

- > **Home**
- > Parzival
- > As You Like It
- > Other News

# mythodrama PROJECTS

## Activating the Power of Mythodrama

### An Intro from Richard Olivier



Welcome to the first newsletter of our new experimental division; Mythodrama Projects. We are dedicated to exploring effective applications of mythodramatic work outside the field of management and leadership development (the core focus of our parent Olivier Mythodrama).

We use the proven techniques of our successful leadership development programmes: mythology, archetypal psychology, philosophy, dialogue and dramatic technique; adding a more personal learning focus and symbolic group process work - to create unique and transformative Mythodramatic events.

This exciting new area of work is not-for-profit and is aimed specifically at individuals, groups and communities dedicated to leaving the world a better place and seeking to develop their potential to deliver.

### In this edition...

#### **Parzival - Men & The Quest** **“As You Like It” - The Journey to Sustainable Leadership**

We have been exploring 2 key myths to date; Parzival - Men & The Quest (as personal and spiritual development for men) and “As You Like It” - The Journey to Sustainable Leadership (as personal and community development for women and men) and are extremely excited about the fruit they are beginning to yield.

#### **Other News...**

- > Positive Energy Conference
- > Ethical Leadership
- > Calendar of Events
- > Our Partners

# Parzival

- > Home
- > **Parzival**
- > As You Like It
- > Other News

## An Evolutionary Journey for the 21st Century

**Parzival and the Quest for the elusive Holy Grail is one of the great stories in world literature, but it really does seem to be a myth for our time:**



A young man, cosseted by his mother away from a violent world, one day meets 3 Knights in armour and believes that he has found his destiny. He pursues success in his chosen field with enormous determination, finding a tutor when he needs one but never noticing the damage that he leaves behind him. After rescuing the Lady Blancefleur from a terrible siege, he falls in love and marries her. Thinking himself now invincible (a master of the universe perhaps?) he goes off to find his mother, but

loses his way, eventually stumbling, as if by accident, into a mysterious castle. Here he meets the wounded Fisher King, Anfortas, who persistently suffers from a poisonous lance wound in his thigh, who is also guardian of the Grail - "a stone from heaven" which has mysterious power to restore, heal and feed all those in its presence. Parzival is entranced by the Grail, but fails to ask an all important question that would free the King from his suffering and the land from the wasteland it has become. When he leaves he is then

plunged into the wasteland himself as the hidden cost of his previous deeds begin to catch up with him - including the death of his mother, who died of a broken heart the moment he left. Just as he is about to be Knighted for his warrior prowess, Cundrie the Sorceress publicly accuses him of all the crimes we now know he unknowingly committed and he leaves King Arthur's court in doubt and despair, determined not to return until he has found the grail again. After years of wandering he finally "lets go of the reins" and his trusty horse brings him to a hermit's cave when he meets Trevrizent. This kindly old man becomes a mentor to Parzival, teaching him, among other pieces of wisdom, that "we are what we make of our pain". Once Parzival has taken these lessons to heart, he is ready to find the Grail castle once more - this time he opens his heart to the suffering therein and earns his own place as a guardian of the Grail.

We work with the myth both as a piece of drama and as a wisdom story, combining philosophical inquiry with psychological insight and rehearsal techniques to allow men to open up to the notion of "the Quest" in their lives. Quests are often defined by the questions they prompt - and this myth provides plenty: What that is unhealed do you bring with you from your past - that might be blocking the way ahead? What are you seeking - and is it the 'right thing' for you to seek? What is success - and how do you distinguish ego from soul in its pursuit? Who do you listen to - and when might you need to ignore others wishes to be truly yourself? How do we go about a modern grail quest in a culture engulfed by a wasteland of collective greed and unconsciousness?

Michael Boyle and I have been exploring this story for many years and are delighted to be

working with Chris Parish and Linus Roach on our next outing in June. Long time students of spiritual teacher Andrew Cohen and experts in the field of Evolutionary Enlightenment, they will bring a leading edge modern philosophical context to this extraordinary story.

Michael and I met in the early 1990's when both of us were engaged in the first wave of Mythopoetic men's development work in the U.K., inspired by Robert Bly, who taught us how to use story and poetry to access normally hidden parts of the psyche and to move beyond the purely rational realm. EnlightenNext has recently done fascinating action research into the difference between Men' and Women's approaches to learning, emotion and spirit.

> [Enlightenment magazine, Issue 41](#)  
[Constructing the New Man](#)

Our intention is that together we can create a context, a forum and a format for the next generation of Men's work. You are warmly invited to participate in a stimulating and intense learning environment with us.

Date: 5th - 7th June 2009  
 Venue: EnlightenNext London

> [Click here for further information](#)  
 > [Click here to download Event Flyer](#)

If you are interested in a longer immersion in this myth please see the Men & The Quest programme in collaboration with Oak Business Coaching, Holland

> [Click here for further information](#)

- > Home
- > Parzival
- > **As You Like It**
- > Other News

# “As You Like It”

## The Journey to Sustainable Leadership

The title is a clue - this engaging Shakespearean comedy can be taken as you wish; a bawdy romp in the forest or an esoteric myth of renewal and regeneration. At Findhorn in the first week of August, along with archetypal astrologer Laurence Hillman, storyteller Geoff Mead, consultant Robin Alfred and clown Lesley Quilty, I will be leading a full immersion mythodrama into the myth of renewal (bawdy romps optional for self selecting participants!).

