

BOUFFANTS' CRIB SHEET (CL2: Disrupting the Landscape)

[The following sheet was hastily drawn together early on Day 2 of CL2. I wanted to work with the group on an ensemble activity that might provide the 'audience' with continuity for the promenade around the site to various vignettes and fuller scenes. I wanted an echo of the disruption of the landscape that was the theme of CL2 and decided to experiment with bouffants work that I had experienced initially when working with John Wright. The characters were an excess of the individual – a disruption of themselves - and yet still recognisably themselves. (It was not 'pure' bouffants work but a variation.) This was the 'crib' sheet that I gave the participants.]

The bouffants – entertainers; did not conform to the given norm in medieval society; predated commedia; lived outside the towns – allowed in on high days and holidays to entertain. They were likely to have been physically different in some way. (We are not taking this aspect – but *extending* your own physicality). The best were sufficiently highly regarded to have pictures painted of them. (I saw two in the Prada Museum in Madrid, some years ago.)

On the edge Quirky Removed Alienated The other

Living in the moment – 'present'

Naïve and eccentric

Hold together – security in each other's presence

For us particularly:

- some might be worried and concerned about erasure and change; others may seek that. Gentle disagreements?
- Putting things back the way they were; tidying *or* disrupting
- Puzzled. Always trying to make sense of the place. Trying to piece it together.
- Arrivals and partings are important to them.
- Use popping up toasters – with toast in the shape of jigsaw pieces.
- They are aware of 'erasure' – parts of the site being erased, disappearing. They don't understand. Constantly questioning and worried about the changes to the landscape. They disrupt accidentally and also worry about disruption.
- They all have a different interest in Caer Llan and have different needs of the place.
- Take things into the workshop to be changed, repaired, altered etc.
- Searching for meaning all the time.
- Commenting on all the vignettes, scenes, happenings around them; introducing stuff to the 'audience'.

Because the bouffants have a strange vision themselves – slightly through a blurred or opaque lens – they may open up new ways of seeing to the audience. Their response to things will be tangential, off target etc. which may guide the audience into a distorted view.

The content of the bouffants' scenes will be based on the scenes and vignettes. In addition, they may refer to the quirks around the place, in passing. The following language could be used from our earlier exercises:

NEOLOGISMS: WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

Histealthy	Uniquirky
Greenlife	Levelsheadache
Tarhostas	Viewwork
Muraloving	Grassclean
Abstractive	Oxylated
Brancheshonest	Quowl
Mustybin	Claddingpatchwork
Birdykite	Sunide
Changingsecret	Distivt
Evergreenship	Airuty
Menagical	Lightland
Calmnew	Unihealth
Commuzarre	Preservedliberty
Disjointedfaeries	Forestion
Forcesheep	Lushuzzle
Bedergrown	Brokenive
Frair	Traditionalazy
Roughfresh	Higgledypiggledyexperience
Motionmulticoloured	Mapsky
Landscaplight	Freshdecay
Lifestorm	Stepleaf
Fragmars	Histygen
Bleaquil	Craggyvist
Squirritage	Widelife
Welshscape	Poolopen
Earthtan	Naturural
Doorick	Dreamyful
Quietition	Decatranquil
Quaintful	Blealearnings

[These neologisms were the result of an exercise in re-thinking the landscape by creating portmanteau words that, by their strangeness and yet familiarity, might jolt us (and an audience) into rethinking an accepted model of rurality.]