

manchester actors company

present

IN THE GARDEN OF POETRY



WHERE POETRY COMES ALIVE!

IN THE GARDEN OF POETRY

WHERE WORDS COME ALIVE!

CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

During June and July 2022 MANCHESTER ACTORS COMPANY will be touring Primary Schools with a brand-new play for Primary Schools: **IN THE GARDEN OF POETRY** - which is a giant jigsaw puzzle of poems - a dramatised, fun-filled poetry slam created especially for all children aged 3 to 11, performed by our professional actors who will transform the words into a dynamic display of immersive physical theatre, celebrating all kinds of poetry!

Our professional Actors would like to invite you to their garden party **IN THE GARDEN OF POETRY**. Their characters Olly and Molly are siblings, and they are very lucky because they get to look after Granny Smith's very special garden, where poems ancient and modern, comic and nonsensical, hilarious, and sometimes serious, all grow in perfect harmony alongside the vegetable patch, the flowerbeds, trees, and lovely lush lawn. Once all the digging, planting and weeding is done in the Garden of Poetry, everyone is invited to a very special garden party. At first, the poems are all about flowers, trees, nature and the environment and how we can protect it, but once the garden party begins in earnest, the poetry starts to get wild and fantastical, and some very special guests arrive in the garden..... A never-ending stream of colourful characters appear from out of the poems. There will be famous verses that you will recognise straight away, and some brand-new poems that you won't have heard before - all turning our visit into a unique theatrical event that will delight your children. There are poems from a diverse group of writers, including Wordsworth, William Blake, Edward Lear, Shakespeare, Benjamin Zephaniah, Joni Mitchell, and even Paul McCartney, creating a vibrant, colourful, all-action show that is filled with poetry, rhymes, sound and word patterns, with drama, comedy and audience participation. The performance conveys the happiness, sadness, fun and **MAGIC** of poetry, and will bring the verses to **LIFE**, adding character and substance to the words!

With this show Manchester Actors Company has created a visually-stunning and fast-paced celebration of theatre for schools: a fabulous excuse to meet some larger-than-life characters and enjoy some dramatic, humorous and inventive poetry - everything held together by our actors. Especially created for Primary Schools, each performance includes audience participation - and carries the Manchester Actors Company guarantee of great fun, thrills and adventure for **ALL** primary school children aged from 3 to 11.

'**IN THE GARDEN OF POETRY**' has been carefully constructed to provide schools with a rich resource for both Keystage 1 and Keystage 2 classwork, concentrating on creative use of language and vocabulary to stimulate the imagination and help advance literacy skills. Our **INFORMATION PACK**, which comes **FREE** with every performance, contains a wealth of ideas and follow-on work for both teachers and pupils: quizzes; word games; suggested practical activities and much more.....

- ★ Each performance lasts for a **FULL 60 MINUTES**
- ★ We only use **EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL ACTORS**, and all our performers have recently been **DBS CHECKED** to enhanced level.

KEY INFORMATION:

