

# THE THEATRE

## Art and craft ideas

Theatres can be traced back to as early as 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Masks served several important purposes in Ancient Greek theatre: their exaggerated expressions helped to understand the characters that the actors were playing; they allowed actors to play more than one role (or gender); they helped audience members in the distant seats see and hear the action, as masks projected sound -almost like a small megaphone.

### -Masquerade Mask



### Supplies you could use:

- A4 or Letter size cardstock
- Poster paint or crayons
- Scissors
- glue
- Paint brush
- Dowel or disposable chopsticks
- Feathers
- Glitter glue
- Glue gun (optional)
- Decorative materials: sequins, rhinestones, ribbons, crepe paper strips, puffy paint, aluminium foil, etc.



### How to make it:

1. Draw a mask shape. As an option, you can modify the shape of the mask before cutting it out. Draw an outline of your ideal mask shape.
2. Cut out the mask, including the eye holes.
3. Draw lines on the mask or your patterns. If you plan to make a two-toned or multi-coloured mask, it is helpful to lightly draw the lines on your mask.
4. Colour the mask with crayons, coloured markers or poster paint.
5. Once the paint dries, decorate the mask with sequins, rhinestones, feathers, puffy paint, glitter glue and other notions. Make your mask as fabulous as you like!
6. Glue the handle at the back of the mask. You can either glue it in the middle or on the side. Add accents.
7. Complete your mask by gluing some feathers, curly ribbons, crepe paper strips, pipe cleaner and other materials to accent the handle or sides of your mask.



You could also make fun animal masks to act out your favourite nursery rhymes and songs. These can be made easily out of paper plates and string/ wool/ elastic to tie them. Use felt tips, paints or crayons to draw and colour them in.

### **-Puppets**

If you want to create a whimsical puppet with more shape, try this fun and friendly monster. You can vary the colours and personality depending on the socks you have on hand.

#### **Things You'll Need:**

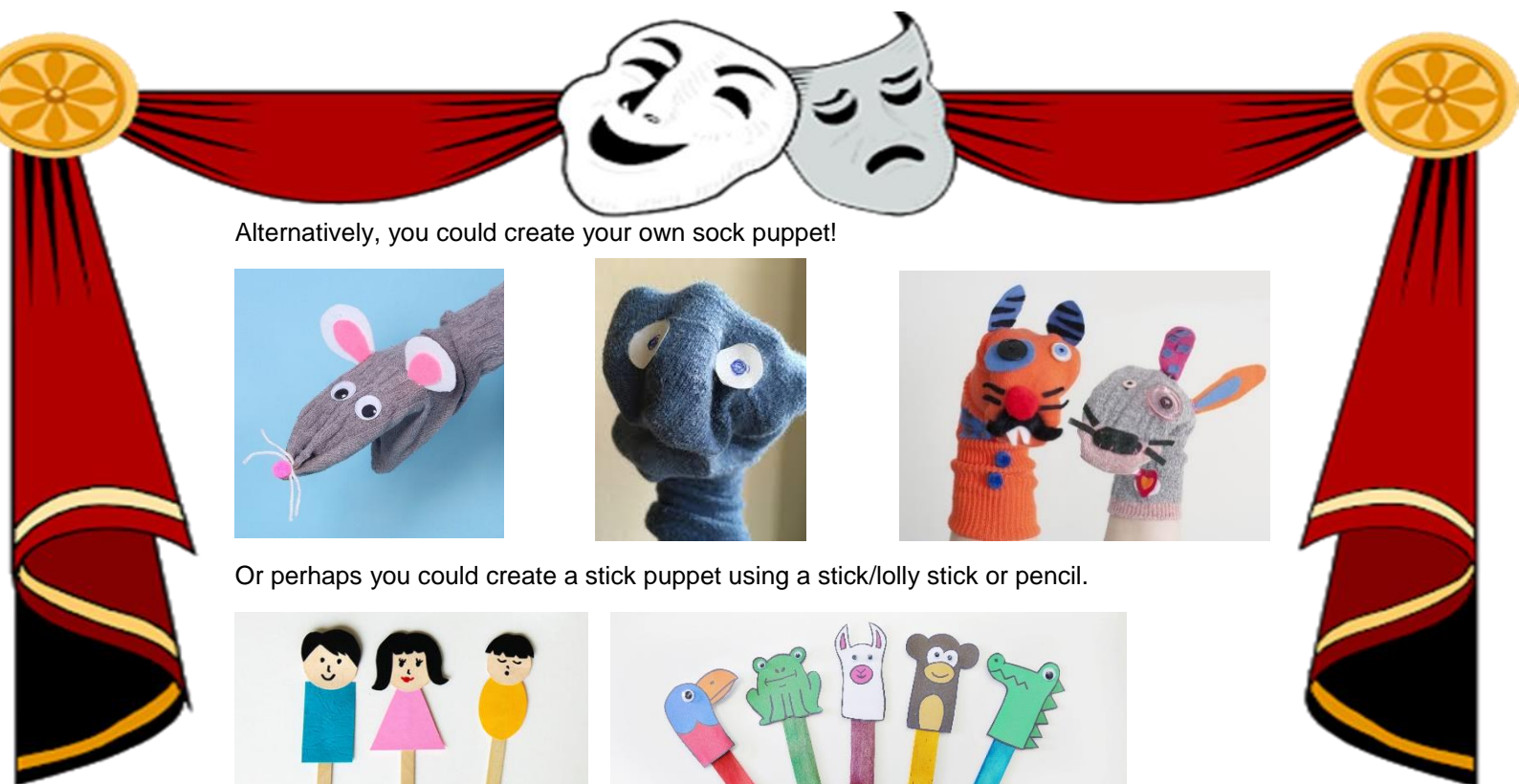
- Fuzzy sock
- Fake fur
- Googly eyes
- Fleece or felt scraps to match the sock
- Button
- Small piece of card stock or cardboard
- Craft glue or glue gun and glue sticks
- Scissors



