

'Perception'

The Production Process

This could be a long story!

We started our discussions for a production as far back as October 2005. Having considered many options, we decided that we should try something a little different this time. As a group everyone felt that we would like to present our own identities as individuals and performers. We started with a simple assessment of ourselves, as we see ourselves. This proved to be quite thought provoking and raised some interesting issues and led us on to reflect on how we think other people might see us.

With forward planning we knew that not only were we to create a dramatic presentation for our course examinations, but we were also to present something to HR Princess Anne on her visit to Treloar College. In addition to this we were to be part of the Beacon Project, sharing our knowledge and expertise in performing arts, with a particular emphasis on the inclusion of people with disabilities into performing arts. We also knew that we were going to be fortunate enough to work with a professional storyteller, Mike O'Leary, who was the Artiste in Residence at Treloar College in the early part of 2006.

So the concept of 'Perception' was formulated. The introductory scene arose from improvisation work. Our next step was to share our own life experiences and stories – the high points and the low points. Under the guidance of Mike, we then created our own story box with images which we felt reflected our experiences. Into this box we placed some items of note which were special to us.

Well, biographies are all very well, but who would want to listen to our stories? However we knew from working with Mike that everyone likes a good story and we had heard many from him during his residency, so we set about translating our life stories into original folktales, finding folktale motifs which illustrated the main points we wished to communicate. Each of us had a slightly different tale to tell, but it was interesting to see how our experiences overlapped at times. We felt that it was probable that our audiences might share some similar experiences.

Using the images we had each identified, the next step was to present these in the form of a folktale and write these into scripted form. Once we established ownership of our tales, we started to plan how we would present these in a form which combined drama, storytelling, movement and sound. The developmental process included the creation of props and sound effects and the rehearsal schedule. Assistance with poster and programme design and production and costume production was received from other staff and students at Treloar College. What you will see today is the culmination of this. The final 'Perception' outcome will depend on you and what you make of it.

Our stories are our gift to you. Take them away and retell them. Perhaps try creating your own tales – after all everyone can be a storyteller.

Performers

**Jordan Hughes
Luke Stanley
Jennifer Musselle
David Whitehead**

**Assisted by
Janice Hopwood
Maureen Byrne**

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Introductory Scene	-	Who am I?
Scene 2	-	How to present our stories
The storytelling journey begins		
Jordan's Tale	-	Bog monsters, trolls cave, maze, giant turkey, goblins, magic key, big bad wolf & silver horse, inn on the road.
Luke's Tale	-	The giant, a banqueting hall, fortune seeking, market place, boggles, goblins & other horrible creatures, magic apple flying carpet, big oak tree.
Jenny's Tale	-	Stony path, old man, quicksand, wolf, magic music, voyage, digging for treasure, cracked mirror, safe harbour, storm clouds.
David's Tale	-	Magic mirror, shape-shifter, masks, troll's bridge, inn on the road, stranger, magic sword, talking horse, boggles, dragon, cursed forest, inn on road, unicorn.
Group choral poem	-	I am me
Invitation to questions	-	It's all a matter of Perception.

'Perception'

Crew

Director/Producer	Janice Hopwood
Storytelling Advisor	Mike O'Leary
Original Script	Janice Hopwood
Sound/music recording & operation	Mark Thomas
Performance crew	Maureen Byrne
Prompt	Julia Bell
Props	Janice Hopwood, Verity Gwinnett
Costume	Janice Hopwood, Andrea Beattie
Video Production	Roger Byrne
Poster Art	Laura Williams Roz Spencer Suzi Hadlow
Poster Production	Verity Gwinnett
Programme Production	Ian Karten Centre Treloar College

With thanks

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