

# MERCURY



## Schools' Brochure 2023/24

  
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Welcome to the Mercury Theatre's School Brochure. We are delighted to present our new and returning schools offerings for organisations and teachers across Colchester and Essex.

We believe that participation in the arts and theatre can be an important tool for young people's learning and personal development. As well as being fun, engaging in drama-based activity builds their ability to communicate and work together. It improves wellbeing, confidence and creativity, and supports teachers to help them acquire essential skills such as literacy. Our education programme is designed to be inclusive and enjoyable, effective and inspiring.

All details are correct as of September 2023, but please do check our website for up-to-date information, as we continue to expand and develop our offer. Please note, all of our workshops can be adapted for SEND groups.

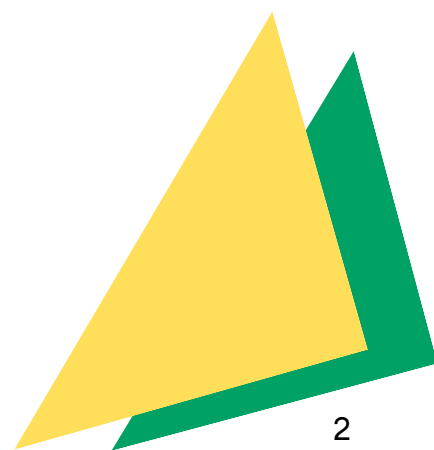
Please do contact us with how we can support you and your school.

We look forward to working with you.

**Amy Cotterill**

Schools Producer

[taking.part@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:taking.part@mercurytheatre.co.uk)





# DramaFest

## Take part in our annual festival

DramaFest brings together students, teachers and theatre professionals to participate in high-quality workshops, to view-discuss critique student theatre performances, and learn more about the art and craft of theatre.

Participants are invited to devise a themed 10-minute theatre piece to be showcased on the Mercury stage in late June.

Participation in the festival fosters respect, excitement, artistic development, teamwork, problem solving and a true sense of community.

**Focus:** Literacy and Drama

**For:** KS3 & KS4

**Cost:** £140+VAT per school (£40 per additional class)

20% discount for  
Teachers' Network





# Pre-School & EYFS

## **An Audience With... The Puppeteer**

In the run-up to Little Angel's Christmas show "Me...", our puppeteer will bring our adorable penguin puppet into your class, for a session of stories, song and movement. This workshop is available during October and November 2023. In 2024, the workshop is available with a variety of different puppets.

**Focus:** Literacy

**For:** Pre-school and EYFS

**Cost:** £200+VAT

## **An Audience With... The Fairy Godmother**

With a wave of her wand, the Fairy Godmother transports your children to the land of make-believe. Each session will include songs, dancing, games, sensory activities and story-time. These will all be linked by an overarching workshop theme, which is adaptable depending on the topics currently being explored by the school/setting.

This workshop is available all year round, but may be of particular interest around World Book Day or Pantomime season.

**Focus:** Literacy

**For:** Pre-school and EYFS

**Cost:** £150+VAT





Photo by Mark Senior

## **Pantomime/Mercury Originals Workshop**

Make your school's visit to the Mercury panto even more enriching with our fun workshop exploring character archetypes, fairy tales and conventional storylines. This practical storytelling workshop is the perfect Christmas treat for a class-sized group before or after they've seen the show.

The workshop can take place either in school or at the theatre and we can adjust the duration to fit with your lesson timetable. Many of our other Mercury Original productions during the year will have an accompanying workshop available. Please check our website or subscribe to our e-newsletter for more information.

**Focus:** Literacy and Drama

**For:** KS1 to KS4

**Cost:** £150+VAT for up to 30 students

## **Public Speaking**

It's not what you say, it's the way that you say it...

In the session, students will work with one of our creative practitioners to improve their skills and confidence in public speaking. We will explore projection, tone, stance and body language. They will learn to articulate their ideas and opinions in an articulate and structured manner, as well as actively listening to their peers.

**Focus:** Literacy and Drama

**For:** KS3 & KS4

**Cost:** £150+VAT for up to 30 students



## Shakespeare Workshops

Our playful Shakespeare Workshop is designed to encourage young people to be excited by Shakespeare's stories.

