

Showtime!

emma + pj: The Shivers



emma + pj is an artist duo working at the intersection of theatre, installation, and live art. They create distinctive, dreamlike performances and playful, cinematic environments that invite us to reimagine our place in the world. Previously they were resident artists at the Barbican Centre and The Spring, and lead artists of Yardlings: Bigger at The Yard Theatre.

emma + pj

In-Schools Touring: Schools' Resources

This pack contains:
Pre-show information sharing resource
Pre-show pupil activity
Post-show pupil activities



Information for **teaching staff** taking part in the workshop and show.



Before the workshop and show it would be helpful if you could:

- Share what is happening and when with your colleagues in school. We have included a poster template on the next page that you could print out for the staff room to let people know what's happening.
- Let parents, carers and the wider school community know what is happening – we have provided some wording 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 story and information about our access and sensory kit](#) to support with this.
- Make sure you have the resources needed for the workshop.
- Let any teaching/support staff who will be present during the workshop and show know what to expect so they can support pupils to access the experience.

Here is some more information about the organisation visiting your school which you could share with teachers:

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Pupils will take part in a performance of The Shivers – a high-octane thriller for young audiences about misinformation and learning to trust your gut.

Showtime!

Pre-show information for the school. Stick me up on your staffroom wall!

What you need to know.

Our school is taking part in Primary Arts, a new creative cultural programme for London's primary schools from A New Direction.

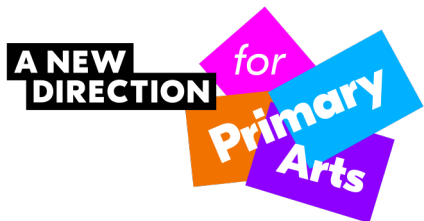
We have booked a touring session. Performers will be visiting us in school to provide a show and workshop for pupils and twilight CPD for staff.

Who is visiting us?

emma + pj

Title of the show:

The Shivers



Classes taking part

Date of the show and workshops

Where the show is taking place

Timings of the show and workshops

Staff member organising it

Staff members attending

Date & time of Teacher Twilight CPD

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 – a new creative, cultural programme for London primary schools from A New Direction.

We have booked a touring session, and emma + pj will be visiting us in school to provide an experience and workshop for pupils in [INSERT CLASS/ES TAKING PART] on [INSERT DAY AND DATE].

Pupils will take part in a performance of The Shivers – a high-octane thriller for young audiences about misinformation and learning to trust your gut.

A fox, a pigeon, and a rookie agent are on a mission to save the world – but everything is not what it seems. Exploring themes of trust, authority, and friendship, The Shivers is a dynamic and accessible parable about living in the age of misinformation. Blending live music, dance, video, and physical comedy, the show is a feast for the senses that pushes the boundaries of performance

in primary school settings.

Before the show, pupils will take part in a creative workshop, led by writer/directors Emma Clark and PJ Stanley, to encourage collaboration, play, and self-reflection.

Each hands-on workshop will feature activities bringing to life the world of The Shivers and its core themes, including:

- World Building: designing heroes and villains, from Eye Spies to Miss Information's minions.
- Design: creating tin foil disguises and exploring how they make us move and interact.
- Performance: devising short scenes, emphasising collaboration and improvisation.

The workshop is designed to lift the lid on different types of creativity and can be tailored to the specific needs and interests of each class.

Preparing **pupils** for the show.



Before the workshop and show you can let your pupils know what to expect using some of the key info and discussion questions below.

emma + pj are coming to visit us to do a workshop and a show! In the workshop, the visitors are going to help us learn something. In the show, we will watch the visitors perform.

This is the summary of the show. Listen carefully and then tell your talk partner what you think the show will be about.

We will take part in a performance of The Shivers – a high–octane thriller for young audiences about misinformation and learning to trust your gut.

Exploring themes of trust, authority, and friendship, The Shivers is a dynamic and accessible parable about living in the age of misinformation. Blending live music, dance, video, and physical comedy, the show is a feast for the senses.

Before visiting The Shivers, we will take part in a creative workshop to encourage collaboration, play, and self–reflection.

Pre-show discussion questions

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

- What is a show and what makes it special?
- What makes a good performance?
- What makes a good audience? E.g.
 - Stay sitting down so everyone can see and hear.
 - Respect everyone’s personal space.
 - Don’t talk when the show is on unless the actors ask you to take part.

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

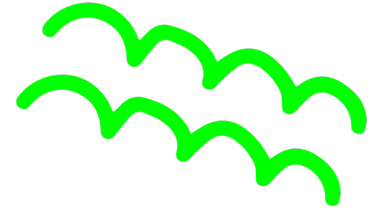
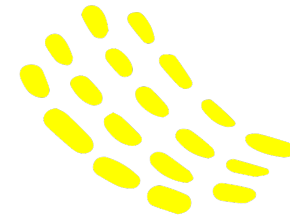
Depending on your pupils, for example pupils with SEND/younger children, you might want to share extra information about what sensory or interactive elements might happen or you might choose to leave that as a surprise. We have also provided a separate [visual guide and information about our access and sensory toolkit](#).

