

Showtime!

Go & See: Theatre



An opportunity to explore a new environment, engage with world-class theatre, and develop new knowledge and skills.

This pack contains:

A set of resources to use before the show to help you share information with your colleagues, parents/carers and pupils so everyone knows what to expect.

A set of classroom activity ideas to use with your pupils after your show.

Teacher Notes

Information to share with **teaching or support staff** before the show.



Before the theatre trip:

- Share what is happening and when with your colleagues in school – you could print out and stick up the next page of this resource on your staffroom wall.
- Let parents, carers and the wider school community know what is happening – we have provided some wording on the following pages to help. Just add the details then copy and paste.
- Prepare your pupils – there are some ideas on how to do this later in the resource pack. We also have a separate Visual Guide resource to support with this.
- Let any teaching/support staff who will be present during the trip know what to expect so they can support pupils to access the experience.



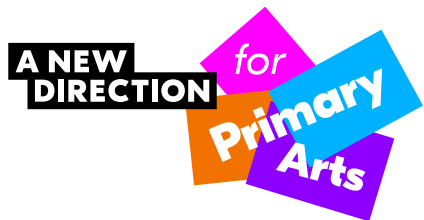
Showtime!

Theatre Trip: What you need to know

Our school is taking part in Primary Arts Go & See, a new creative, cultural programme for London primary schools with A New Direction.

We have booked a theatre visit.

The show we are going to see is:



Which classes are taking part?

Date and time of the show.

Where the show is taking place.

Duration of the show.

Staff member organising it.

Other members of staff going.

Any other useful information:

A pre-recorded CPD is available for you to access to prepare for this visit. Please speak to the teacher organising this event for more information.

Information to share with parents, carers and the wider community before the show.



Below is some suggested copy for a letter home to parents/carers or inclusion in your school newsletter:

We are delighted to let you know that our school is taking part in Primary Arts Go & See – a new creative, cultural programme for London primary schools from A New Direction.

The Go & See programme aims to increase access to high quality, inspiring arts, cultural and creative opportunities for students and staff in London’s primary schools.

We have booked a trip to [INSERT VENUE] in [INSERT LOCATION] as an experience for pupils in [INSERT CLASS/ES TAKING PART] on [INSERT DAY AND DATE].

[Choose the relevant paragraph for the show you are going to see on this page or the page that follows.]

Brixton House: Alice in Wonderland Returns

After an explosive argument with Mum at Brixton Underground Station, eleven-year-old Alice leaps onto the tube seconds before the doors hiss shut. Trapped on a train speeding into Nonsense, surrounded by weird and wonderful passengers, and at the mercy of a Queen who won’t relinquish the controls, can Alice turn this train around? Multi-award-winning company Poltergeist weaves rap music together with the sights and sounds of Brixton into a hundred-mile-an-hour Christmas adventure.

Greenwich Theatre: Dick Whittington and his Cat

Join Dick Whittington and his Cat as they seek fame and fortune in an adventure through good old London Town! Can he outwit the evil King Rat, defeat his gang of revolting rodents?! Will he win the beautiful Alice Fitzwarren’s hand in marriage and become Lord Mayor of London?! Find out in this pantomime paved with gold!

Information about the shows, continued.



Little Angel Theatre: The Singing Mermaid

One day, the singing mermaid is tempted away from all of her sea creature friends and her peaceful home at Silversands to join a travelling circus. The audiences love to hear her sing, but the poor mermaid was tricked! Instead of the swimming pool she was promised, she is kept in a small tank by the wicked circus master Sam Sly, and she soon longs to return to the freedom of the sea. Will she ever escape? And who will help her along the way? Through beautiful puppetry and performance, Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks's enormously popular story, *The Singing Mermaid*, is brought to life.



Lyric Hammersmith: Aladdin

Your wishes have been granted, for *Aladdin* is the Lyric's 2024 panto! Soar above the streets of Hammersmith with our panto heroes Aladdin and Jasmine for an adventure you won't forget.

Award winning writer Sonia Jalaly and director Nicholai La Barrie join forces once again to bring us a brand-new take on the story we all know and love, with added chart-topping tunes, side splitting comedy and a fresh yet familiar Lyric twist.

Stratford East: Pinocchio

Will Blue Rinse Fairy and Krik Krak the cricket be able to keep Pinocchio off the crooked path, as he battles the trials and tribulations of becoming a "real boy"? Round up your class and join us for a reimagined telling of the fairy tale classic to find out.

Information to share with pupils before the show.



Before the show, play each class the trailer of the production you are going to see (where available). You will find links to the trailers, as well as access information and extra resources on [A New Direction's website](#).

You might like to talk through the following prompts to be ready for the performance.

- What is a theatre and what makes it special?
- What makes a good performance?
- What makes a good audience?