This lively session will break down some of the barriers around the language and relate it to the universal human condition. We explore insults, heartbreak, deceit, death and disguise as students explore the world and characters from the greatest playwright of all time!

Make sense of these classic plays in a fun, supportive and inclusive environment. Who knows there might also be a wig or two!

Let us know if you are studying a particular text and we can design the workshop to fit this.

**Focus:** Literacy and Drama

**For:** KS3 & KS4

**Cost:** £150+VAT for up to 30 students

## Commedia Dell'arte

Commedia started in 16th Century Venice, but its characters and style are easily recognisable in TV and film today. We offer one-off two hour workshops and 6 week projects, exploring the history of the form, the "commedia family" and their physicality and characteristics. Working with a trained Commedia practitioner, students will develop scenes and practice clowning and slapstick.

**Focus:** English, Storytelling and Drama

**For:** KS1 to KS4

**Cost:** 1 week - £150+VAT for up to 30 students

6 weeks - £610+VAT for up to 30 students

## Play in a Day

Become a Playmaker for the day and treat your school to a unique theatre experience based on a story of your choosing.

Led by a Mercury teaching artist, this workshop gives students a first-hand experience of a rehearsal and performance process packed into one fun filled day! Utilising drama games and activities that introduce your students to tried and tested storytelling techniques, the group will create an entire play, from concept to performance.

Each pupil will get a speaking part as a character or narrator and all participants will be actively involved in the creation of the story.

Play in a day is a workshop and performance opportunity for students from KS1 to KS3 and we are happy to tailor the story to fit your curriculum needs.

**Focus:** English, Storytelling and Literacy

**For:** KS1 to KS3

**Cost:** £350+VAT for up to 30 students

## An Audience With...

Characters in the classroom!

A historical or fictional character will come in and lead a one hour workshop. We are constantly looking to expand this offer, so if there is a character you would like your students to meet, please do get in touch. In the meantime, we currently offer audiences with: Boudica, Emily Wilding Davison (Suffragette), WW1 Soldier and Charles Dickens

**Focus:** English, Storytelling and Literacy

**For:** KS1 to KS3

**Cost:** £200+VAT for up to 30 students

£250+VAT for bespoke sessions with a new character







# Industry Days

## Careers in the theatre

This half day visit to the theatre gives students the opportunity to hear from a range of creative professionals about their jobs and to be inspired to pursue a future in the creative industries.

This includes a backstage tour of the theatre, a practical workshop and an interactive Q&A with the Mercury team.

Our Industry Day provides a unique insight into careers in the theatre and the wider creative and cultural sector, it's also a lot of fun!

**Focus:** Careers/Enrichment

**For:** KS1 to KS5

**Cost:** £200+VAT for up to 30 students

20% discount for  
Teachers' Network

A young girl with dark skin and curly hair tied in a bun is shown in profile, looking towards the right. She has colorful face paint around her eye and is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt with the word 'Daddy' visible. She is holding a blue balloon. The background is blurred, showing other people in a room.

# Projects & After-School Clubs

## Literacy Through Drama

Bring your set text to life through creative drama!

Our Literacy Through Drama workshop offers a unique and sustained opportunity to bring literature to life for your English students in an exciting and creative way. Through a series of inventive once a week workshops led by a Mercury teaching artist, this workshop introduces students to drama techniques that support literacy skills and encourage creative learning.

Collaborating closely with teachers, our creative programme is designed to embed creative learning throughout the term. Alongside drama and literacy skills pupils will develop their communication, co-operation and confidence, supporting wider learning.

**Focus:** English and History

**For:** KS1 to KS4

**Cost:** 6 weeks - £610+VAT for up to 30 students

12 weeks - £1220+VAT for up to 30 students



## Play in a Week

Working with a Mercury teaching artist, this project gives students a first-hand experience of a rehearsal and performance process. Utilising drama games and activities that introduce your students to tried and tested storytelling techniques, the group will create an entire play, from concept to performance.

Each pupil will get a speaking part as a character or narrator and all participants will be actively involved in the creation of the story. We are happy to tailor the story to fit your curriculum needs.

**Focus:** Literacy and Drama

**For:** KS1 to KS4

**Cost:** Varies depending on content, hours per session etc. Please contact us for more details.

## After-School Clubs

A 6-12-week project for a class sized group to focus on one of our performing arts topics, including theatre, dance, singing, costume design, and podcasting & digital recording

This bespoke series, led by Industry Professionals, offers participating young people the opportunity to learn new skills, explore creative expression, improve their communication and negotiating skills and work together as a team.