Thinking about our show and workshop

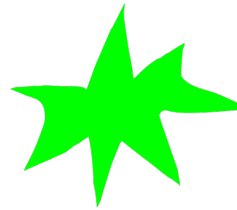
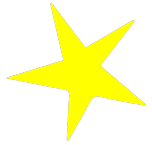
What do we need to remember when we have visitors to school?



How do you feel about the show coming to our school? Are you excited, nervous, happy?



How can we make sure that we all enjoy the show? For example, we will need to sit and listen very carefully.



What props do you think you might see in the show?



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

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



How will we know when to stop taking part and it is time to sit and listen again?

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



Additional resources for your school!



Prior to your school's performance and workshops taking place, your school will also receive:

- **A box of books** containing a range of fiction and non-fiction titles for all year groups, linked to the themes explored by the shows in this year's programme. These are for you to use in book corners or the school library.
- **A themed booklist** showing the books you've been sent and a range of additional titles you might find interesting.
- **A box of creative materials** and a themed resource with ideas for creative activities. This box contains a wide range of items that we hope will bring creativity to life in your classroom in many different ways!

The box of creative materials is for your school to use how you like! We suggest that it be used for the class/es that took part in the Primary Arts In-Schools Touring workshop and show for some extra creative activities. Most of the items in the box can be used for more than one project, as we wanted to ensure that it included lots of core art materials that, if looked after kindly, will be used again and again.

Each box contains the following materials:

- 2L PVA glue and 12 glue sticks
- Coloured tissue paper and coloured cellophane rolls
- Peel & stick wiggly eyes
- 100 paper plates
- 2 x 10m rolls of sugar paper in olive and cream
- Safety pins
- Scissor block set
- 2 x 1m of fake fur fabric
- 10m of calico fabric
- 2 packs of 48 coloured pens and 3 packs of 48 colouring pencils
- 50 sheets of coloured card and 50 sheets of white card
- Coloured lollipop sticks pack and 2 packs of stripy pipe cleaners
- Bumper pack of A6 greetings cards
- 100 sheets of A6 white card
- 45m of modelling string



Take a bow!

Post-Show Activities

We hope that your school enjoyed the workshops and 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 show 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.

EYFS/KS1/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.

KS2: Challenge pupils to think of their own questions and follow up questions to what has been said.

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. Example invitation ideas: a card that opens up as a pop-up flower, a suitcase with a letter inside, a sound recording of a song, a map – all with some key information about the show.

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.

EYFS/KS1/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. For example: friendship, welcome, travel.

KS2: Encourage pupils to think as widely as possible – what could they do with unlimited resources?

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

If you have 1 hour

Information Monsters: Trust, Spies and Lies - Activity provided by emma + pj

emma + pj



For this activity, you will need a copy of the 'Information Monster' worksheet for each child (page after next) and coloured pens or pencils.

- Begin with a definition of 'information' or lead a group discussion about the concept. Ask: Where do we get information from? What is misinformation?
- Give each pupil a worksheet and pens/pencils and tell the class: You are going to be designing your own 'Information Monster'! Your monster should be brand new from your imagination – not an existing character.
- Give pupils 15 minutes to fill out the worksheet: the **name** of their monster, its **traits** and **characteristics**, and its **picture**.
- If any pupils complete their worksheet before the others, invite them to turn over their sheet and draw a **lair** or **hideout** for their monster on the other side.
- Put pupils into groups of 3-4. Tell them their monsters are going to **team up** to take over the world! Allow 15 minutes for this. First, ask them to show their monsters to each other. Next, they need to write or draw a **sneaky plan** involving all of their monsters working together. Their **sneaky plan** must have 3 steps (e.g. Step One: Steal all the world's books). Reminder: these are information monsters, so the plan should involve information in some way.
- If there is time, invite the groups to share their sneaky plans with the class. These can be read out/shown, acted out, or even presented in the form of a news interview or broadcast!

If you have 1 hour

Information Monsters: Trust, Spies and Lies - Activity provided by emma + pj

emma + pj



Reflection: What are some real-life examples of information monsters? How can we trust whether information is true? What did you learn from working with your group to create your sneaky plan?

KS1/SEND: Emphasise the visual aspects of the tasks and work in pairs for the group portion of the activity. Drawing can also be replaced by portraying the monsters through sensory materials e.g. play dough.

Go Further: Groups can share their sneaky plans in the form of a live news broadcast - ask students to get into character for this, and the rest of the class will take turns asking them questions in a hot seat format.

Creative Skills: In this activity, children are being inquisitive and imaginative whilst also practising their collaboration skills.

Information Monster Passport



Draw your monster here:

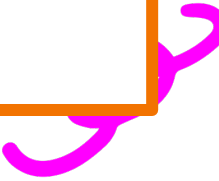
Monster's Name:

Age:

Superpower:

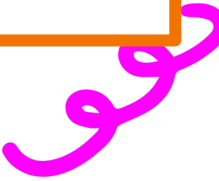
Weakness:

Where do they live?





Monster Lair - Draw a map of the monster's hideout



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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