Following this discussion, you might want to make your own list of 'being a good audience' before checking it against some of these:

Be safe:

- Listen to and follow instructions from the theatre staff.
- Use the toilet before you go in to watch the show.

- Don't eat while the show is happening
- Tell your teacher or other trusted adult if you need a break.

Respect other people:

- Stay sitting down so everyone can see and hear.
- Respect everyone's personal space – don't kick someone's chair, wriggle or put your feet on the seats.
- Don't talk when the show is on unless the actors ask you to take part.

Say thank you:

- At the theatre we show our thanks by clapping. It's important to clap the performers and also the crew, musicians, and everyone who helped make the performance possible.
- We also say thank you to the theatre staff for their help and assistance.

You can also let your pupils know what to expect using the discussion prompts on the next page.

Thinking about our theatre trip



Who do you think the main characters in the show will be?

How do you think you should behave when you are at the theatre?

What props do you think you might see on stage?

How can we make sure that we all enjoy the show? For example, we will need to sit quietly in our seat.

What kind of music, songs or sounds do you think the show will include?

In parts of the show, they might ask us to take part – what do you think they might ask us to do?

How do you feel about going to the theatre? Are you excited, nervous, happy?

What do we do at the end of the show to say thank you?



Take a bow!

Post-Show Resources

We hope that your school enjoyed the show!

Exploring the themes of the show and supporting pupils to reflect on the experience, we have suggestions for 10 minutes, 30 minutes or a full 1-hour lesson.



If you have 10 minutes

Box Office Vox Pop



Ask pupils to interview each other in pairs for a couple of minutes each, then as a whole class write up some short sentences to share in your school newsletter or assembly.

You have just come out of the theatre and a journalist grabs your attention to ask you what you think as you are leaving.

Journalists: use a pen/ruler/your hand as a microphone and ask your talk partner:

- How are you feeling?
- What was the show you just saw?
- What was your favourite part?
- Can you sum up the performance in just one word?

Challenge students to think of their own questions and follow up questions to what's been said.

Go Further: Pupils could write up a review of the experience or perform a memorable part in groups.

SEND: Focus on two of the questions and provide sentence frames, word mats with key vocabulary and pictures from the show to scaffold students as needed.

Creative Skills: In this activity pupils are collaborating by co-operating together and sharing reflections.

If you have 30 minutes

Invite others to see the show!



Do the discussion activity above to reflect on the show, then support pupils to think of something you could send or share with other pupils who haven't yet experienced the performance.

Children at other schools are going to see the same show we saw. Let's send them an invitation... how could we make them excited to see the show? What do we want to tell them and how can we do this in a creative way? What should we keep as a surprise? Why?

Allow pupils to think of ideas in groups and then present back to the class – they could perform, write up or draw their ideas.

Reflection: How does your invitation link to the show? What else does it make you think of?

Go Further: Pupils could make the actual invitations in DT/Art/Literacy lessons and then display them in the classroom/school hall/display boards.

SEND: Focus on thinking of an object and a word to send to other pupils that links to the show. Provide options and key words for pupils to choose from.

Creative skills: In this activity pupils are collaborating and being imaginative by playing with possibilities.

If you have 1 hour

Bring the play to life with a performance of 'talking tableaux'



- Ask your class to summarise the story (or 'plot') of the play in pairs – each person has one minute to try and summarise it. If anyone is feeling confident, see if they can tell the story in one minute to the whole class.
- Show your class the 'plot' of the play, breaking it down into around 8 bullet points (depending on the size of your class). Did they remember them all? Which moment was the most exciting? Which moment was their favourite and why? Choose some questions to discuss or write in your exercise book.
- In groups, bring the play to life as 'talking tableaux' (or talking pictures). Give each group one moment from the play to create as a still image that they will bring to life for one full minute. Before rehearsing their talking image, they should discuss who was in that moment, what was on stage, and the other details of what should happen in their scene. You may wish to list the characters on the board to support them.
- Each group presents their scene in order, bringing the story to life for one minute each.

Go Further: 'Freeze' the scene during performance to ask characters how they feel at key moments.

SEND: Focus on one key moment which they can draw before acting out. Provide a print-out of the plot summary for their book.

Creative Skills: In this activity pupils are collaborating by co-operating together and being.

Thank you!

We hope that your school enjoyed the show!

Please share your experiences with other teachers in your network and encourage schools to sign up for information about next year's Primary Arts programme at:

www.anewdirection.org.uk/primary-arts

**A NEW
DIRECTION**
We create opportunity



About New Direction

A New Direction is an award-winning charity (1126216) working to enhance the capacity and agency of children and young people in London to own their creativity, shape culture, and achieve their creative potential.

Primary Arts is supported by The City of London Corporation City Educational Trust Fund (29084), a City of London Corporation charity. We are extremely grateful to them for their support.



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