#### **What you do:**

1. Begin by making the mouth for your puppet. Cut an oval of felt or fleece that is about the same size as the sole of the sock. Cut a slightly smaller oval of card stock. Fold the card stock in half to crease it and then unfold it.
2. Run a line of glue all along the edge of the card stock oval. Centre the card stock oval over the fabric oval and glue them together. Then run a line of glue all along the edge of the fabric oval on the same side as the card stock. Turn it over and press it to the sole of the sock. Allow the glue to dry.
3. Cut a piece of fake fur in a rough semi-circle. Fold it in half with the fur side out and make a small slit right at the crease.
4. Apply glue to the wrong side of the fake fur and fold the semi-circle in half again. Bend back the tabs you created by making the slit and use these to stick the fur to the top of the puppet's head. You may need to try the puppet on your hand to get the appropriate placement.
5. Glue the googly eyes and the button nose to the puppet. If you want, make a bow out of fleece or felt and glue it to the puppet's hair. If your puppet is a boy, you could make him a bow tie instead





Alternatively, you could create your own sock puppet!



Or perhaps you could create a stick puppet using a stick/lolly stick or pencil.



## Science - Light and Shadows

**Shadows are made when light travels away from a light source until it meets an object. When something blocks light travelling from a source, a shadow is made.**

You could try making shadows using your puppets on a white piece of fabric like a bed sheet, or on your wall.

### -Make a shadow puppet theatre

#### What you need:

- 1 cardboard box
- 1 sheet of tissue paper (large enough to cover one side of your box)
- sticky tape
- scissors or a craft knife
- black marker pen
- bedside lamp or large torch
- a table



#### What you do:

1. Cut the back panel out of your box.
2. Leave two of the side flaps to keep your puppet theatre stable, but cut off the front flaps (the pieces that close up the box).
3. For the front of your theatre, sketch out a smaller square within the front panel, you can make it fancy with an arch and pillars if you want but really all you need is a smaller square within the main square (like a television set).
4. On the inside of the box, tape a piece of tissue paper that covers the opening you have just cut out.
5. Place the theatre on the edge of a table
6. Position a lamp or torch behind, shining directly into the inside, lighting up the tissue paper from within.
7. Make some shadow puppets and place them between the light and the screen, as close to the screen as possible works best.
8. Use your favourite nursery rhyme or fairy tale as inspiration, if you like.





### **-Create shadow puppets:**

You can make your own puppets or you can use your hands to make different shapes and animals. I wonder how many you can make?



### **-Colours of light**

In the theatre, they use coloured light to create mood - white light is made of different coloured lights mixing. Why not have a go experimenting with coloured light – what colours can you make? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5DW6wJT3b8>

### **-Water Xylophone**

This involves learning about sound waves: the acoustics of a theatre alter with how full of people the theatre is. With just some basic materials you can create your own musical instrument to teach kids about sound waves. In this water xylophone experiment, you'll fill glass jars with varying levels of water. Once they're all lined up, you can hit the sides with wooden sticks and see how the pitch differs depending on how much water is in the jar (more water = lower pitch, less water = higher pitch). This is because sound waves travel differently depending on how full the jars are with water. You may like to add food colouring to the different glasses, to clearly show the different volumes of water.



