

LICHFIELD
GARRICK
THEATRE & STUDIO

Schools Pack

A year of FREE activities and
resources for schools



GARRICK20

Celebrating the past, present and
future of live theatre in Lichfield



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Introduction

To celebrate our 20th Anniversary, we're planning to visit 20 schools in the Lichfield area with a range of **FREE** theatre activities and resources, and to launch our brand new **IGNITE FESTIVAL**, welcoming primary and secondary schools to the theatre to showcase the creativity of their children and young people.

Help us celebrate our birthday this year by giving your students access to a working theatre, open their eyes to potential future careers, or just take the chance to boost their confidence with some fun drama activities. From tours to talks, workshops to tailor-made masterclasses, you can access whatever your students need, totally free of charge. Just get in touch and we'll look to make it happen.

Inside this pack you'll find suggested workshops that you might be interested in booking, along with further information about the **IGNITE FESTIVAL**. We hope that something catches your eye and that you'll drop us a line to book a creative activity for your school!

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Backstage Tours

Have you ever wondered what happens backstage?

Learn all about how a theatre works with one of our backstage tours!

Let a member of our professional team lead you and your group around the whole theatre, and learn all about lighting, sound, stage management - you will even get to stand on stage and see the theatre as the acts see it! You will also get to see our dressing rooms, how sets are stored, and what it's like to be a member of the backstage crew.

With a focus on how shows really come together, inspire your class with this fantastic trip.

Lasting up to an hour and a half with Q&A session at the end.



Introduction to Theatre

Introduce your class to theatre with this building tour/workshop, all in an afternoon!

Start off with a guided tour of the theatre, learning lots of backstage secrets, and then enjoy a theatre workshop introducing your class to the basics of acting and stagecraft in one of our fantastic theatre spaces!

We also offer introductions to Musical Theatre, Dance, and Technical Theatre.

Classroom Talks

We can offer a talk to your class about careers in theatre and answer any questions individuals might have. Learn what it means to be a creative and learn about some jobs you might not know about in the arts sector – they might just be a perfect fit for some of your students!

We can discuss backstage, sound, lighting, set, special effects, costume, the auditorium, and much more.

Job roles include Stage Manager, Stagehand, Set Builder, Lighting Designer, Lighting Engineer, Sound Technician, and Chaperone.



Primary Workshops

Storytelling	
Theme	Can be tailored
Aim	Help students learn about telling stories - how to structure, redraft and tell your stories in an active way.
Keywords	Storytelling, projection, diction, character, performance.
Cross Curricular Links	Communication, confidence.
Example Activities	<p>Theme: WW2 Welcome games and activities to warm up. Images as stimuli - freeze frames/scenes/hot seating/ character/role play.</p> <p>Questioning: <i>How are they feeling? What is happening in this moment?</i> Perform and comment on presentation. <i>What skills can we add?</i> <i>How should we stand? What facial expressions can we explore?</i> <i>Can we hear you? How can we improve our speech?</i> Perform again. (Lots of positive reinforcement with performance and group work to encourage confidence.)</p>

Let's Create!	
Theme	Theatre
Aim	A whistle-stop tour of all the different areas of theatre, with lots of games, creative activities, and fun!
Keywords	Theatre, devising, character, facial expression, body language, company, monologue.
Cross Curricular Links	Confidence, teamwork, sole performer, creator.
Example Activities	<p>Exploration of key words through a single stimulus such as an image, song, or word.</p> <p>Example: Image of a school bus Recreate the image of the bus using your bodies – freeze frame. Recreate the sounds that might be in the picture – sound scape. Create a scene that leads up to this image – role play.</p> <p>Questioning: <i>Who is on the bus? Where are they going? How do they feel?</i></p>

Bringing Books to Life	
Theme	Tailored to the relevant text for your class
Aim	Get students engaged in your class's set text by working with a facilitator to get the story up on its feet, embody the characters, create atmosphere, and bring the story to life.
Keywords	Character, atmosphere, story.
Cross Curricular Links	Communication, explanation, imagination.
Example Activities	<p>Theme: The Three Little Pigs Read through the story – literary skills. Group of 4 are each given a section of the story to recreate – role play. <i>Which character are you?</i> - character and hot seating. Explore facial expression and body language through silent performance to music. Retell the story using only sound effects. Piece this all together as a group using characters, narrators, and sound scape artists.</p>

