

stanleypickergallery:

Following *Shop Talk* 2015

Welmede Collective *Chaos at the Cornershop* Inspired by *Shop Talk (2015)* and *Charlotte Bergson: The Hunters of the Invisible – ‘The Zone’* Celebration Event Wed 2 March 4-7pm / All Welcome

Featuring artwork by Jack Churchyard, Katy Lines, Michael Chambers & Molly Haughton, with special contributions from Andrew Stride, Chin Up, project leader Natalie Kay & animator, Lauren Veevers.

Following a successful collaboration – *Shop Talk* – in Autumn 2015, Stanley Picker Gallery are delighted to welcome back members of the Welmede Artists Collective to develop the narratives created during their inaugural project into an animation – *Chaos at the Cornershop*, which will be premiered online and onsite in the Stanley Picker Gallery Lobby 2 March 2016.

Welmede Artist Collective is comprised of five emerging talents from across the borough and beyond, participating in association with Welmede - a person-centred housing and support organisation, passionate about supporting people with disabilities to pursue their chosen lifestyle. The animators presenting *Chaos at the Cornershop* enlisted in a programme of gallery-based workshop programme ‘Your Time’ Welmede’s social and leisure activity service, facilitated by artist Andrew Stride who has previously worked on a one-to-one and group basis with each of the artists on a variety of activities.

During the programme, with workshops tailored to meet the interests and requirements of individuals, the up and coming artists have been learning about different types animation with professional animator and Kingston University Animation and Illustration graduate, Lauren Veevers – “we could not have done it without her!”.

The collective re-kindled discussion – or *Shop Talk* - regarding ‘Welmede Convenience Store’- its aesthetic, stock and colourful customers, of whom Artists have shared their personal feelings about what their characters ‘did next’ and offered potential storylines. As research, artists explored Stanley Picker Gallery’s current exhibition *Charlotte Bergson: The Hunters of the Invisible*, which similarly deals with meta-fictional and fantastical narratives staged within a parallel world, referred to as the ‘Zone’. Fuelled, ideas were shared and solidified by storyboarding and script-writing, and each scene styled through drawing, collage and discussion. A selection of backdrops and props accompanies the Gallery-based showcase.

Our collective learnt that stop motion animation is a very long and fiddly (although incredibly enjoyable) process, and were there fore only able to complete Chapter 1, titled ‘For whom the bell tolls’, of a much longer story. An overview of the proposed narrative is included within this handout, along with the original *Shop Talk* character biographies.

The Gallery team have been intrigued and impressed by all, and hope that you will enjoy the first instalment of this unique tale.

Chaos at the Cornershop List of Works

Projected film (stop motion animation): *Chaos at the Cornershop* – Chapter 1: For whom the bell tolls

Photographs: Documentation of Welmede Artists Collective in action

Design works: Storyboard, 'to do lists', scenery, characters (Jacob, Leonard, Madame Genevieve, Molly the Fourth and Ratamouse – a rat/mouse) with alternate profiles.

Independent animators storyboards and design work: Jack Churchyard (book), Lauren Veevers (portfolio)

Chaos at the Cornershop Synopsis

Setting: Welmede Convenience Store

Welmede Convenience Store is a 7/11 establishment based in the village of Lingfield, owned and managed by Leonard Dalton and his wife, Sue. It stocks a variety of fresh, packed and practical goods, and welcomes a diversity of loyal local customers. The store has a mouse problem - attracted by crumbs on the floor and tasty cheese – but as result of this and treat-baring customers also drawn in local stray cat, Molly the Fourth, who is 'helping' scare away the uninvited furry guest. Please feel free to browse the stop motion design work and also ask questions. We are happy to help!

Key characters (full biographies overleaf)

Leonard Dalton Shop Keeper

Jacob Dexter Produce supplier and friend of Leonard

Madame Genevieve Customer and psychic

Molly the Fourth Shop cat

Ratamouse A rat/mouse hybrid who hides out in the shop

Chapter 1: For whom the bell tolls

Leonard is watching a football match (Manchester United vs Chelsea) on the television mounted above his shop counter, while Molly the Fourth walks along the counter top.

Jacob and Madame Genevieve enter the shop, as the shop ratamouse, disturbed, scuttles in the background.

Jacob is carrying a basket of goods that he has grown on his allotment, including flowers and hallucinogenic lettuce. These are intended for sale in the shop and handed to Leonard who offers him a beer. They watch the football together.

The television turns to static, then Jeremy Kyle, causing outrage from the viewers, and outstretched arms send objects flying (including a drop of beer in Jacob's eye) and falling.

