



**Language
ALIVE**
from
THE PLAY HOUSE

LANGUAGE ALIVE TOURING PROGRAMME 2015/2016

The Play House uses participatory theatre and drama to stimulate the language and learning of children and young people. Our programmes bring a wide range of subjects to life including Literacy, Numeracy, History and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects of learning, also known as PSHE).

All our work supports the development of children's creativity and imagination. The children enter into rich fictional worlds and interact with a range of situations and characters. We also have a particular emphasis on Speaking & Listening, using drama techniques to enrich their use of language and encourage active listening.

We are best known for our **Language Alive** touring theatre in education (TIE) programmes for 3 to 11 year olds. Each year, we tour nine different programmes covering Early Years, KS1 and KS2. To help you decide the best tours for you we've highlighted the key themes, how they support the curriculum and links to other aspects of learning such as SMSC.

We always work with one class at a time to ensure meaningful participation for each and every child. All our programmes include a teacher preview to help you integrate the programme into your schemes of work and comprehensive online resources with a wide range of ideas and activities for use in class.

Language Alive programmes are an effective way to use Pupil Premium funding to enhance curriculum delivery and provide stimulating creative experiences.

INSET AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Drawing on over 25 years of experience, we also offer INSET and other professional development opportunities for teachers. Bespoke courses are tailored to your needs, as full, half day or twilight sessions. We can also offer residencies, where a member of our team works alongside teachers and their classes over an extended period. Sessions can focus on a range of topics including Speaking & Listening, story telling and drama across the curriculum from Early Years to KS2.

To book any of our tours or discuss any aspect of our work, please get in touch,

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The Play House works in partnership with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre

THE REP
Birmingham Repertory Theatre

AUTUMN TERM 2015

Rummage



RUMMAGE

KS1 - YEARS 1 & 2

**KEY THEMES/CURRICULUM LINKS:
SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY,
SMSC/PSHE, ENVIRONMENT**

Rummage is an exciting new programme exploring issues around waste and recycling. It will use creative storytelling and puppetry to explore the imaginative possibilities of the things we throw away every day.

There is a rubbish dump on the edge of town where all the things that people have decided they no longer want or need are taken to be buried. Each day, as the last lorry rumbles away, a solitary figure picks her way through the discarded junk. To her, the dump is a treasure trove, a place of beauty and usefulness, full of things waiting to be given a new life. The children are invited to join a fictional world where they begin to unearth the story of the mysterious dump dweller.

Created in partnership with **Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah** with funding from the George Henry Collins Charity, Cobb Charitable Trust and the W.F. Southall Trust.

SPINNING A YARN

KS2 - YEARS 3 & 4

**KEY THEMES/CURRICULUM LINKS:
LITERACY, SMSC/PHSE - CITIZENSHIP,
GLOBAL LEARNING, CRAFT**

A creative retelling of the familiar story of *The Emperor's New Clothes* using storytelling, participation and a dramatic weaving activity. The children take on the roles of citizens of the country of Devore, famous for its skilled craftspeople, to explore the country's history and decide on its future.

We worked with a textile artist and designer to create a rich and vibrant world for the children to inhabit in order to experience the story, culminating in the creation of a beautiful woven canopy for the Emperor's birthday parade. The accompanying resources provide a range of ideas for craft, literacy, ICT and drama activities that explore the themes of *Spinning a Yarn* in class.

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL

KS2 - YEARS 5 & 6

**KEY THEMES/CURRICULUM LINKS:
HISTORY, VICTORIAN BRITAIN, LITERACY**

The Little Match Girl relocates Hans Christian Andersen's classic story to 19th century Birmingham using an engaging mix of puppetry and toy theatre to explore historical issues and moral dilemmas. The story is told by two eccentric travelling showmen from the Petulengro family who guide the children through the murky world of Victorian Britain.

The Little Match Girl provides opportunities to explore a range of curriculum themes including the impact of changes in society, the growth of factories, the employment of children and the work of philanthropists such as Lord Shaftesbury. The children are invited to put themselves in the shoes of decision makers of the day as well as experience life as a child at that time.



