

Participation Department, Creative Services for Schools

“All pupils should be enabled to participate in and gain knowledge, skills and understanding associated with the artistic practice of drama. Pupils should be able to adopt, create and sustain a range of roles, responding appropriately to others in role. They should have opportunities to improvise, devise and script drama for one another and a range of audiences, as well as to rehearse, refine, share and respond thoughtfully to drama and theatre performances.”

Primary National Curriculum

Workshops Options

Our workshops can be delivered in either a 60mins (covering basic elements) to 90mins (allowing further exploration) and can be tailored to the learning needs and levels between Key Stage 1-3. Each workshop has a maximum capacity of 30 students

Workshop: Introduction to Pantomime (for KS1-2) 60-90mins

Watford Palace Theatre has been the home of pantomime for 110 years! And we're ready to share some of our panto secrets... oh yes we are! Join Jack Trott and friends, as they climb the Beanstalk in this interactive, fun-filled workshop exploring some of the ingredients and acting techniques that make up this Great British tradition!

- Learn about the history and traditions of pantomime - know your slop scenes from your song sheets!
- Develop knowledge of a particular pantomime story (e.g. Jack and the Beanstalk)
- Explore some of the key ingredients that make up a pantomime, including acting techniques and character types.
- Outcomes: develop confidence, self-expression, knowledge and understanding of pantomime and the history of Watford Palace Theatre

Workshop: Introduction to Storytelling (for KS1-2) 60-90mins

Once upon a time there was a fun and practical storytelling workshop that turned tired, dreary old stories into shiny, adventure-filled new ones! Pack everything you need for the journey ahead in your storytellers kit bag, before heading up Story Mountain in search of the secrets of how the best tales are told.

- Learn about the building blocks of great stories, from simple story structure, to character wants and obstacles
- Develop story ideas and creativity
- Explore a range of vocal and performance techniques to brighten up your stories
- Outcomes: encourage a passion for stories and storytelling, and develop key skills including literacy, creativity, confidence, team-working, speaking and listening

Workshop: Introduction to Improvisation (KS1-3) 60-90mins

We'd love to tell you all about this workshop, but we can't. You see, we're going to make it up as we go along!

A fun, interactive, and creative way of introducing young people to the exciting world of improvisation. A great companion to our introduction to drama workshop, allowing students to further develop core skills, confidence and imagination.

- Learn about the art of... improvisation!
- Develop confidence, creativity and spontaneity
- Explore basic improvisation techniques for creating fun, interesting characters and scenes that go somewhere
- Outcomes: develop creative confidence and quick thinking, teamwork, speaking and listening, narrative, and devising skills

Workshop: Introduction to Drama (KS1-2) 60-90mins

A great way of introducing drama into the curriculum and developing core acting skills and confidence. Get characters and ideas up on their feet and learn the basics of creating and staging scenes, from new ideas to stories of your own choosing.

- Learn about the building blocks of drama to create characters and scenes
- Develop core acting skills and easy-to-use techniques
- Explore the staging of a story of your choosing
- Outcomes: develop core acting skills and characterisation, increase confidence, speaking and listening, and narrative skills.

Workshop: Introduction to Physical Theatre (KS1-3) 60-90mins

A fun, practical workshop, which asks the question “do actions speak louder than words?” Combining warm up games, physicality, music and imagination to devise a physical theatre sequence that harnesses the power of your body to tell stories.

- Learn about using your body and physicality to tell stories
- Develop ensemble skills and teamwork by creating work in pairs and groups
- Explore and apply simple physical theatre techniques to a story
- Outcomes: develop body confidence and movement skills, self-expression, teamwork and creativity.

Workshop: Introduction to Roald Dahl’s *The Witches* (KS1-2) 60-90mins

A practical workshop to accompany Hertfordshire County Youth Theatre’s Autumn 2018 production of Roald Dahl’s *The Witches*. Learn how to spot a witch, and become one yourself, as you practice and perfect the ability to turn children into mice and all kinds of other animals.

- Learn about the production and how it will be staged.
- Develop a wide range of characters, from grandmothers, to witches, to mice that were once children!
- Explore Roald Dahl’s much-loved story filled with magic and mayhem.
- Outcomes: Literacy, confidence, physicality and bold characterisation.