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Milton Keynes Theatre Creative Learning for Schools 2017-2018

Show Related Workshops

Show related workshops are available for any of the shows below, taking place on our theatre stage or in our backstage dance studio during weekdays.

- Cost - £100 for a one hour workshop for up to 25 students (multiple workshops can be organised for larger class sizes).
- Workshops can be combined with a theatre backstage tour on a Wednesday morning, with the opportunity to see a midweek matinee performance afterwards.
- Backstage tours cost £50 for up to 25 students.

Dance

**Matthew Bourne's
'Cinderella'**
Tues 13 – Sat 17 Feb
'18

Drama

**National Theatre's
Jane Eyre**
Mon 10 – Sat 15 Jul

**A Judgement in
Stone**
Mon 24 – Sat 29 Jul

La Cage Aux Folles
Tues 8 – Sat 12 Aug

**The Curious Incident
of the Dog in the
Night Time**
Mon 4 – Sat 16 Sep

**National Theatre's
Hedda Gabler**
Tues 27 Feb – Sat 3
March '18

War Horse
Wed 19 Sep – Sat 6
Oct '18

Musicals

Evita
23 –
27 May

**Dreamboats &
Petticoats**
Mon 3 –
Sat 8 Jul

Grease
Mon 28 Aug –
Sat 2 Sep

Cilla- The Musical
Tues 26 –
Sat 30 Sep

The Adams Family
Tues 24 –
Sat 28 Oct

Sunset Boulevard
Tues 28 Nov –
Sat 2 Dec

Hairspray
Mon 9 – Sat 14 April
'18

**Legally Blonde- The
Musical**
Mon 28 May –
Sat 2 June '18

Shrek The Musical
Wed 25 Jul –
Sun 5 Aug '18

Billy Elliot
30 May –
17 June

Wonderland
Mon 17 –
Sat 22 Jul

**Bring it On The
Musical**
Wed 20 –
Sat 23 Sep

Blood Brothers
Mon 2 –
Sat 7 Oct

Cabaret
Tues 31 Oct –
Sat 4 Nov

Jersey Boys
Tues 23 Jan –
Sat 3 Feb '18

**Matilda the
Musical (UK tour)**
Tues 5 – Sat 30
June '18

Flashdance
Mon 16 –
Sat 21 Jul '18

Pantomime

Cinderella
Sat 9 Dec – Sun 14 Jan
'18
Relaxed Performance
Wed 10 Jan '18 1pm

Opera

Glyndebourne
Tues 21 – Fri 24 Nov

Welsh National Opera
Wed 4 – Fri 6 April '18

Children's Shows

Awful Auntie
Wed 8 – Sun 12 Nov

Upcoming Special Projects delivered by the National Theatre

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time- Insight Session

An hour-long interactive insight into different aspects of the current production led by Kim Pearce (Resident Director on both UK Tours of *Curious Incident*). Please choose one of the following options for the main focus of your event:

- **Inside the Rehearsal Room;** an overview of how the creative team worked collaboratively to bring the production to life; including practical interactive demonstrations of how both actors and director work during rehearsal to unlock the script.
- **Technical In Focus;** a multi-media insight into the processes used by the design team when imagining this production for the first time; and how the audio/visual elements have evolved in line with the staging from in-the-round to proscenium arch.
- **From Novel to Play;** a practical session using writing exercises to explore how dialogue, character, comedy and tension can be shaped through deeper exploration of the novel.

Suitable for any group seeing the production

Spaces Available min 20- max 90

Date and Time: Any weekday (time negotiable) during the run of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

Venue: Our venues, or your group's school or venue (on request)

Cost: £25* per student (plus additional travel costs if at your group's venue)

Jane Eyre - Devising workshop

Director Sally Cookson's adaptation focuses on the life-story rather than love story of Jane Eyre. This highly practical workshop, led by a member of the play's creative team, looks at how this text was brought to life through the devising process and provides opportunities to find the voice of well-known characters and much-loved storylines through movement, music and improvisation.

Suitable for KS4-5 drama students

Spaces Available 20

Date and Time: Wednesday 12th July 2017 (10.45am-1pm, plus 2pm performance)

Venue: Theatre

Cost £22.50* per student

War Horse- Puppetry Workshop

Designed to give participants hands-on experience of how the horses in the play are brought to life through puppetry. This workshop will be run by National Theatre practitioners who have worked as performers and puppeteers in the production which gives students a unique insight into the play's rehearsal processes.

