

Play-in-a-Day Workshops

Overview

London Grey & Green Theatre Company's 'Play-in-a-Day' workshops are bespoke all-day drama workshops for primary and secondary schools (KS2 and KS3). This project enables pupils to work with an experienced practitioner on the creation of a short piece of theatre. It is run by Artistic Director Charlie Ely and Associate Director Tessa Shrubbsall; both are professional theatre directors who have a passion for and significant experience in working with children, including with Questor's Youth Theatre, Peaceful Lion Productions, Shakespeare's Schools Festival and as primary school teachers.

Each workshop is tailored to a specific year group, their curriculum and chosen thematic emphasis. For example we have produced 'Play-in-a-Day's with Year 5 students based on Michael Morpurgo stories and with Year 8 based on Shakespeare.

Our plays are roughly scripted, yet have room for development and improvisation in rehearsals. They are produced using a variety of stylistic techniques, including choral speech, mime and abstract movement. We also work on exercises that help with focus, concentration and confidence. We aim to give pupils a taste of how rehearsals are actually run for professional actors. We also aim to challenge them intellectually, through methods including: discussing the meanings of the source materials and making sure everyone has lines to say - resulting in passionate, thoughtful performances rather than simplistic, polished ones.

In our workshops we will demonstrate how to engage with learning both creatively and performatively, and most importantly we hope to give the pupils a thoroughly enjoyable and unforgettable day!

How the day works

- After registration we gather all the children together to brief them on how the day will work, our expectations for their behaviour and health and safety.
- We lead the children in vocal and movement warm up exercises.
- We lead them through concentration and focus exercises.
- After break-time we begin rehearsing the play.
- After lunch-time we pull all the scenes together to do a run-through and a dress rehearsal.
- The day culminates in the children sharing their work after school, with a performance of approximately 20 minutes – to other forms and / or to parents, as the school chooses.



Each director works with a group of a maximum of thirty children. We are able to have two directors working with different groups on the same day, if the school has two appropriately large enough rooms in which to work. We recommend that the pupils are in mixed groups, rather than form groups, to allow them to feel freer in working with new people.

Learning Outcomes

- Responding to performance, and presenting it to others
- Expressing and communicating ideas, thoughts and feelings
- Adapting and maintaining different roles, experimenting with movement, expression and voice
- Teamwork skills
- Individual confidence and public speaking skills
- Increased understanding of historical / topical issues
- Ignited / fuelled awareness of and an enthusiasm for approaching learning creatively



Testimonials and feedback

From Jo Penhale, Head of Extra-curricular Activities and Head of Marketing at Maltman's Green School:

"The girls had a really full and fun-filled day which culminated in two linked performances of 'This Morning I Met a Whale' and 'Homecoming' for parents and teachers. We were so pleased with the experience that London Grey & Green provided for our girls that we booked them immediately for 2015."

From pupils at Maltman's Green School:

"It gave me more confidence for my drama exam in a few weeks"
Cleony, Year 5

"It was a really good experience, I liked the way we used our bodies instead of props to make the Whale"
Milly, Year 5

"Everybody got a part and didn't get left out and that prevented arguments. They used different people for the same part – fun!"
Emma and Rosie, Year 5

"Really fun and enjoyable. I haven't read the book but now I would like to. I really liked it!"
Faye, Year 5

Rates

£200 per day for 1 Director to work with 1 group (up to 30 children)

£360 per day for 2 Directors to work with 2 groups (up to 60 children) *10% discount*

£640 for 2 Directors for 2 days to work with 4 groups (up to 120 children total) *20% discount*

Contacting Us

Please email us at info@greyandgreentheatre.co.uk or call Charlie Ely on **07739022555** to discuss any further details and to book. Bookings must be confirmed at least one month in advance of the desired date.

We look forward to hearing from you!