Shakespeare for Kids	
Theme	Any Shakespeare play
Aim	Engage students with the story of the play using modern-day English to tell the story. Confidently perform a revised/ modern version of the play with an understanding of its narrative.
Keywords	Shakespeare, character, narrator.
Cross Curricular Links	Transition to secondary school.
Example Activities	<p>Theme: A Midsummer Night's Dream. Explore the story using simple characters, narrative, images, and costume. Recreate scene settings using role play and music – grand home, forest, fairy den. Explore speech and presentation as a narrator – projection.</p>

Secondary Workshops

Let's Create!

Theme	Theatre
Aim	A whistle-stop tour of all of the different areas of theatre, with lots of games, creative activities and fun!
Keywords	Theatre, devising, character, facial expression, body language, company, monologue.
Cross Curricular Links	GCSE Drama, A-level Drama and Theatre, BTEC performance modules. Devising modules.
Example Activities	<p>Exploration of key words through a single stimulus such as an image, song or word.</p> <p>Example: TikTok Create a short documentary explaining what TikTok is. <i>What is the important information? How will you present this? What style will it be in? Advert/ news report?</i></p> <p>Explore the different characters who use TikTok. <i>Who are they? Why do they use it? What does a day in their life look like?</i> Show the effect it has on this person over time – freeze frames.</p> <p>Explore the exaggerated body language and facial expression of your character (1–10 activities).</p> <p>Monologue and internal thought activities to encourage solo performance.</p>

Bringing Texts to Life

Theme	Tailored to your text in class.
Aim	Get students engaged in your class's set text by working with a facilitator to get the story up on its feet, embody the characters, create atmosphere, and bring the story to life. To explore the text's themes and think critically about the text.
Keywords	Character, atmosphere, story.
Cross Curricular Links	English Literature, Performing Arts, Communication, explanation, imagination.
Example Activities	<p>Theme: An Inspector Calls Exploration of story line through role play. Character discussions and performance using hot seating, body language and facial expression exercises. Timeline the change of emotions for characters. Explore the text using different acting styles – naturalistic vs melodrama.</p>

Understanding Shakespeare

Theme	Any Shakespeare play.
Aim	Engage students with the story of the play and help them understand the language used. Engage with the context of when the plays were written, and what they were written for. To understand the themes of the plays, character intentions and Shakespeare's style (e.g. foreshadowing)
Keywords	Language, themes, storyline, character.
Cross Curricular Links	English Literature, English Language, History, Drama.
Example Activities	<p>Text: Macbeth Explore the emotions and atmosphere of the writing through music. Timeline the changing emotions of the characters. Establish and role play the key moments of the text. Introduce sections of the script in these key moments. First explore them through freeze frames and key language – lead up to performing the scene.</p>

Devising

Theme	Starting and refining devised work.
Aim	Help students gain confidence with Devising their own work, working to a brief, and how to explore ideas physically, as opposed to always sitting and discussing.
Keywords	Confidence, devising, physical theatre, movement, exploration.
Cross Curricular Links	BTEC modules in devising theatre.
Example Activities	Using stimuli as a starting point for devising. What different stimuli can be used and how does this change the layout, intention, style of the piece of theatre you are devising? Exploration of physical theatre and exercises to comfortably engage with physical theatre. Exploring a brief and understanding what it is asking of you.

Secondary Workshops (cont'd)

Directing	
Theme	Can be open or themed to a specific text your class is working on.
Aim	To introduce students to the basics of directing, help them understand what is required of a director, and how to tell a story with directorial decisions.
Keywords	Director, critical thinking, problem solving, artistic vision, intention.
Cross Curricular Links	Drama, performing arts, Higher education.
Example Activities	Understanding the vision/ atmosphere you want for a text. Exploring the journey of the characters and intention behind specific direction. Applying skills to text.