Suitable for anyone who has seen or is seeing the production

Spaces Available min 15- max 20 (*larger groups can be accommodated at your own venue*)

Date and Time: Any day/time during the run of the production

Venue: Our venue, or your group's school or venue (on request)

Cost: £33.50* per student (plus additional travel costs if at your group's venue)

War Horse- 'Page to Stage'

These onstage pre-show events are specifically designed to unlock the extraordinary learning opportunities of the production. Participants will have the unique experience of interacting with the *War Horse* Creative and Acting Company and the National Theatre's Learning Team to explore some of the background principles of puppetry, the rehearsal and technical processes that have brought this magical production to life, as well as a chance to ask questions of company members at the end.

Suitable for ages 10+

Spaces Available min 100- max 400

Date and Time: Wed 26 Sep 2018 (10.45am-12.15pm)

Venue: Theatre

Cost £25* per student

**This includes the cost of a ticket to the show. Dates and times for school rates may vary. Minimum booking of 10 student places required- to include 1 free teacher place. Please contact mkcreative@theambassadors.com for further details.*

Theatrical Workshops

Our theatrical workshops take place in our backstage theatre studio; alternatively, we can send our practitioners out to your school (travel expenses will be charged). We can tailor our workshops to all key stages and abilities on request. Our workshops last from a minimum of one hour up to a full day of bespoke activities. Below is an example of just some of the workshops we can deliver:

- Shakespeare Simplified
- Scriptwriting
- Drama & Improvisation
- Theatrical Practitioners (eg: Brecht, Stanislavski, Artaud, etc)
- Musical Theatre
- Physical Theatre
- Devising Skills
- Poetry
- Directing
- Puppetry
- Dance
- Theatrical Make-up
- Circus Skills
- Costume/Dressing
- Technical Theatre: lighting/ sound design

Arts Award

We are an Arts Award centre delivering this recognised arts qualification at Discover, Explore, Bronze, Silver and Gold levels; helping schools to achieve Artsmark status and rewarding students for their engagement with Arts activities.

For more information on how you can get involved with Arts Award or if you would like us to support your upcoming project please contact our Creative Learning Manager, Kelley Evans, at kellevevans@theambassadors.com or 01908 547651.

Upcoming Theatrical Workshops

Technical Theatre Workshop

This practical hands-on workshop, led by an experienced lighting and sound technician, will give participants the opportunity to not only work alongside an expert in the field of technical theatre, but offers the ability to experiment with lighting and sound equipment.

Workshop content covered;

- Different types of lights and their function with an opportunity to handle them and operate them.
- Accessories of lights (shutters/ barn doors, and how gobo's are used not just in theatre but other aspects of life)
- Experimenting with colours of lights and the effect they give.
- Looking at the difference between Abstract and Naturalistic lighting
- Experimenting with angles of lighting and their effect.
- Exploring lighting design and plotting
- Exploring parts of a sound system
- Reviewing the purpose of sound in a performance
- Investigating types of microphones and parts of a mixing desk
- Looking at cue sheets of how to link it all together.
- Lighting and Sound in practice- in a small 'in house' show.
- Analysis of all technical elements of the show.

Suitable for Ages 12+

Spaces Available: 16

Date and Time: Saturday 20th May 2017 (1-5pm)

Venue: Hennessy Room, Milton Keynes Theatre

Cost: £25 per person

Bespoke 'Blood Brothers' workshops

Our theatrical workshop takes place in our backstage theatre studio; alternatively, we can send our practitioners out to your school (travel expenses will be charged). We can tailor our workshops to all key stages and abilities on request, to meet your individual curriculum needs. Our workshops last 2 hours and we are able to focus on any key aspects of the production. Popular examples are;

- Acting and Performance- focusing on developing physical and vocal characterisation.
- Technical theatre workshops- looking at design choice, semiotics and interpreting for meaning.
- Exploring themes and issues through the practical process.
- Exploring the key roles in the production: - the narrator, the mother, the twins.
- Supporting Live Theatre Evaluation course component.

We are able to offer individuals focus' or a range in each workshop- depending on your students/ curriculum requirements.