- ★ THIS SHOW IS SUITABLE FOR ALL CHILDREN AGED FROM 3 TO 11.
- ★ THE PLAY IS A GIANT JIGSAW PUZZLE OF POEMS. THERE ARE FAMOUS INSTANTLY-RECOGNISABLE POEMS, AND SOME BRAND-NEW POEMS. POETRY ANCIENT AND MODERN, COMIC AND NONSENSICAL, HILARIOUS, SERIOUS, AND SOME DEEPLY MOVING. THERE IS ALSO A NEVER-ENDING STREAM OF COLOURFUL CHARACTERS TO BRING THE POETRY TO LIFE, TO ADD SUBSTANCE, CHARACTER AND MOOD : GIVING A VOICE TO THE WORDS, AND TO MAKE THE POETRY MORE ACCESSIBLE.
- ★ THE PLAY HAS A VERY STRONG STORY, AND CONTAINS SOME GREAT ACTION, SOUND AND COLOUR, AND INCLUDES SONG, DANCE AND PHYSICAL THEATRE, AS WELL AS SOME GREAT AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION.
- ★ THE PLAY, AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE VARIOUS POEMS CONTAINED WITHIN, HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE SCHOOLS WITH A RICH RESOURCE FOR BOTH KEYSTAGE 1 AND KEYSTAGE 2 CLASSWORK, CONCENTRATING ON CREATIVE USE OF LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY TO STIMULATE THE IMAGINATION, AND HELP TO IMPROVE LITERACY.
- ★ BECAUSE OF THE CLEAR, STRONG VISUALS OF THIS PLAY, WHICH MAKE THE STORY AND THE POETRY SO EASY TO UNDERSTAND, IT IS EXTREMELY SUITABLE FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS OTHER THAN ENGLISH.
- ★ THERE ARE THRILLS, FUN AND INSPIRING POEMS THAT COMBINE IN GREAT THEATRE WHICH WILL EXCITE AND INSPIRE EVERYONE WATCHING THE PERFORMANCE. THERE IS GREAT FUN AND ENJOYMENT FOR EVERYONE, AND THE DIVERSE POEMS ARE WOVEN INTO A COMPELLING STORY WHICH WILL THRILL AND EXCITE EVERYONE WATCHING IT. BRIGHT, COLOURFUL, ENERGETIC AND FUN-FILLED.
- ★ EACH PERFORMANCE LASTS 60 MINUTES, AND COMES COMPLETE WITH A FANTASTIC FREE INFORMATION PACK WHICH WILL HELP MAXIMISE THE IMPACT OF THE PERFORMANCE LONG AFTER WE HAVE LEFT YOUR SCHOOL.
- ★ DATES ARE AVAILABLE TO BOOK FROM MONDAY 13th JUNE 2022 THROUGH TO FRIDAY 8th JULY 2022, WITH PERFORMANCES IN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON.
- ★ IF YOU BOOK NOW WE WON'T INVOICE YOU UNTIL CLOSER TO PERFORMANCE DATE, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ANYTHING UNTIL THE DAY OF THE PERFORMANCE - WE NEVER ASK FOR A DEPOSIT IN ADVANCE.
- ★ ALL OUR PERFORMERS ARE EXPERIENCED, PROFESSIONAL, QUALIFIED ACTORS, AND ARE RECENTLY DBS CHECKED TO ENHANCED LEVEL.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Who is this show suitable for?

Generally, this show is most suitable for all children aged from 3 to 11.

All our shows are suitable for Special Needs Children, and around 10% of all our performances are for children with special needs.

What space and equipment do you need the school to provide?

We will use the School Hall, and make use of all the available space. We DO NOT need the school to provide any equipment: we will bring everything with us. There is no set to erect.

How does this performance help our young audiences?

As a theatre company, we believe that live entertainment is far more effective in the educational arena than DVDs, film or television, where involvement is passive, and so often quickly forgotten. We know, as children speak to us each year when we return to schools, that a live performance has a much greater impact on learning, and stays in children's minds long after we have left the school. Our presentation of 'IN THE GARDEN OF POETRY' will let young audiences learn from watching professional actors at work, at very close quarters, in their own school surroundings, and the audience will interact with the colourful characters throughout, and enjoy the experience of poetry being BROUGHT TO LIFE. The AIM of the show is to give the children a huge amount of fun and enjoyment, of course, but it is also geared to stimulate and support literacy classwork, by concentrating primarily on language, vocabulary and the spoken word during the performance, which has been devised to connect directly with the 'Speaking and Listening' section of the National Curriculum at both Key Stages 1 and 2, and improves abilities in reading and writing. At KS1, the performance gives pupils the opportunity to respond to the performance constructively, including sound and word patterns used by the characters as well as riddles and rhymes, whilst at KS2 it gives older pupils the opportunity to evaluate how the characters and the narrative contribute to the overall effectiveness of the performance, including language variation and dialect forms. Above all, though, they will thoroughly enjoy themselves during our performance, interacting with the performers, and getting a huge slice of a very traditional, very British form of knockabout physical theatre..... and by the end of the performance maybe a little bit of the magic of POETRY BROUGHT TO LIFE will rub off on them!

What can we expect from the performance?

