

# street life

## VENDOR AND HOMELESSNESS NEWS

### Shakespeare taken to the street



A vendor of *The Big Issue* in the North is among a group of people with experience of homelessness who are about to take centre stage with their version of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Danny May, who sells *The Big Issue in the North* in Manchester, is one of the cast presenting the modern-day multimedia version of the Bard's work, entitled *Dream On The Streets*, at the Zion Arts Centre in Hulme, Manchester.

The performance is the brainchild of producer and director Lauren Tomlinson, who



Scenes from the filming of *Dream On The Streets*, with Danny May sleeping

has regularly worked with homeless people through her company *Acting On Impulse*, formed in 2007 after she spent a night on the streets listening to the stories of people gathering round soup vans.

### **Tomlinson often works with homeless people**

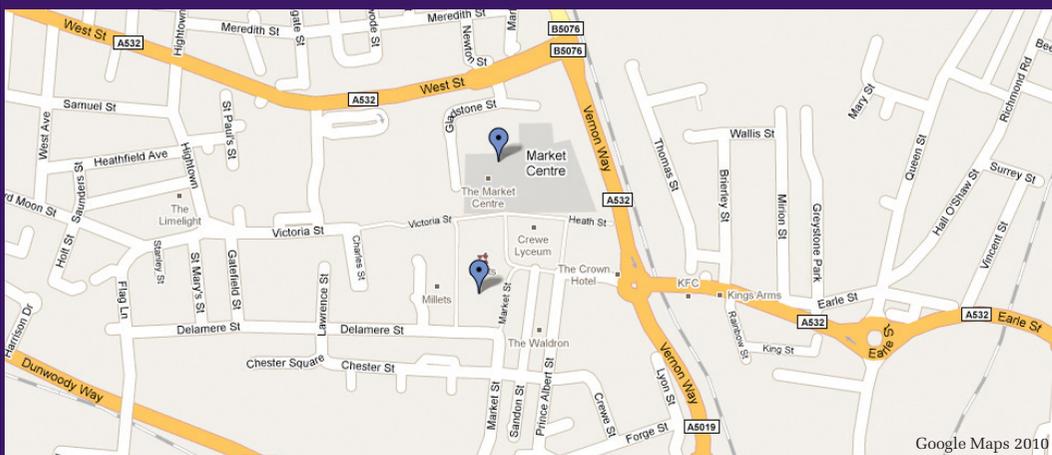
A trained actor, she has so far concentrated on making gritty films including *Humanitas* and *Under The Tracks* – also featuring May – that were shown on the film festival circuit and nominated for awards.

Asked how rehearsals were faring, Tomlinson said: "Come and see for yourselves. Learning lines and getting to rehearsals when you've slept under the arches the night before is just one of the many issues some of our actors have had to face."

Tomlinson, now a producer with Salford film company *Finite Productions*, is also working on her next project, a feature film entitled *Close To The Edge*, a collaboration between *Acting on Impulse*, *Finite Productions* and the *Film Council*.

***Dream On The Streets* is at the Zion Arts Centre in Hulme at 7.30pm on 15 May.**

### Find your vendor in... Crewe



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