Suitable for any group seeing the production (recommended age 10+)

Spaces Available min 10- max 20 (*larger groups can be accommodated at your own venue*)

Date and Time: Any weekday (time negotiable) during the run of *Blood Brothers*

Venue: Our venue, or your group's school or venue (on request)

Cost: £33* per student (plus additional travel costs if at your group's venue)

**This includes the cost of a ticket to the show. Dates and times for school rates may vary. Minimum booking of 10 student places required- to include 1 free teacher place. Please contact mkcreative@theambassadors.com for further details.*

'Bronze Arts Award' Workshop in Collaboration with English National Ballet

Milton Keynes Theatre is a registered Arts Award centre and we are offering the opportunity for your students to gain the 'Bronze' Arts Award through this unique collaboration with 'English National Ballet'.

This morning workshop includes;

- Practical dance workshops with a member of the ENB team.
- In-house performance sharing sessions with workshop participants.
- Q&A sessions with members of the cast, allowing participants opportunity to gain insight into the day-to-day life of a professional dancer in a world-class ballet company.
- Opportunity to watch English National Ballet dancers warm up for the performance in their daily class
- Time for students to reflect and begin the process of developing their Arts Award portfolio.
- Tickets to the matinee performance of 'Song of the Earth and La Sylphide'

As part of this workshop we offer post-workshop support to students/ teachers, to ensure students have completed all necessary aspects of the award. This includes the opportunity for students to be entered for moderation via the Creative Learning team at Milton Keynes theatre.

Suitable for any student looking to gain an Arts Award qualification, with a focus on the dance medium

Spaces Available: 30

Date and Time: Thursday 19th October 2017 (8.45-1.30pm, plus 2.30pm performance)

Venue: Theatre

Cost: £27.50 per student (*this includes a ticket to the matinee performance of English National Ballet's 'Song Of The Earth / La Sylphide' and post workshop access to our in-house Arts Award team to support in preparation for moderation*).

Students are asked to bring their own packed lunch as this will not be provided.

For further information about English National Ballet visit www.ballet.org.uk

Please note: This activity is designed to provide an opportunity for student's to engage with dance and a platform to work on their Arts Award portfolio. Milton Keynes Theatre takes no responsibility for work not submitted for final moderation. Dates and further information is available upon request/ or at time of booking.

Digital School Resource Packs

If you book a show related workshop, combined with tickets for the performance, we can provide you with a pre-visit resource pack. This will be formatted into a "single/double lesson" PowerPoint presentation, allowing you to fully prepare your students in the lead up to their visit with us.

Behind the Scenes Days

Designed for larger school groups, our popular **Behind the Scenes Days** consist of three theatrical workshops of your choice and a backstage tour, giving students a real insight into the workings of one of the most successful regional theatres.

- Only available on Fridays (subject to availability)
- Minimum 40 students, maximum 80 students
- Cost - 40+ £15 per student, 60+ £10 per student

Career Days

Career days are aimed at GCSE, A Level and BTEC (or equivalent) level Performing Arts students. The day consists of a theatre backstage tour, career presentations and the opportunity to meet with members of staff at MK Theatre focusing on their pathway into the industry. This is offered with the option of watching a midweek matinee performance.

Aims of the Career Day:

- Exposure to possible career paths and wider understanding of job roles in theatre.
- To develop interest in areas of employment, which may not have previously been considered
- Information on the qualifications and/or experience required for specific job roles

- Only available on Wednesday (subject to availability)
- Maximum 25 students, minimum of 8.
- Cost £10 per student + cost of matinee show ticket (varies depending on show)

Backstage Tours

Theatre backstage tours are available for school groups Wed – Fri morning from 10.15- 11.15am (subject to permission from visiting production company).

- Tours cost £50 for up to 25 students

Theatre Talks

We are able to deliver talks on anything and everything theatrical; from theatre marketing, theatre customer service, careers in theatre to the history of theatre and pantomime. Talks can be delivered at the theatre or in school.

Talks cost £100 for up to 60 students.

Contact Information

For further information on Creative Learning activities for schools please contact Milton Keynes Theatre Creative Learning Department:

Kelley Evans – Creative Learning Manager (maternity cover)
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Michelle Breeze – Creative Learning Assistant
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