this month's Ink Pellet contains

GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER? TRESTLE!

When we approached Emily Gray, the artistic director of Trestle Theatre Company, she decided she couldn’t possibly host her dinner party alone. She would just have to enlist the help of the whole company. Here is their dinner table …

PASS IT ON
Tell your history and citizenship colleagues about these little gems that would otherwise pass them by…

LET’S GET DIGITAL
Forward-thinking teachers are embracing the use of technology across the curriculum. LESLEY FINLAY reviews some of the ways that classrooms are entering the digital age…

HISTORY AS ART
Liz Crow’s work Resistance deals with the Nazi programme Aktion T4, which targeted disabled people. LESLEY FINLAY spoke to the film maker to find out more…

KEITH GAINES: THE DANGEROUS TARGET FOR BOYS
Our Keith tackles the not-so-tricky subject of why boys do not read…

NATALIE ABRAHAMI: IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
Natalie Abrahami is growing in confidence as a theatre director and is busy working on Pericles for the Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre season. Here she talks to LESLEY FINLAY about her life…

FOOD AND ART – THE PERFECT MIX!
If you go down to the woods on Sunday, you’re sure of an arty surprise…

A DAY IN THE LIFE: SIONED JACQUES
The Carnegie Medal is one of the top literary awards for children’s fiction. Lesley Finlay caught up with one of the recipients, Sioned Jacque...
Lesley Finlay caught up with one of the judges SIONED JACQUES, who shares a day in her life...

FESTIVAL NEWS
The Norfolk and Norwich Festival promises to be an inspiring, eye-opening and stimulating event...

OH MARY
ELENA MOAZZATO was blown away by Oh Mary...

conversation between the three actors – all disabled people – who take part in the drama. We made a visit to two of the death centres in Germany and they talk about the experience of the visit, and the drama and what it means to contemporary disabled people to visit and portray that history. Its role in the installation is to bring people to the present, like a bridge. Then the lights come up and you find you’re surrounded by green banners displaying portraits of people involved in the installation and historical images from Aktion T4 to show the commonality, to show contemporary people experiencing inclusion and exclusion, that exclusion hurts. ’

As a disabled person herself, Liz’s experience of exclusion, inclusion and discrimination comes to bear. She had an accident when she was ten and then an illness that left her with ‘a scattering of impairments’, but her own disability was not central in the planning of Resistance. ’I’m driven by my own experience. With Resistance, I started out thinking I was making an informational piece and realised that I was making an emotional piece. The thing that kept me going was that I was making it contemporary.’ Liz left university before the end of her course and in her twenties, met a group of disabled activists who changed the direction of her life. ‘They taught me that exclusion is socially created which means it can be uncreated. So I became an activist out of that.

‘I had always made things as a child, and acted, but my experience of discrimination knocked that out of me. I made a film about Helen Keller – who has a whole side of her as an anti-militarist that has also been hidden from history-and I realised I’d been missing the creativity in my life.’

So what is next for Liz? ’I’m starting to think what makes ordinary people commit such evil, and also what makes ordinary people commit such good. There are people in the Holocaust who resisted in all kinds of ways – from people who put their life on the line, to saying no, to crying out when they were getting onto the bus. So we look out and look after each other – this is not about disability, it’s about human relationships.’

Resistance has moved many hundreds of visitors and is an important work – catch it if you can.

Fact file
Resistance opens in Gloucester Cathedral on October 3 to November 14 and then goes to the Bristol M Shed on January 5. Liz will also be running workshops with teachers on teaching the Holocaust. If you would like more information please email info@roaringgirl.com or visit www.roaringgirl.com where you find more information about her work.

Category: Big Interview, Homepage, Library, Sidebar
Tags: Aktion4, Antony Gormley, Bristol M Shed, Fourth Plinth, Gloucester Cathedral, Helen Keller, Holocaust, Liz Crow, Nazi, Resistance, Trafalgar Square

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