We encourage the development of vocabulary, speaking & listening, presentation skills, all through self-expression and imaginative play. The project culminates in a sharing of ideas or a short performance at school for family and friends.

Our After School clubs can be offered as an ongoing after school club for your students. We can help you address a particular issue in your school or develop something for an end of term sharing on a particular topic or theme.

Ideal for young people who wouldn't necessarily be able to attend creative provision outside of school.

**For:** KS1-KS4

**Capacity:** Up to 15 students (30 if a teacher or trainee teacher can be provided)

**Cost:** Varies depending on content, number of weeks etc. Please contact us for more details.



Photo by Pamela Raith

# Resources

## Education Packs

Throughout the year we will be providing education packs alongside Mercury productions.

Within these education packs there will be detailed character breakdowns, show synopsis, historical relevance, curriculum links and more.

With every school booking, schools will be provided with a free PDF of our Mercury Education Packs and they can also be accessed via our website on the show page.


## Hire our Spaces

We have a fully-accessible rehearsal room, dance studio and creative learning space that can accommodate a large number of activities from dance classes, group rehearsals and workshops. Our 98 seat Studio is an intimate space for small-scale school productions, while our 530 seat Theatre is perfect for large-scale, end-of-term productions.

## E-Newsletter

Our schools' newsletter goes out once a term - [sign up here](#)





# Teachers' Network

## Supporting you throughout the year

- 20% discount for all CPD workshops
- 20% off our annual Mercury Schools DramaFest
- 20% off Industry Days
- Discounts for Mercury Schools touring company productions
- A minimum of three Networking Events per year
- Exclusive monthly e-newsletter detailing any external and internal CPD opportunities
- Invitations to programme launches
- Invitations to Mercury press nights (Limited tickets available)

**Cost:** £50 per teacher (£45 for student teachers)

Join today





# CPD for Teachers

All CPD workshops can be delivered at your school or onsite at the Mercury Theatre. Please contact us to discuss your needs further.

## **Clear Communicators, KS1 to KS3**

Clear and confident communication is paramount for both teachers and the young people they educate. Our 'Clear Communicators' CPD provides teachers a toolkit to enhance their students' expressive, non-verbal and verbal communication. Through working with teachers on oracy skills, this practical workshop will provide the tools to develop confidence in a post-COVID world.

## **Unlocking Shakespeare, KS2 to KS4**

An introduction to teachers on how to unleash the imagination and world of Shakespeare's famous plays. Through Shakespearean rehearsal techniques, teachers will be armed with a fun and engaging series of exercises to deliver within their own school. This two hour workshop will unlock the bard in ways that will lift the text from page to stage!

Teachers will also receive ongoing contact with our team who will be able to provide support enabling teachers to continue their creative journey.



## Physical Theatre, KS4 & KS5

Led by an experienced industry artist, this full day physical theatre workshop is designed for GCSE, A Level, IB and BTEC teachers. Focusing on the key elements of physical theatre, teachers are encouraged to engage in contact improvisation, biomechanics, Laban and contemporary exercises.

Exploring these elements will inspire teachers and enable them to facilitate devised physical theatre work for students in performances studies.

## Devising Theatre, KS4 & KS5

With a starting point exploring structure, style and staging, this two-hour workshop will provide a rich variety of tools for teachers to use with in the classroom. Working with one of our Mercury teaching artists, you will develop your skills and increase your confidence in devising theatre with your students.

## Costs

Tailored session, delivered in school to multiple staff (max 20): £200+VAT  
Open CPD event at the Mercury Theatre: £30+VAT per teacher

## Bespoke Offer

If there is another area of theatre or literacy that your staff would benefit from training in, please contact us to discuss developing a bespoke offer.



20% discount for  
Teachers' Network



# Contact Us

## Workshops, Projects, CPD and Teachers' Network

Amy Cotterill, Schools Producer

[taking.part@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:taking.part@mercurytheatre.co.uk)

01206 577006 (Ext 223)

## Website

<https://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk/taking-part/education/>

## Space Hire

[hires@mercurytheatre.co.uk](mailto:hires@mercurytheatre.co.uk)

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