

Camden Road the Musical

March 2008

Over the next 18 months, a number of community events will take place in Camden Road, culminating in a community play in May 2009. These events are being organized and led by the local community in partnership with Claque Theatre. Claque is a professional theatre company with 30 years experience in productions of this kind. This newsletter gives details of the different projects that will take place in the lead up to the play, as well as details about how you can become more involved.

Camden Road in Camera

This project will be an exhibition of photographs of Camden Road and the surrounding area. We will ask local people to lend their photographs and create an exhibition along the street with them. About 50 of them will be enlarged to door size and placed as close to the site of the original photo as possible. The rest will form memory walls which will hopefully be displayed in shop windows along Camden Road.

As well as being an interesting project in its own right, this will serve as the beginning of our research into the area, and will also raise the profile of the project in the area and hopefully start to engage the rest of the community. We will start in the next few weeks by holding open evenings and days when we will invite local people to attend and bring their photographs and memories. The exhibition will take place during June and July, and we will be organizing walking tours of the area during the 2 weeks it is running.

If you have filled in a volunteer form and ticked the research box in the list of things that you were interested in, you should have already received information about this project. If you have not and you would like to be involved, please contact Cath on the details below and we will make sure that you are kept informed from now on. We will be needing volunteers for the following tasks:

- Collecting photographs and memories at open days and also from individuals as they get in touch
- Taking information in to traders and asking them to get involved with the project by displaying posters advertising the project and memory walls during the exhibition
- Running walking tours of the exhibition – taking groups along the road and talking about the exhibition and the history of the area

If you can help with any of these things, please contact Cath using the details below.

Contact

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CLAQE
THEATRE



Camden Road in Perspective

This is a research project, aimed at discovering what the contemporary issues are in Camden Road, as well as looking at its history. We will start with 'soundings' which will be held over the next few months. The first one of these will be held on the evening of 23rd April and will be open to everyone. We will give more details on this nearer the time. Other soundings will be held with smaller groups, and can last a few minutes or a whole evening. The idea is to find out what issues the community faces today. Our research group will then look into the history of the road for historical metaphors, and an improvisation group will work on drama searches. From this we will try and find the themes that will form the basis for the script for the play.

We will be producing a book using this research which will also incorporate details of the play process and the script. An exhibition will run at the same time as the play with the research, as well as some of the memory walls and photographs from the In Camera project on display.

Finally, in December of this year we will have a lantern parade along the street. The theme of this parade will be a celebration of the cultural diversity that exists in Camden Road, and in the months leading up to it we will be running workshops with professional designers so that community groups can design and make their own lanterns.

Camden Road the Musical

- 120 performers
- A fully inclusive policy – if you want to be in the play, you are in it
- 3 month rehearsal period
- A team of professional directors and designers living in the area for 3 months and working with local volunteers to produce a professional theatre production
- A lot of hard work and a lot of fun!

This project is run by local volunteers, and without them it will not happen. At the moment, we have over 60 on our database and we anticipate the number to be over 200 by the time the play starts. It does not need to mean that you spend a lot of time on the project, but every little helps and we hope that there will be something happening over the next few months to excite and challenge everyone. If you have not already signed up and you would like to be involved, please contact Cath using the details overleaf.

Timetable

March	Research meetings begin
April	Collection of photos for In Camera project
	Work with local schools begins
May	Prepare exhibition for In Camera
June	Camden Road in Camera exhibition opens at the end of this month
July	In Camera exhibition ends Content needs to be archived
August	Continue with archiving and research Start putting book together
Sept.	Begin design and making workshops for lantern parade
Oct.	Performance workshops
Nov.	Play reading
Dec.	Lantern Parade
Jan.	Casting for the play
Feb.	Professional team arrives and rehearsals begin
March	Continue rehearsals Prop and costume making
April	Prepare venue
May	Play opens and runs for 12 nights

We need You