the different techniques and moves of playing a Taiko drum. The participants then performed a 10 minute set in the East Kilbride Village Theatre as part of the Mental Health Week Festival and the Simple Little Melody.



Does Anyone Know? (HMP Saughton, Edinburgh, August/September)

The aim of this project was to engage with participants and produce a live drama performance incorporating collected words and poetry, producing original work created by the participants through improvisation and creative writing techniques. Drama exercises developed confidence, trust and created group identity. Then the group was introduced to poetry and adaptations to existing work were made enabling the participants to use the newly gained skills. The output was then transformed into a format which made it possible to perform live including prerecorded elements.

The Lucky Hat (Gartnavel Hospital, September/October 2008)

This was a great animation project in the sense that the participants already had existing skills they were able to use for making the design of the clay animation. This meant that the group had a good feeling and understanding of working as a team. It is important to us that all participants are hands-on and understand the creative process and our workshop facilitators are able to cater for all needs.

The Mischief Makers (Stobhill Hospital, October/November 2008)

The Life Skills Department in the MacKinnon House is a perfect venue for our regular animation projects. The room enables us to think outside the box and try out new ideas which inspires the participants to try something new. The story, models, set, animation and filming were all done by the participants with the guidance and support of our workshop facilitators. The result is a fantastic DVD which can also be watched online on our website.

Untitled Exhibition (HMP Barlinnie, September/November 2008)

A multidisciplinary 14 week workshop which included an introduction to drama, film making, animation, visual art, digital sound production and empowerment exercises. The high quality creative output of this workshop also featured in a exhibition we held in HMP Barlinnie called "5 Year Stretch" which displayed work from the past 5 years within HMP Barlinnie.



Character
Mischief Makers
Stobhill Hospital

Sculpture
Untitled Exhibition
HMP Barlinnie



Animation at the Office (September/December 2008)

A small group at Theatre Nemo embarked on a long-term project to script, build and film an animated film centring on the theme of depression. The group consisted of five core members including a couple whom have taken part in previous animation workshops through Theatre Nemo. The overall level of quality is outstanding and because of the attention to detail given to the set design and filming, the project is now being outsourced with the workshop facilitator and work is still in progress.



Participants of the Animation Project



High attention to detail on a very small scale

Sunday Group Christmas Special (Parish Church, all year 2008)

The Sunday workshops are held in the Mount Florida Parish Church in the south side of Glasgow and form the base of our community project. It runs throughout the year and only stops for Christmas and New Year.

Regular and new participants try out different things and socialise with each other which increase confidence and self-esteem, reduces isolation and develops skills. This particular project was designed to give people the ideas, skills and materials for making hand crafted gifts. Workshops were delivered in glass painting on panels and bottles, collages, hand painting in gouache onto slate, decoration making, Christmas card making, making and embellishing boxes and chocolate truffle making.



Glasspainting

The Sunday Group

West End Animation (Woodlands Church, February/May 2009)

A new group in the Woodlands community has been established to embark on this exciting animation project using new equipment and exciting set design with a compelling story around the "Lost Properties Department". People seem to lose everything and anything, from jobs to partners and money which provides the content and theme for this production. This project is still ongoing and the new digital SLR camera and studio lights come in full effect in this perfect venue as it is not usually possible to fully control the lights due to the usually thin blinds. The group is a new addition to the Theatre Nemo family and we hope to gradually include them in other projects such as drama and performing arts.

Creative East End (East End Healthy Living Centre, March/May 2009)

We have secured and matched funding from the BBC Children in Need and designed this groundbreaking pilot project aimed at children and young people with a family member in Prison. Our aim is to reduce stigma and isolation, increase confidence and self-esteem and develop new and existing skills by providing a wide selection of workshops such as drama, animation, sound design, visual art and script writing. All workshops will tie into each other with the overall theme which is lead by the participants as the project continues. This gives the participants real ownership of the work they create and encourages interactivity with other participants from the east end.



Theatre Nemo are providing free creative workshops for children who are affected by a family member being in prison. The workshops will take place in the East End Healthy Living Centre in Glasgow.

If you are interested, please contact us:
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theatre nemo 

 Children in Need

Events

Glasgow Doors Open Days (Theatre Nemo Office, September 2008)

Like many other community projects or public places, we opened our doors to everyone on this sunny weekend to many interested people from young to old who took part in our visual art workshop or watched some of our animations and short films on the various media stations provided. It was a great day for us all to celebrate our ethos of being socially inclusive and to introduce ourselves to visitors who didn't know about us already and interesting to see how many people come forward and tell us that they are affected by mental health issues, either directly or by a family member or friend who is suffering.



A Simple Little Melody (The Village Theatre/East Kilbride, October 2008)

Theatre Nemo really has taken center stage with their last performance “A Simple Little Melody”, hosted in the Village Theatre on the 6th and 7th October in East Kilbride as part of Mental Health Week. The line-up consisted of participants from our Sunday Workshops who are very talented people performing Scottish and Irish songs, musical theatre and pieces with a comedy theme. No one can jump from Scotland to Ireland and back to Japan with it’s impressive Taiko drumming like Theatre Nemo.

This 4 month community project is a prime example of what Theatre Nemo can do and how important the workshops are to the participants who took part in singing, drama, drumming and set design workshops.



Crime and the Camera (Strathclyde University, October 2008)

We were invited to this conference at the Strathclyde University by Mike Nellis, Professor of Criminal and Community Justice in the Glasgow School of Social Work to take part in a discussion about crime and the camera. We gave a presentation about our organisation and work including a short film produce within HMP Soughton/Edinburgh and discussed cause and effect of imprisonment with professionals from the media, criminologists and filmmakers.

BIG Shots – Lauren Laverne Visit (Theatre Nemo Office, October 2008)

Lauren Laverne, Celebrity Ambassador for The Big Lottery Good Causes and Sarah McKenna from the Big Lottery Promotions Unit came to visit us to see what we are doing and took part in short trust- and drama exercises together with some Theatre Nemo regulars. The event featured in the first issue of BIG Scotland Magazine.



Lauren Laverne (far left) visits Theatre Nemo

Snapshot Exhibition (Gallery of Modern Art, January 2009)

Theatre Nemo participated in a photography contest to celebrate Glasgow's Culture & Sport's engagement in the arts and was selected to exhibit two photographs showing the performance "A Simple Little Melody". The exhibition is on from 31 January until 22 March 2009 in the Oval Gallery.

What's next

Upcoming workshops include an animation project in Leverndale Hospital, multidisciplinary work in the Young Offenders Institute Polmont, HMP Soughton and HMP Barlinnie and of course the community groups will continue every Sunday plus spin-off projects such as aromatherapy workshops, dance classes and a jewellery making workshop.

We are also holding a screening and performance by participants of the community workshops and a Curry Karaoke to raise funds for Theatre Nemo.

The dates are:

14 May - West End Animation Screening

21 May - Curry Karaoke

24 May - Sunday Group Performance

Please see our website for full details and to buy your ticket!

Our core funding from the Big Lottery is running out in June and we are currently filling out a lot of application to make sure that we have enough funds to continue on the same high level as before. We have successfully applied for partial funding and waiting for response from various organisations and trusts.

Our next **AGM** will be in August 2009 and we look forward to get together with our friends and supporters and to discuss the future of Theatre Nemo.