SPRING TERM 2016

atwe



Fit For A King



Little Red Hen

LITTLE RED HEN EARLY YEARS - NURSERY & RECEPTION

**KEY THEMES/FOUNDATION STAGE
LINKS: NUMERACY, SMSC/PSHE**

Little Red Hen finds some grains of wheat and asks for help from the other farmyard animals to plant them, but no one on the farm is willing to help. She enlists the children to help and guides them through counting and sorting, weighing and matching. Once Little Red Hen and her new friends have worked hard and reaped the rewards of lovely fresh bread, they must decide whether to share it or not!

Little Red Hen uses puppetry and games within the drama to support very young children understand plants & growth, sharing, counting, recognising shapes, sorting and matching and simple problem solving.

FIT FOR A KING KS1 - YEARS 1 & 2

**KEY THEMES/CURRICULUM LINKS:
SCIENCE, SMSC/PHSE - HEALTHY
LIFESTYLES**

Travel to the court of Prince Yannis, one of the unhealthiest, laziest and most unhygienic princes ever. Yannis' longsuffering personal chef recruits the children to help the Prince transform his lifestyle before he will be allowed to be crowned King. Using an engaging mix of storytelling, puppetry and shadowplay, the children learn about different food groups and the affects that diet and exercise can have on health. Together they plan a diet and fitness programme for Prince Yannis so that he can learn how particular choices affect his health, helping them explore and understand some of the choices that they can make for themselves on nutrition, exercise and hygiene.

THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE KS2 - YEARS 5 & 6

**KEY THEMES/CURRICULUM LINKS:
SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT,
HISTORY**

Thirst for Knowledge is a new programme that supports a range of curriculum themes through thrilling tales of discovery in faraway lands, posing moral dilemmas along the way. Were early European travellers benevolent settlers bringing vital trade and civilisation or ruthless invaders plundering natural resources and destroying indigenous cultures? It is inspired by the journeys of Baron Alexander von Humboldt who embarked on a remarkable expedition to South America in 1799. His achievements were so enormous that over 2,000 places and species bear his name, including rivers, ocean currents and even a penguin.

Thirst for Knowledge is being created in partnership with Birmingham Museums Trust. During the week of **29 February - 4 March 2016**, we are offering a package that includes a performance of the piece at Thinktank, a visit to the museum and a range of other activities to tie in with National Science Week.

To book this package or for more information, please get in touch.



Birmingham
Museums

SUMMER TERM 2016

INTO THE GARDEN

KS1 - YEARS 1 & 2

**KEY THEMES/CURRICULUM LINKS:
LITERACY, SMSC/PSHE**

Inspired by Oscar Wilde's story *The Selfish Giant*, *Into the Garden* integrates shadow play, puppetry and storytelling with emotional literacy and imaginative play. When the Giant prevents the local children from playing in his beautiful garden, a group of them decide to ignore the signs he has put up and show him what he's been missing.

The children examine what sharing and playing together means in practice. Shadow play is used both as an exciting theatrical stimulus for their participation as well as an artform in its own right that the children have the opportunity to explore for themselves.

PAPER CHASE

KS2 - YEARS 3 - 6

**KEY THEMES/CURRICULUM LINKS:
LITERACY, POETRY,
SMSC/PHSE - CITIZENSHIP**

Paper Chase is set in a futuristic society with a dictatorial leader known as The President who has banned all art and poetry. The children are placed in role as investigative reporters working under cover on the regime's newspaper to infiltrate a secret poetry society. They meet outlawed poet Sam Groom who introduces them to a variety of exciting poetry-making activities, making them re-consider the value of poetry and why the regime considers it dangerous.

When they are caught in a raid, they must choose whether to honour their original assignment as journalists of the state or to campaign for the right to speak out as they wish.

Paper Chase inspires pupils to explore and develop poetic language and expression by creating their own poems which they share, read out and reflect on with each other.

NORI

EARLY YEARS -
NURSERY & RECEPTION

**KEY THEMES/FOUNDATION
STAGE LINKS: CREATIVE PLAY,
COMMUNICATION, EAL**

This bilingual, multi-sensory drama takes the children on a trip to Bonnie Cove to meet Pearl, an old fisherwoman. The children explore the seaside and help Pearl to dig for treasure. She tells them of the mysterious music she has heard and about a strange creature she has seen in the sea. The children soon discover it is not a creature but Nori, an orphan from a far away land. Once Nori has come ashore the children help Pearl to overcome her fears, communicate with their new friend and find ways for them to share Bonnie Cove and live together.

Nori was created in collaboration with Hanyong Theatre Company in Birmingham and Buksetung Theatre Company in Seoul, South Korea.