### **History**

-Have theatres always been used for performing plays, shows, songs, poems and dances?  
Could you research the role of theatres in Roman times?

-The Ancient Romans had amphitheatres for Gladiator fighting and Roman Stadiums for chariot racing. Find out more about the Gladiators (if you dare!). You could create a quiz about this and test your family!



### -Make a Greek theatre mask

Greek theatre masks were made of stiffened and painted linen, so none have survived to the present day. In fact, we only know what they looked like, because theatre was so popular in Greek and Roman times: models of actors and masks were made in other materials such as terracotta, stone and bronze and depicted on gems and in paintings and mosaics.



With its exaggerated, grotesque features, this terracotta model shows the mask worn by the old- man character in many Grecian comedies. He has a wide grin, furrowed brow and bald head and wears a wreath with ivy leaves and clusters of berries. The masks worn in tragedies were different, with perfect features set in calm, serious, or sometimes hurt expressions.

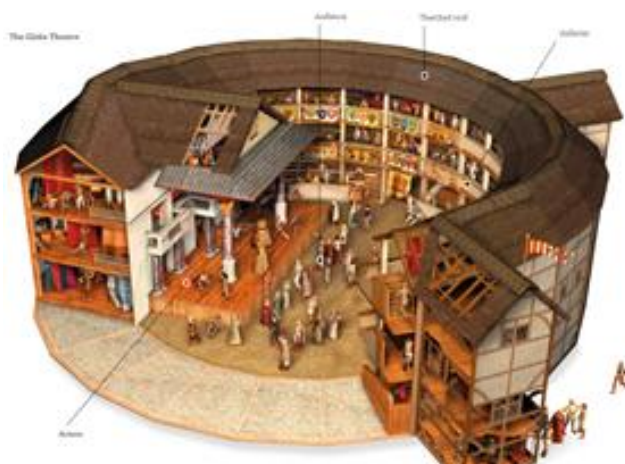
**Can you make a Greek theatre mask out of playdoh, plasticine or salt dough? Or perhaps you could paper-mache your own?**

### -The history of theatres

There are lots of very old theatres in England. Why don't you research a theatre from the list below (or perhaps there is another old theatre that you know of?) and create a poster or fact file to show what you have learnt? How are they different from today's theatres?

Here are the names of some theatres to get you started:

- Shakespeare's Globe
- The Old Vic
- The Theatre Royal



Have look at some pictures or clips of one of the earliest and most famous theatres, The Globe Theatre, in London. Could you create this theatre out of junk modelling? Or perhaps you could design your own perfect theatre? What would it look like? What would you need to include for your audiences?



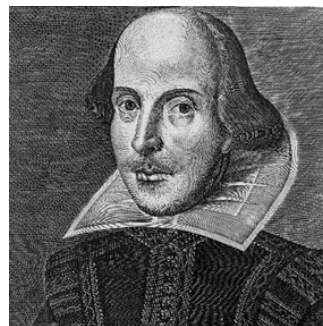


## Literacy Ideas

### -Perform:

What was it like to be a Shakespearean actor? Have a go at practising your acting skills, by challenging yourself to memorise a monologue from one of Shakespeare's plays. A good choice is the 'Seven ages of man' speech from As You Like It (Act II Scene VII) which begins with the famous line:

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.  
Then, the whining school-boy with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,  
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad  
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then, a soldier,  
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,  
Jealous in honour, sudden, and quick in quarrel,  
Seeking the bubble reputation  
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then, the justice,  
In fair round belly, with a good capon lined,  
With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws, and modern instances,  
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,  
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side,  
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide  
For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in his sound.  
Last scene of all,  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion, Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything



You may even like to research William Shakespeare. If he were alive today, what questions would you ask him?

### -Mime

Mime is expressing an idea or mood, or portraying a character entirely by gesture and bodily movement, without the use of words. Can you perform nursery rhymes or traditional tales to each other through mime –can your audience guess what you are trying to perform without using any words?