Meanwhile, Madame Genevieve comes into the scene, ratamouse at her heel. Ratamouse, greedy as ever seizes the opportunity to nibble on a fallen lettuce leaf, and swells in size.

Madame Genevieve observes this – horrified, before her eyes, with psychic vision laser-beam stare, are drawn to the spillage of beer now pooling across the shop floor....

Continued plot

Glancing into the swirling puddle, Madame Genevieve sees a vision of Ratamouse chomping on the entire lettuce, growing ever bigger and causing chaos in the cornershop as he munches stock, knocks down shelves and consumes the customers. Out of the vision she seizes Ratamouse and shoves him in her handbag - a perfect new pet - before swiftly departing Welmede Convenience Store. Leonard and Jacob continue watching the game – what ever was all the fuss about!

Talking Heads Character Biographies

Jack Churchyard *Leonard Dalton*



Leonard is an old soul but a young(ish) man, who at only 35 is the owner and manager of Welmede Convenience Store, open daily 7am-11pm. He lives in a lovely small house behind the shop, with Sue his wife and childhood sweetheart who met while they were studying at Lingfield College. Sue as the Shop Assistant, keeps all ticking over behind the scenes, and her husband well supplied with tea! She also covers the floor on a Sunday afternoon when Manchester United fan Leonard sits down to football and single malt whisky with his pal (despite supporting rival team, Chelsea) Jacob Dexter.

The Dalton's stock and sells a variety of goods - from wrapping paper and cheese, to red wine and golf balls - to their colourful local clientele. Leonard is average height, friendly and wears a long brown coat while at work, although often it goes unnoticed as he sits on a stall behind the checkout. He enjoys his job, chatting to customers in his Essex accent - in particular Madame Genevieve for whom he has a soft spot - and sneaking the 'adopted' shop cat, names Molly the Fourth, special treats for trying to scare away the greedy shop mouse.

Molly Haughton, assisted by Chin Up *Madame Genevieve*



Madame Genevieve, age 50, was raised in France and in her late teens journeyed to the UK via plane, landing in Lingfield airport - and has not looked back since! Madame Genevieve is a fortune teller whose psychic abilities revealed that she would not have a good life in her homeland, hounded by both those who sought to engage her skills and those who sought to slander. However - fun times awaited this feisty, chatty lady in Lingfield with friends such as Amelia and Lucy, who she often goes to the wine bar with - although she has to keep the cocktails away from troublesome twosome on a weekday! Genevieve's favourite tittle is a glass of red or rose wine - particularly with a side dish of fine cheeses, and in possession of a very sweet tooth, she loves turkish delight! 'Fortunately' all of these items are stocked at Welmede Convenience Store.

Genevieve dresses her average height frame in eccentric clothing that goes down well with the sailors (and Alfred the former fisherman) aboard the Waverly paddle steamer where she earns her fair and food with fortunes. These adventures make her an excellent storyteller - and of course as a fortune teller she always knows what punchline her public will find most appealing!

Katy Lines *Amelia*



Amelia is a catwalk model in her early 20's who answers only to her first name. She is a very stylish dresser and tall with fashionable cropped short hair. Amelia was born in New Malden and thanks to work, is very well travelled and has spent a lot of time in trendy capitals such as Milan, Paris and Rome. She met Madame Genevieve while travelling by paddle steamer in Scotland, who convinced her that it would be good fortune to relocate to Lingfield. They have been fantastic friends since, quiet Amelia enjoying the chatty company. Amelia does have a cheeky side though - when she does talk she is straight-talking and not adverse to stirring up trouble! She learnt how to gossip back stage at the catwalks and it is nosiness that draws her into Welmede Convenience Store - well that at the delicious sweets stocked especially for her by a slightly smitten Mr Dalton!

Her frequent visits make her a favourite of Molly the Fourth for whom she keeps posh cat treats in her designer handbag.

Katherine Moreland *Mr Williams, the Gentle Giant*



The gentle giant is a statuesque former boxer in his late-20's – early 30's, who lives alone in a small flat in Lingfield. These days he works as an engineer on London Underground and catches the train into work each day – he often comes home grubby with dirty nails, but has excellent hygiene. On gig nights at the nearby Lingfield racecourse Mr Williams, a rnb and pop fan, works as an event security guard where he one day hopes to watch live his current favourite artist, Chris Brown. On race days, he enjoys watching the horses gallop but would never place a bet – he is careful with his money. He makes cheese and (branstons) pickle sandwiches for work each day, and is proud to shop local in his beloved Lingfield, for all the key ingredients!