No prior knowledge of the story or of Shakespeare is required; the plot provides us with a narrative adventure that we collectively live through as a group. Though pieces of the play may be represented along the way, the key to Mythodrama is that we apply the learning from the story to

our own lives and particularly to our own struggles for renewal in difficult times. We will work both personally and collectively during our time together; mirroring the old wisdom “As above, so below”. We will investigate what is currently concerning us in our lives and in our world and then venture into the “Forest of Arden” to seek a wise remedy from the healing teaching we can find there, provided by the uniquely powerful combination of nature, art and philosophy.

Shakespeare was a master of many disciplines, including Astrology, and we are particularly delighted to be welcoming Laurence Hillman (and archetypal astrology) into a mythodrama event for the first time. > [www.lhillman.com](http://www.lhillman.com)

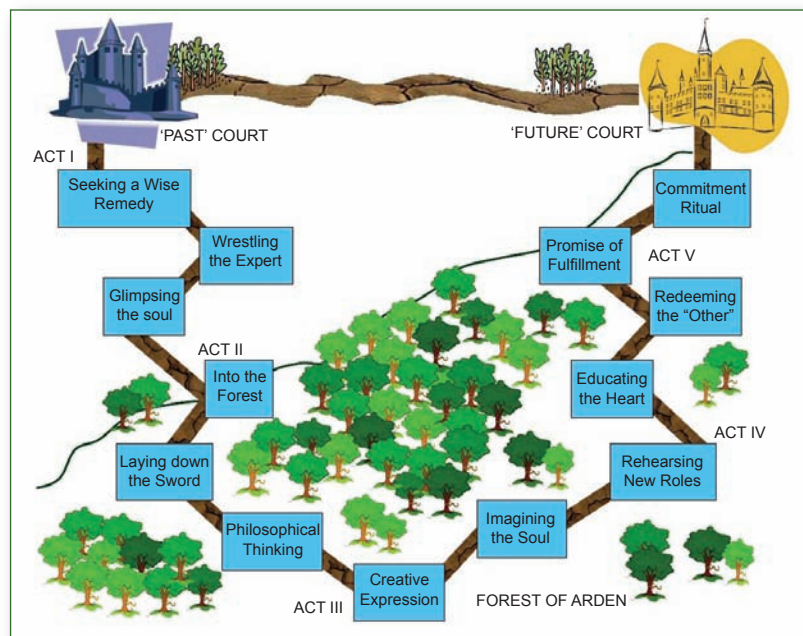
Shakespeare often gives his characters a “planetary” energy to embody, and in this tale he also sets astrology at the philosophical centre of the piece; the “7 ages of man” also reflecting the 7 planets of Elizabethan astrology. We will apply this learning to our own time and uncover some of the mysteries of the Aquarian Age. From this perspective we will see the current global crisis as an important precursor to the possibilities that lie ahead, if we are awake to them.

Participants will also have the opportunity to get a personal astrological reading before the workshop and to participate in a unique coaching process during it. This process is designed to uncover key life tensions and to provide a positive potential beyond them.

This high level immersion into a healing myth is transformational and can be life changing. If you are ready for a time of renewal or looking for a place to regenerate, please come and join us for this residential adventure...

Date: 1st - 7th August 2009  
 Venue: Findhorn Foundation, Scotland

> [Click here for further information](#)



The Journey of Renewal in “As You Like It”

- > Home
- > Parzival
- > As You Like It
- > **Other News**

## Other News...

### Positive Energy Conference

Richard will be collaborating with wisdom poet David Whyte and co-leading a 2 ½ day workshop to open the Findhorn Positive Energy conference in October. If you are interested in ecological and sustainable issues this will be an extraordinary conference. Please check it out...

Date: 3rd - 9th October 2009  
Venue: Findhorn Foundation, Scotland

- > [Click here for further information](#)
- > [Click here to download Programme Flyer](#)

## Watch this space...

### Ethical Leadership Lessons from Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'

Richard, Robin Alfred and Michael Boyle are planning a residential mythodrama on "Ethical Leadership - lessons from Shakespeare's Macbeth" in spring/summer 2010. Details to follow.

## Our Partners...

### A Band of Brothers

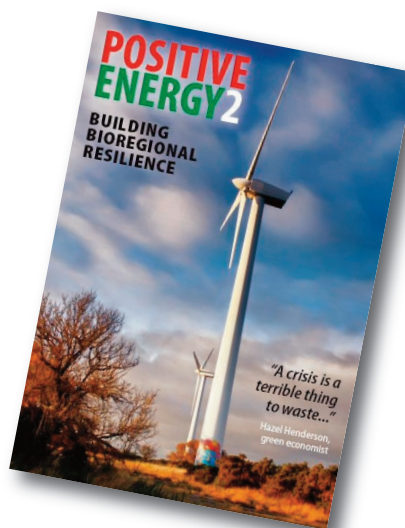
A charitable fellowship of men committed to supporting young men to live lives of integrity, community, purpose and meaning.

- > [Find out more](#)

### Contender Charlie

Runs events involving Mythodrama and other theatre techniques for staff and students in schools across the country and is led by our Senior Associate Ben Walden.

- > [Find out more](#)



## Calendar of Events 2009

**Parzival - Men & The Quest, UK**  
5th - 7th June

**As You Like - Journey to Sustainable Leadership**  
1st - 7th August

**Parzival - Men & The Quest, Holland**  
30th August - 3rd September

**Positive Energy Conference**  
3rd - 9th October

### Transition Towns Network

It's a WIKI for use by all the communities that have adopted the Transition Model for responding positively and creatively to the twin challenges of Peak Oil and Climate Change.

- > [Find out more](#)