This is a vibrant, colourful, all-action show that is filled with the very best elements of storytelling: with drama, comedy, slapstick, songs, dancing and audience participation, the performance conveys the happiness, sadness, fun and MAGIC of live theatre.... and the FUN and EXUBERANCE will stay with the audience members long after the show has ended. Of course, the performance stands up on its own simply as a piece of exciting, dramatic, vivid live theatre specifically for this age range to enjoy. Teachers will be able to use the performance as a starter resource for discussion in class, and build lessons around it, and will easily be able to devise related practical follow-up work and drama-based activities suggested by the play. Our INFORMATION PACK, which comes FREE with every performance, contains a wealth of ideas and follow-on work for both teachers and pupils: quizzes; word games; suggested practical activities and much more to extend the impact long after the performance has ended. We are well known for our energetic, vigorous, physical theatre performances where close attention is paid to the language, bringing the performance alive as a dynamic, well-spoken display of physical theatre.... as well as being a hugely entertaining, energetic musical comedy, and a great deal of fantastic fun!

What dates are available to book?

This presentation is on tour for a period of FOUR WEEKS from Monday 13th June 2022 through to Friday 8th July 2022. We urge you to book as soon as possible to get the date you want.

How do we make a booking?

Full details of how you can contact us to make a booking is contained on the next page

HOW DO I MAKE A BOOKING?

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A BOOKING,
OR GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
'IN THE GARDEN OF POETRY',
then either:

TELEPHONE US on **0161 445 8477**

and speak to **BRIAN**,

or EMAIL US at: **brian@manactco.org.uk**

And we will talk you through the detail of the show,
answer any questions you may have,
and arrange all the details with you.

NOTES ABOUT MANCHESTER ACTORS COMPANY

We have over **40 YEARS** experience of bringing professional theatre to the north west and neighbouring counties..... Providing an exciting, relevant, non-condescending and unpretentious theatre service in a full range of mostly non-theatre venues. We are well known for our energetic, vigorous, physical theatre performances where close attention is paid to the language, bringing the plays alive as a dynamic, well-spoken display of physical theatre, performed by some of the UK.'s hottest young stage talent.

Over 100,000 school children watch our productions annually.....

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES we have presented a series of theatre projects aimed at keystage 3 and keystage 4 students, which in recent years have included: *MACBETH; ROMEO AND JULIET; THE TEMPEST; MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING; OF MICE AND MEN; AN INSPECTOR CALLS, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, FIGHTING FOR WORDS; DR.JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE.*

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS we have presented a series of both well-established favourites and new writing projects - aimed directly as a springboard for keystage 1 and keystage 2 classwork - all of which are always very well received by schools and their young audiences.

In recent years, the established favourites have included: *ALICE IN WONDERLAND; THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN; PINOCCHIO; ROBIN HOOD; ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS; THE FIREBIRD; THE SELFISH GIANT; BIG BAD WOLF; THE SWORD IN THE STONE; PUSS IN BOOTS; MOTHER GOOSE; TALES FROM ARABIAN NIGHTS; ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND; THE LEGEND OF KING ARTHUR; THE LITTLE PRINCE; A CHRISTMAS CAROL; DICK WHITTINGTON; SLEEPING BEAUTY; BABES IN THE WOOD; ALADDIN; TALES OF MOUNT OLYMPUS.....* Whilst brand-new original projects have included: *THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP; DAREDEVIL DEXTER; POETRY IN MOTION; FANTASTIC FABLES; HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN; GODS AND HEROES; WATCH OUT MR. PUNCH; DANNY OCEAN UNDERWATER EXPLORER; MERLINS MAGIC STORYBOOK; BLOOMING POETRY; THE PIRATE QUEEN.....*

Recently we have also been touring Primary Schools with special versions of Shakespeare's *ROMEO AND JULIET* and *MACBETH* for Keystage 2.

All of our primary school projects are hugely successful and each a total sell-out.

HERE WE PRESENT OUR LATEST PRESENTATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR THE SUMMER OF 2022: **IN THE GARDEN OF POETRY** WILL BRING TO LIFE SOME VERY WELL KNOWN (AND NOT SO WELL KNOWN) POEMS..... GUARANTEED TO ENTERTAIN, INFORM, INSPIRE AND EXCITE OUR YOUNG AUDIENCES.....