

# National Theatre

National Theatre's *Let's Play* resources free for all UK state primary schools



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The National Theatre today announces its ***Let's Play*** programme is now free for all state primary schools across the UK to empower more teachers to use theatre, drama and creativity to support learning across the curriculum.

***Let's Play*** offers free learning resources and training opportunities for primary teachers covering three key areas; using theatre and drama to support learning (***Let's Learn***), creating performances in schools (***Let's Perform***) and watching high-quality theatre productions with related resources through the National Theatre Primary Collection (***Let's Watch***).

Free resources include:

- Lesson plans and short films for learning about the theatre industry and jobs in theatre.
- Creative learning resources and toolkits to support delivery of the curriculum.
- Specially commissioned playscripts for key stage 1 and key stage 2 with songs, backing tracks and a support guide for directors.
- Tips from professionals to support theatre making in primary schools, exploring staging, voice in performance, creating characters and working as an ensemble.

For the first time **Let's Play** now also offers free online and in-person professional training for teachers to help them reconnect with their own creativity and develop new skills. The wide range of CPDs allows teachers at all stages of their career to explore the potential drama has as a tool for learning. The upcoming CPD programme for the Autumn term 2023/24 includes:

- **Let's Perform: Theatre Making with Primary Age Children** (Friday 13 October) - Learn from theatre professionals how to create an outstanding piece of theatre in your school.
- **Storytelling in the Primary Classroom** (Thursday 19 October) - Learn the key principles of storytelling from professional storytellers and a creative literacy specialist gaining valuable insights into creative literacy approaches in the primary classroom.
- **Creating an Immersive Classroom** (Thursday 16 November) - With a theatre designer and creative learning specialist, explore what makes an effective, interactive learning environment providing maximum engagement and understanding.

**Let's Play** has a positive impact on increasing children's engagement with learning, improving children's literacy, particularly the quality of their writing and oracy, as well as supporting well-being through the development of core skills such as teamwork, empathy, confidence and self-esteem.

With the best of British Theatre available to stream directly into the classroom, the **National Theatre Primary Collection** also introduces children aged 4 - 11 to the magic and spectacle of theatre through titles such as *Peter Pan*, *Treasure Island*, *I Want My Hat Back*, and *wonder.land*. In partnership with the **Unicorn Theatre**, new titles will also be made available free for UK state primary schools via the **National Theatre Primary Collection** in September.

A year 4 teacher from Rufford Park Primary School in Leeds said *"Let's Play is absolutely superb - I cannot praise it highly enough! The CPD was the best I've had in over ten years of teaching, with expert advice from professional directors, musicians, artists and choreographers... Whether it's your first play or your 20th, there's something for everyone."*

**Alice King-Farlow**, Director of Learning and National Partnerships at the National Theatre said, *"We are thrilled to announce we are now able to offer Let's Play free for all state primary schools in the UK. Given the current economic pressures affecting many schools and communities it is more important than ever that we create avenues for children to access theatre making that entertains and inspires. Let's Play supports teachers across the country to fire imagination and creativity in as many students as possible. We are very grateful to a number of donors whose generous philanthropic support enables this programme to be free for teachers to access"*.

The Hearn Foundation said *"We recognise the importance of inspiring and educating younger generations through the arts and are proud to be the Principal Funder of the NT's Primary Schools Programme"*.

To join the **Let's Play** network and stay up to date with new opportunities and resources, visit the [NT Website](#).

**ENDS**

To download images, please click [here](#).

For more information, please contact Orla Bentley at [obentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:obentley@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

## **With thanks**

*The Hearn Foundation is the Principal Funder of the Primary Schools Programme.*

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## **Notes to the Editors**

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre's mission is to make world-class theatre, for everyone. The NT creates and shares unforgettable stories with audiences across the UK and around the world. On its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home, it strives to be accessible, inclusive, and sustainable.

The National Theatre empowers artists and craftspeople to make world-leading work, investing in talent and developing new productions with a wide range of theatre companies at its New Work Department. Our nation thrives on fresh talent and new ideas, so the National Theatre works with young people and teachers right across the UK through performance, writing and technical programmes to ignite the creativity of the next generation. Together with communities, the NT creates ambitious works of participatory theatre in deep partnerships that unite theatres and local organisations – showing that nothing brings us together like theatre.

The National Theatre needs your support to shape a bright, creative future. For more information, please visit <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk>.

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