

Dead Earnest Theatre

TOURING THEATRE
FORUM THEATRE
WORKSHOPS
ROLEPLAY

www.deadearnest.co.uk

Dead Earnest performing in 2006



Dead Earnest use theatre to focus on the nature and consequences of human behaviour

Dead Earnest is a theatre, training and facilitation company that use performance techniques to investigate the potential for positive change in all our lives.

We do this by creating bespoke training projects and original productions. We aim to spark debate and encourage change on both a practical and a philosophical level.

We recognise that the world is changing very rapidly and that we need to embrace change rather than fear it. We also believe that, as individuals, we can take positive steps towards contentment by recognising and challenging our own and other people's behaviour.



We have a long track record of working in community regeneration and staff development. We are well connected with community networks and issues. A number of our staff have worked as community development workers or council officers. We have a track record of employing actor-

experts, who have personal knowledge of the issues they portray. And we are one of the growing number of British businesses that has employed a Polish worker.

We know that each community is different, as is each member of the audience. There are no magic 'catch all' answers. Rather, we say to people it is possible to change; the world is not fixed. Let us come up with ideas and try out solutions in the safe environment of the training space, so that we are better equipped to deal with the real situation later. And... these will be ideas and solutions that you own and come from your experience.

In 2007 Dead Earnest will be focussing on the challenges facing changing communities.

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Streets together, Streets apart

working towards community cohesion



Dead Earnest has been working with Pendle Borough Council to create a 'forum theatre' piece about community cohesion. It is based in the town of Nelson, which has historically been a magnet for economic migrants. At first these were from Scotland and Ireland, then Pakistan and Bangladesh and now the Czech Republic and Poland. It was decided to base the piece around the voices of three distinct communities living on the same street. These in turn were represented by three characters: an elderly white British woman, a young second generation Pakistani man and a recently arrived Polish woman. Although they live side by side they are suspicious and fearful of each other.

Focus Question:

"How can these communities learn to fear each other less?"

The Audience:

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) and council workers.

The Research:

Oral history interviews held in Nelson, Consultation with members of the local Pakistani community, Conversations with Dead Earnest's own resident Polish worker, Agnieszka.

The Actors:

We were careful to cast actors for the Pakistani and Polish roles that could speak different languages and that had experience of the issues.

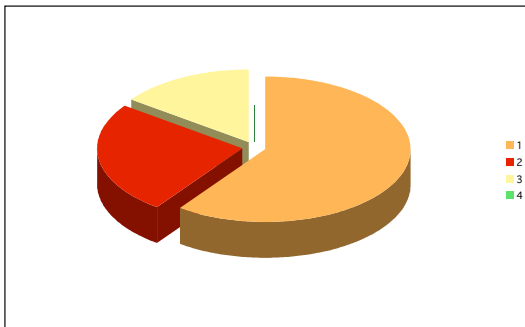
Dead Earnest work with actors, clients and communities to create work that has an impact. In order to measure how effective this is we undertake evaluation of every project.

Below is an example of the feedback from 'Streets Together, Streets Apart.'



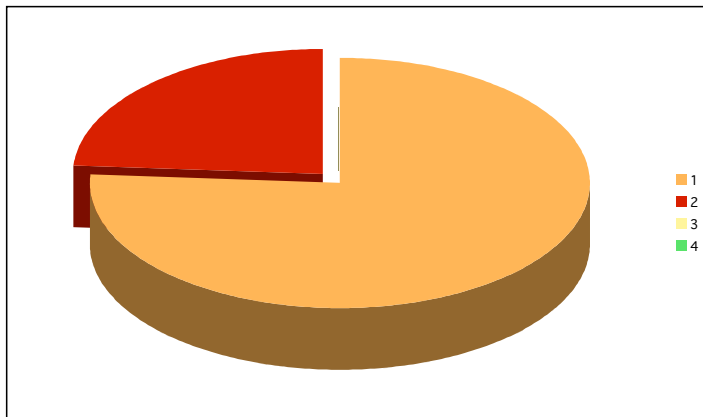
Dead Earnest with members of Pendle Borough Council and the community of Nelson.

Do you feel this piece was relevant to you?



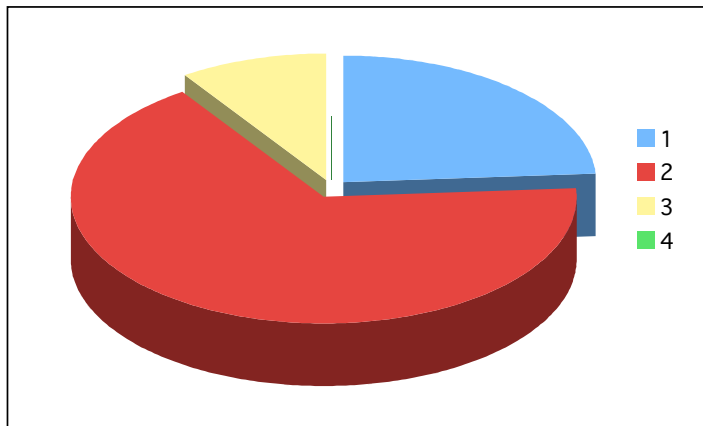
1 = Very much so
 2 = Yes
 3 = No
 4 = Not at all

Do you think using drama in this way is an effective way of getting a message across?



“the actors/actresses are ‘hiding’ behind characters – people feel more comfortable to challenge. Audience interaction and opportunities to change scenes are key.”

Do you think this piece is likely to influence attitudes to behaviour in the future?



Client Feedback:

Working with clients to not only meet expectations but exceed them is what drives Dead Earnest. We are delighted that a lot of our work comes from word of mouth recommendations or people who have seen our work elsewhere. Below is an example of the feedback from Pendle Borough Council.

Did you feel the piece we performed for you was relevant to the needs of your audience?



I haven't been in any other public place in Pendle where such fraught and contentious issues could be aired so openly, honestly and safely and productively. Everyone I've spoken to about it felt it had moved the dialogue forward. The potential for further movement seems obvious.

What did you think about the proposal, fee, length of time in which Dead Earnest got back to you?

Costs – very reasonable for what you get; an extremely high quality production. The writing was brilliant it really “got” Nelson – as you could see from the local reaction. The actors stayed in character throughout their interactions with the audience which was one of the most impressive things.

We are convinced that the best way for someone to understand what Dead Earnest can do for an organisation is to see us in action. We are always happy for potential clients to come to our events, come to a rehearsal or talk to us in person.

To contact Dead Earnest call: 0114 2270085

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or visit our website for news and more details of our work:

www.deadearnest.co.uk