In his spare time, and as a fitness fanatic, Mr Williams dons casual attire and hits the gym – this passion for exercise being the reason he became a sportsman in the first place. He also hopes to impress the ladies, in particular Amelia for whom he harbours a secret love.

Mr Williams' older sister Roxanna (Roxy) is a dancer who used to live with Amelia – she is loud and chatty and full of 'helpful advice' that quite Mr William's finds a little overwhelming. Roxy can be a bit bossy, but our gentle giant knows that his sister means well and supposes that with two children (Sophia at 3 years, and Ben age 3 months) she simply can't help herself! Sophia takes after her mum and loves to dress up in last season's clothes discarded by Amelia.

As you can tell, Mr Williams is a busy man – this explains his bedraggled look, and when sleepy treats himself to a protein fuelled battered cod...with a sneaky chip or two on the side. He is happy.

Michael Chambers *Jacob Dexter / Dexter Jacob*



Dexter (aka. Jacob) is a man of mystery...but what we do know is that he is in his 40's and a groundskeeper at Lingfield racecourse where he often spies Mr Williams and Raymond Smiles in a distance.

He keeps an allotment where he grows a variety of vegetables including red hot chillies and hallucinogenic lettuce (for Madame Genevieve) and cut flowers which he sells to Mr Dalton for re-sale at Welmede Convenience Store. He and Leonard are friends and often watch football together, over a whisky or if Chelsea are winning, a pint of stella and packs of crisps (he has a crisp obsession) purchased from the shop out front. He whistles merry tunes loudly while gardening (except when Molly the Fourth is digging up his produce) and yells at the TV on match day and during Jeremy Kyle... but does not realize as he is hard of hearing! He smokes an ornate pipe, and frequently orders chinese takeaway. What a mysterious fellow!

Andrew Stride *Raymond Smiles*



Raymond is a wheeler-dealer, a part time mechanic and 3rd generation safe cracker, who frequently tries to cut a deal and strike a bargain with the kindly Leonard! Leonard doesn't mind as he knows Mr Smiles has never shoplifted.

Raymond moved to Lingfield to escape his past and avoided prison by becoming a snitch and is now living under witness protection. However, in his mid-30's, stocky and wearing his 'trademark' leather trenchcoat he is easy and still gets out and about, a favourite spot being the racecourse where he always places a bet. He also frequents the gym where like the Mr Williams' the gentle giant, he demonstrates his talents as a former boxer. He tends to keep himself to himself, but only Madame Genevieve actively steers clear – she knows that he is trouble!

Natalie Kay *Alfred (Alf) Salt*



Alf is a recently retired fisherman in his mind 50's. Nicknamed 'Gnome', he is an avid reader – Moby Dick inspired him to take to the seas – and is currently speeding his way through *Around the World in 80 Days* with Phileas Fog, although he thinks that he will still prefer the cartoon version featuring 'Willy Fogg' more.

Alf is a troubled soul who spent too long at sea, giving him his weather beaten appearance. He met Madame Genevieve on one of his final voyages, and following an illicit affair she encouraged him to move to Lingfield – famed for its excellent fishing and garden ponds. Alf found this to be true but is not happy with Molly the Fourth who insists on chasing/eating his pet fish!

Alf enjoys the convenience of the Welmede Convenience Store where he purchases spirits, fishing tackle, rope and fish food for his loved and endangered pets.

Welmede Collective *Molly the Fourth (a cat)*



Molly the Fourth is the only ginger cat living in Lingfield. She has a white flash of fur across her fluffy body. Molly is a fairly lazy feline and was drawn into Welmede Convenience Store by the shop mouse, who himself a chubby fellow, was attracted by the crumbs spilt by customers munching biscuits and cheese on the go! She is too lazy to catch the mouse however, but rather prefers to sit in the sunny window enticing strokes from gullible customers, and where she is extra lucky, a tasty treat or two! Amelia's are always the best!

During quiet periods, if desperate Molly will go fishing in Alf's pond or dig up Jacob Dexter's allotment. Although causing trouble, this act of mischief actually brought the two quiet men together, and now firm friends they are plotting, along with Mr Dalton, how to get rid of her!

Creative Partners

Welmede is a South West London-based not for profit charity and widely regarded as one of the most significant and respected providers of housing and support in the area offering person centred support services to individuals with a wide diversity of needs including learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs.
www.welmede.org.uk

Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University is dedicated to the development and production of interdisciplinary contemporary art and design practice and presents a regular programme of onsite, offsite and online fellowships, exhibitions, participatory projects and events. www.stanleypickergallery.org

For more information please contact Natalie Kay on 020 8417 4074 or email n.kay@kingston.ac.uk

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