



The Tyke Writer

INTERCHANGE NEWSLETTER

Issue 7/ November 2001

EVENTS GUIDE

Interchange @ the Priestley

Weekly workshop that takes place every Tuesday from 8pm at the Priestley Centre for the Arts, Chapel Street, Little Germany.

It provides a friendly and informal gathering where group members can share their work.

Also provides a forum for constructive feedback if requested.

Interchange @ the Melborn

Every last Wednesday of the month on White Abbey Road, Interchange hosts an open microphone event for writers, performers and singer-song-writers.

Singer/song-writers please contact in advance, as slots for musicians are limited.

Be there at 8pm to sign up for an 8.30pm start.

Poetry takes to the Priestley stage

Interchange staged a benefit performance for the Priestley Centre for Arts this month. *Mark Cantrell* (who also performed) reports on a great event



Javaad says the Priestley still has fight in it.

Photo by Phil Wainman

A bigger audience would have been good, but all in all it was a great event and a big success.

That is the general view of how Interchange @ the

Priestley went. Together with donations from the previous week's Melborn event, around £60 was raised for the cash-strapped theatre.

"It was excellent," said the Priestley's Maxine Barnett. "They did a wonderful performance and the Priestley greatly appreciates it."

The event had been organised at short notice as a fund-raising event for the Priestley Centre of Arts, which after much hard work and a T&A led press campaign has gained a breathing space to turn its fortunes round.

It was felt that Interchange should do

its bit, and so poets, singers and performers came together to put on a show of verse.

For many, young musician Javaad stole the show, especially with his Iranian folk song sung in the Iranian language.

"Javaad's singing was the special feature of the evening for me," said Ed Reiss. "Singing a Middle Eastern song in a Middle Eastern tongue, I really enjoyed that."

Other performers

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Inside This Issue:

Celebrating disability arts, Melborn success, sex at work, news views and events.

Celebrating disability arts

DISABLED writer Lois Keith is to be one of the highlights of a week-long celebration of disability arts and culture, timed to mark the International Day of Disabled People.

The Independence Festival Leeds 2001 will start on the 3rd December at a variety of venues featuring the work of disabled artists.

The festival is being

co-ordinated by Interchange's Ruth Malkin.

"Suddenly people are beginning to wake up to the idea that we as disabled people have a distinct identity and culture and this should be celebrated," she says. "I hope that the work done in Leeds this year to proclaim and celebrate disability culture will be the foundation of a network

of interested people."

Lois Keith will be running a workshop on telling life stories. She will also be reading from her latest work at Waterstones on the 6th December.

In 1993, Ms Keith edited an anthology of writing by disabled women called *Mustn't Grumble*.

Ruth inadvertently helped to supply the title: "I ran a workshop

for disabled women and I said to them 'why don't we all write stuff for the anthology,'" Ruth says. "One woman wrote a piece about a theatre group for disabled women that she was in, called *Mustn't Grumble*, and Lois liked the name so much she named the book after it!"

Ms Keith's workshop is only open to disabled people, but her reading

Joe storms the stage

JOE Ogden blew the audience away on his debut as featured poet at last month's Melborn gig.

By popular demand, he was chosen to top the bill. He didn't disappoint; his poetry and performance proved excellent, and left some in the audience crying for more.

"He really is an excellent performer," said Howard Frost. "When he is on top form as he was tonight, then he is as good as any poet he's come across including his great hero Thom the

By Mark Cantrell

World Poet. Joe will go down a storm when he goes to America next year."

Melborn host, Lynette Shaw McKone added: "He did extremely well. His performance wasn't as good as it could have been, but it's getting better every time he gets up."

Joe has performed at the Melborn and the late Monkey event for some time, but this was the first time he was the main event. Earlier, he went to the Paddington International Poetry Festival in London,

where he performed in a poetry slam (competition). Along with giving Joe the chance to wow the audience, his billing was also intended to give him further experience in front of audiences, in readiness for his proposed trip abroad next year.

Joe is particularly looking forward to this, his debut on the international scene.

"I'll be there on April Fools Day for my first concert," he said. "I just hope it won't be My

Fools Day!"

Watch this space, to see how he does.



Above: Joe Ogden featured at the last Melborn. Here he is shown performing at the Paddington International Poetry Festival.
Photo by Phil Wainman.