Puppeteering	
Theme	Can be open or themed to a specific text your class is working on.
Aim	To introduce students to the basics of puppeteering, help them understand the key ethos behind the practice, and how they can use it onstage. Using exercises to bring everyday objects to life, as well as building larger-scale puppets to help learn how to operate puppets as a team. Students will also learn how to use attention and focus to fade into the background whilst animating an object, or even building a scene with it themselves.
Keywords	Puppeteering, puppet, movement, character, teamwork, communication.
Cross Curricular Links	Drama, Performing Arts, Higher education.
Example Activities	Explore and develop puppet skills using exercises to bring everyday objects to life. Building larger-scale puppets to help learn how to operate puppets as a team. Exercise and practice attention and focus to fade into the background whilst animating an object. Building a scene with a puppet to practice communication and teamwork whilst operating a larger puppet.

Monologues	
Theme	Age appropriate selection or working with class specific text..
Aim	To aid students with self-directing when building a monologue performance and encourage development of critical reading skills to glean information about characters and situations, as well as aiding students with their performance choices.
Keywords	Character, language, emotion, body language, facial expression, accent, intention, gesture.
Cross Curricular Links	Reading, English Literature, Drama, Performing Arts.
Example Activities	Read through the monologue and highlight key moments/ changes in emotion or thought process. Identify the pinnacle point of emotion to build to. <i>When does this take place? How do we show this to an audience? Who are we speaking to?</i> Explore the time of the piece and wider context to help ground the performance. Direct and record the movement/blocking of the piece in order to rehearse and remember.

Making Movement	
Theme	Can be themed to a specific company or delivered more generally.
Aim	To help students who are not experienced movers learn useful strategies for creating interesting and engaging pieces of movement for use in their performance work or simply to expand their skill sets.
Keywords	Movement, body language, gesture, physical theatre.
Cross Curricular Links	Physical Education, Dance.
Example Activities	Theme: Chair duets. Warm-up for the body. Introduction of movement through games and activities. Exploring the space and how we can engage with others. Watch videos to show how a chair duet works. Learn a simple chair duet as a group for practice and ideas. Establish your two characters and the intention behind the piece – this could be aided using stimuli. Give the three movements that must be used and let students develop their own piece.

Secondary Workshops (cont'd)

Intro to (Practitioner Specific)	
Theme	Theatre practitioner of your choice.
Aim	To bring a fresh perspective to help students engage with a practitioner that they are studying, to help a class understand how a practitioner's ethos transfers into practice. Students will also learn how to apply this practice to their own work and performance development.
Keywords	Practitioner, themes, style, direction.
Cross Curricular Links	English Literature. Drama, performing arts.
Example Activities	Theme: Brecht <i>When was the practitioner writing? How does this effect his work? What are the intentions behind his work?</i> Explore the difference of natural and melodramatic performance to identify style. Recreate scenes through role play to physically understand the text and practitioner's intentions.

Technical Consultation/Workshop

Enjoy a full day's workshop with a qualified and skilled Technician.

The morning will consist of a sort through of your technical kit showing you how to get the best out of it, recommend any safety precautions, and also point you towards how you could improve your kit if you wanted to.

In the afternoon, the Technician and a facilitator will lead a practical workshop all about technical theatre, and the different backstage roles, using your kit.

This is a great way to understand how the equipment you own works to utilise it to its full potential and train students in its usage for your future productions.



IGNITE Festival

NEW FOR
2024

Join us at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre on 23rd/24th April 2024 for our very first **IGNITE FESTIVAL**. Designed in consultation with local teachers, this is an opportunity for primary and secondary schools to present their students' best creative work – it might include music, acting, poetry, dance or something else completely! – as well as a chance to bring individual classes or an entire year-group to the theatre to be part of the audience for the show. And, once again, there's no cost involved.

So, help us celebrate our birthday by showcasing your students' creativity, boosting their skills, and helping them feel part of something big by joining us for **IGNITE!**

For further information contact us at education@lichfieldgarrick.com





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