

Encore Productions Residency Round Up - October 2020

After nearly 7 months apart, today marked the day when Encore Productions returned with almost full numbers to the stage and workshop spaces of An Tain Arts Centre. Compelled to distance over the months of lock down we are delighted to be back working together again on our residency.

Not that we've been idle during lockdown. Like everyone else we have been finding ways to stay creative and stay positive, not least by working on the script of 'Our Town' which we soon hope to begin recording as a radio drama. Stay tuned! It seems fate would not allow that production to make it to the stage but necessity is ever the mother of invention and we hope to have the play on line and on the airwaves before the year is out.

Assembled in front of Dundalk's own little Parthenon, where many have preached and protested before them, the cast prepare to tackle Greek Theatre in 2021. We plan to turn the life of the Ancient Story teller Aesop into a production in the manner of the fathers of theatre, the Ancient Greeks. Aesop was a slave whose story telling gifts earned him not only his freedom but also his gruesome end. A man who spoke truth to power by telling his stories of animals and trees, of the sun and of the wind, he has much to say to our troubled times. The cast and crew are all excited to be learning about Tragedy and Comedy, the fates and the furies, chorus and mask as well as the life and times of Aesop and the pleasures and perils of life in those Ancient Times.

As the great plays that survive from those days prove, little has changed in the affairs of men and women, of society and state since then. We hope to post videos and photographs of our journey into the past to share with you what we learn as we work toward our 2021 production. We leave the last word to Aesop....

Finding himself unable to reach the water at the bottom of the jar, the thirsty crow dropped pebble after pebble after pebble into the water until at last he could satisfy his thirst.

'Little by little, does the trick'.

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