Grunting & groaning

By Mark Cantrell

SEX at work is the theme of a new fiction anthology due to be published by Canadian firm Alley Cat Editions, an imprint of Boheme Press.

Grunt & Groan is planned as a 'bare bones look at the human sexual animal at work'. The deadline for submissions is 31 March 2002. The anthology will be published in September next year.

"We need work and sex stories," says editor Matthew Firth. "How dirty the job and how dirty the sex or how straight the job and how straight the sex; that's your call. Just make the reader work up a sweat. These can be tales of lust that never materialise, a common

workplace obsession, or tales of unfettered fucking in the stockroom. You decide."

Stories should be no longer than 4,000 words and must be 'virgin' -- not published before. The editors say that all submission must be accompanied by an SAE (don't forget an international reply coupon, obtainable from the Post Office). Work will be bought on the basis of one-time North American rights.

Send stories to: Matthew Firth, Editor, Grunt & Groan, 136-A Billings Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 5K9. Canada. Or email: firth@istar.ca or publisher@bohemeonline.com.

Hot novel in hidden cave

NOVELIST Mark Cantrell has had another book published electronically.

Uranium Fist, his first novel was published this month on the website the Hidden Cave.

The story, about a revolution on an Earth colony world, is published in MS Reader format and is currently available for download free.

The publication

follows his first online success last year, when Internet publisher Online Originals published his second novel *Citizen Zero*, a political satire about life on the dole.

This latter novel is priced £4 and is available on the Proofs list.

To obtain either book, go to <http://www.onlineoriginals.com> or <http://www.hiddencave.com>.

INTERCHANGE (Bradford Writers' Network) Presents...

Love, Sex, Death & Carrots

A collection of poetry and prose by some of West Yorkshire's most talented writers. With graphics and artwork by Phil Wainman and Joedot.

Public Reading @ Borders Bookshop, Leeds

Tuesday, November 27th @ 6.30pm

Hear the work, buy the book...

Get published @ Hidden Cave

WEBSITE the Hidden Cave is offering writers the chance to have their work published as ebooks.

Anything from poetry, short stories, articles and novels will be accepted, without charge for publication.

Titles initially can be downloaded for free, but claims that within a few months it will begin charging for work, with 50 per cent royalties going to the authors.

Find out more at <http://www>.

Management aim to hack staff

JOURNALISTS at the *Telegraph & Argus* and associated titles are considering industrial

action over pay and threatened redundancies.

“We can’t see how these titles could be

produced using fewer journalists unless there is a significant loss of editorial quality,” said a spokesperson for the

NUJ.

Management want to shed 17 jobs from the 100 currently employed in producing the titles.

Priestley Poets

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included Bruce Barnes,



Seema Gill performs
Photo by Phil Wainman

Peter Karren, Karl Dallas, Ed Reiss, Joe Ogden, Seema Gill, Rahel Guzellian, Lynette Shaw McKone and Martin, who together blew the audience away.

“I thought the performances by everybody were excellent,” said Keith Willcock. “They performed very strongly. The music was good and the ambience was good. It was good of the Priestley to give us the facilities to do it.”

“It was a nice evening and we have raised some money for the Priestley Centre. That was a good cause.

So I am very happy,” said Seema Gill.

“It went very well,” said Lynette Shaw McKone. “We raised more than £40 plus £20 from the Melborn, so that’s not bad is it? Even though the performers outnumbered the audience.

“If we had more time to prepare and better advertising we might have got more, but we had less than a week so we did well.”

A view shared by Bruce Barnes, who said: “I really enjoyed tonight. I miss the audience. It’s something that Interchange has got to

work on quite hard to build up audiences.

“It’s a steady process but it means working really hard on the publicity to make sure that it gets to all kinds of different places -- community centres, libraries, doctors surgeries, basically anywhere and everywhere.”

“It was better than I expected it to be,” said Karl Dallas. “That’s because I always approach nearly everything in my life as a kind of optimistic pessimist. I hope for the best and fear the worst.

“The best happened — it was a great evening.”

The Tyke Writer is the monthly newsletter of the Interchange (Bradford Writers’ Network).

For further details of the group, or to get involved, either come down to the Priestley Centre for Arts on Tuesdays from 8pm or contact:

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Web: <http://www.writers-circles.com/interchange>

Editorial contributions welcome, but will be edited for space and style. All contributions must bear the author’s name, which may appear as a byline. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Interchange. Copyright on all work is retained by the original authors.

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