

A RECORD OF

HALLOWEEN LANTERN CARNIVAL

2005



LIVERPOOL
THEATRE
COMPANY

ZHO theatre

About Liverpool Lantern Company...

We are an artist-led, non-profitmaking organisation, set up to establish a spectacular and sustainable community-based lantern carnival in Liverpool and to promote creativity, celebration and unity within and across local communities.

We also undertake commissions and offer training at all levels and in many art forms such as lantern making, carnival costume, processional puppets and large-scale imagery as well as managing and producing art installations, site-specific events and processions.

Liverpool Lantern Company is committed to:

- * Creating inspirational work of artistic excellence
- * Working in an environmentally responsible way
- * Offering employment and creative learning opportunities locally
- * Developing new and existing collaborations with individual artists and companies, locally, nationally and internationally.
- * Making it's work accessible to audiences who wouldn't normally access visual and performing arts for whatever reason.

On Hallowe'en 2004, Liverpool Lantern Co. in collaboration with Zoo Theatre and Rosco Creations produced a large-scale community lantern carnival in Sefton Park, Liverpool. Dressed for the occasion and in festive spirit, crowds in their thousands turned up to join in.

In holding this event on Hallowe'en, we aim to raise awareness of the Celtic roots of the festival, and to reclaim the spirit of the night from the scare-mongering and commercialised version that Hallowe'en has become today. It is a time of heightened spirituality when the light from fires and feasts is believed to guide souls along the path from one world to the next.

We have drawn inspiration from other cultures and countries around the world, such as Mexico, whose 'Day of the Dead' festival pays homage to the dead, not to death itself, and celebrates this time as one of loving remembrance, not fear. It is a time to reflect upon our own life, and the universal cycle of life and death.





During October a team of local artists working with Liverpool Lantern Co. led workshops with a total of 17 diverse groups from all over the city. Thorough consultation and briefing with all participating group leaders prior to the event helped us to ensure that both the workshops and event were socially inclusive, accessible and relevant to people of all ages and abilities. Around 500 people participated in the workshops, and 300 lanterns were made.

Using willow and tissue paper, participants designed and made their own hand-held lanterns, based on the universal theme of 'Spirit'.



"They (LLC) made the workshops great fun and fully involved everyone..they appeared to have a natural awareness to the groups needs. Everything went so well I cannot think of any improvements that could be made."

Oris Kelly, Alderwood Resource Centre

Feedback from group leaders training session:

"Great. Hands-on practical knowledge to enable us to assist young people to be creative. Handouts, maps of the event and costs all ready for group leaders. Video presentation was the crowning glory as it let you get the feel of what it is about."

Carol Bennett, Granby Tenth Activity Club

"All communication with LLC. has been very professional, courteous friendly and helpful."





Working with Zoo Theatre was an artistic team which included a director, writer, composer, designer, choreographers, actors, dancers and musicians. Over a 6 week period this team brought together more than 70 performers from local colleges, arts organisations and within the community to create mesmerising dance, theatrical ritual, visual installations and music, live and recorded, all based on the theme of 'Spirit'.

Processional music came from 'The Lantern Band' an 8 piece street-band, and 'Hope and Harmony Choir' a 25 strong community choir. A beautifully haunting musical score was written for the performance installations and lake-side finale.





Liverpool Lantern Co. also created large scale, wearable and floating lanterns as well as a giant illuminated skeleton puppet to lead different sections of the procession. These lantern images became integrated into the spectacular lake-side finale.





The lantern procession formed a 'ghost train' through the park, with magical installations and wonderfully strange performances along the route. 1000 people walked in the procession.

Feedback on the event:

"The experience was excellent. The students felt proud and excited to have been involved in such a well organised and attended event"

Karen Shannon,
Liverpool Community College

"Brilliant, firework spectacle was the best I've seen and fantastic that it was synchronised to music."

Carol Bennett
Graby/Toxteth Activity Group





Highlights from participants:

"Being seen by friends carrying a lantern."

"Being allowed out in the dark."

"Not trick or treating."

"Dressing up and being away from the street."

"Being part of something special."











The procession drew to a halt at the lakeside, where a lone female figure boarded a magnificent carriage drawn by a unicorn, which skimmed across the still waters through the veil between the worlds to the other side. This was to be her final resting place and as she climbed down from her carriage she disappeared into thin air! From behind the trees emerged a gigantic fire sculpture of a dancing woman, symbolising the woman's spirit. She was lifted by a crane high into the air, which erupted into a dazzling pyrotechnic display, explosions of light and colour filling the night sky.





Liverpool Lantern Company:

Artistic Director: Jo Pocock
Project Manager: Jackie Swanson
Production Manager: Jodi Watson
Carnival Band Leader: Amanda Guley
Fringe Pyrotechnics and
Fire Sculpture (Rosca Creations)
Gavin Lewery and team

Lantern Artists

Rosie Aubrey, Fath Babbington,
Janet Brennan, Edelene Delaud,
Kirst Devis, Louise Fooks,
Dave Guber, Siggie Kramonsson,
Orlino McPherson, Jo Pocock,
Janie Reed, Jane Richardson,
Jackie Swanson, Rowan Werns

Participating Groups

Alderwood Resource Centre, Croxteth Old Development,
Crown St Resource Centre, Garsby/Towneth Activity Club,
Greenhouse Multi-Cultural Play Project, Hope St Ltd
Leak Lane Community Centre (After Schools Club and
open sessions), Liverpool Maritime Museum,
Liverpool Community College, Croxteth Girls, Old Swan,
PSS Sailings Project, PSS Fun Club, Rotunda Community
College, Seftondays

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Leak Lane Community Centre, National Museums Liverpool, Liverpool City Council's Parks and Environments Dept, and the Park Rangers Team, Barbara Sherlock

Zho Theatre:

Artistic Director: Paul Simms
Choreographers: Sarah Black,
Sue Lancaster, Jenny Bates
Musical Composer: Andy Fozzell
Writer: Esther Wilson
Designer: Jocelyn Meale
Technical Manager: Jon Burke
Technical Team: Justin Brennan
John Webb, Sam
Production Manager: Phil Murphy
Administration: Elaine Bennett

Performers:

Adam McQuiggan, Laura Crockett,
Catherine Roskey, Ailin Harley,
Graham Hicks, Joe Shipman,
James Ward, Denise Kennedy,
Fionnuala Dorrity, Jennie Jungbluth,
Elaine Bennett

and students from
John Moores University,
Hope University,
Liverpool Community College,
The Greenbank Project,
and Hope in Harmony Choir led by
Paula Berry

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Liverpool Lantern Company are a company limited by guarantee. (No. 4673279)