### -Silent acting

Acting is more than what you say, it can be how you use your body movements and face as well. Have a go at exploring your five senses by **PRETENDING** to:

**TOUCH:** A hot stove/ Icicles/ Sharp tacks/ Velvet

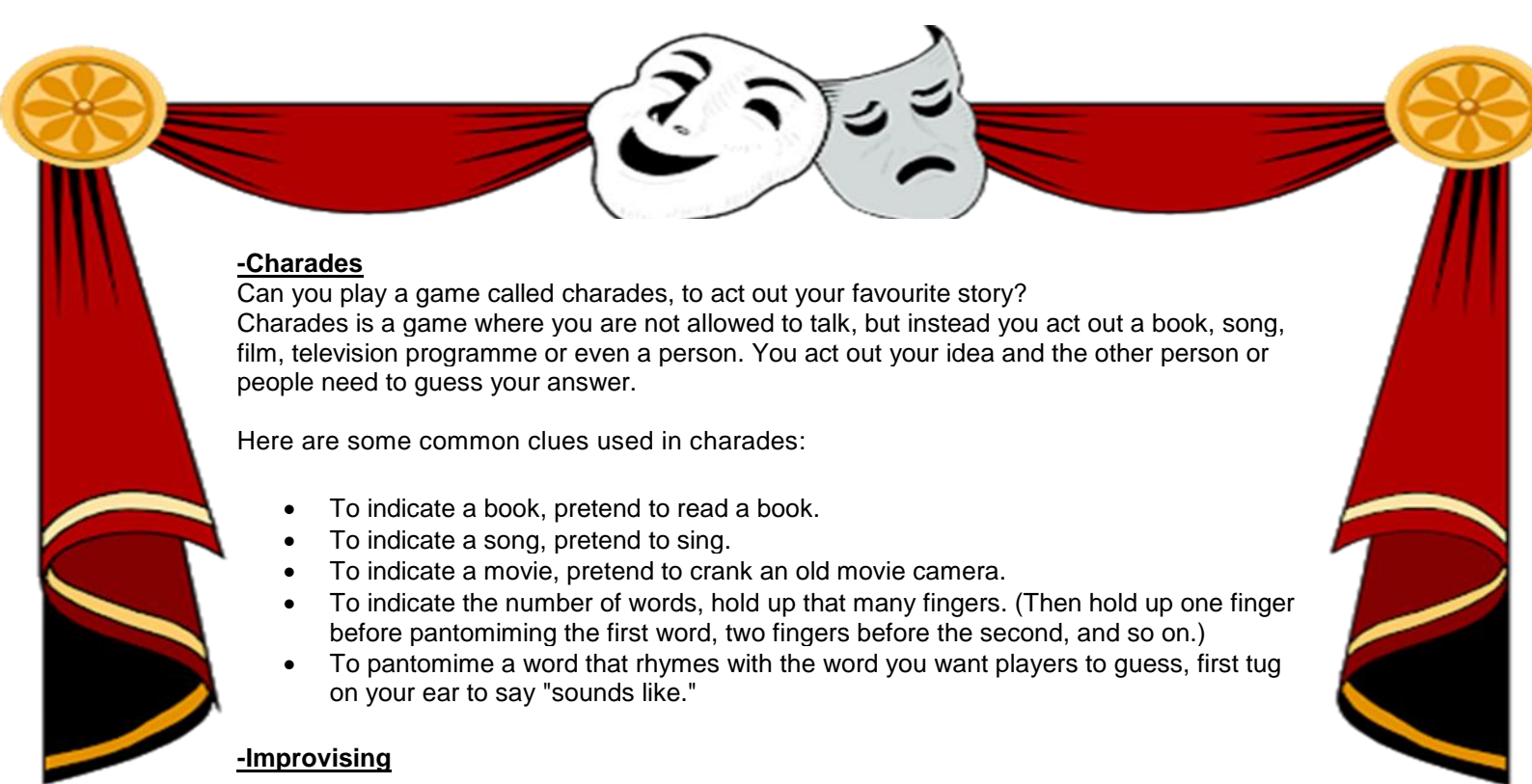
**TASTE:** A sour lemon/ Your favourite sweets/ Spinach

**HEAR:** A gentle wind/ Underwater sounds/ A whistle

**SEE:** A car coming far away and towards you/ A giant/ An ant/ A big black spider

**SMELL:** Freshly baked bread/ A skunk / Perfume/ Onions

**Remember- DO NOT USE YOUR VOICE**



### **-Charades**

Can you play a game called charades, to act out your favourite story?

Charades is a game where you are not allowed to talk, but instead you act out a book, song, film, television programme or even a person. You act out your idea and the other person or people need to guess your answer.

Here are some common clues used in charades:

- To indicate a book, pretend to read a book.
- To indicate a song, pretend to sing.
- To indicate a movie, pretend to crank an old movie camera.
- To indicate the number of words, hold up that many fingers. (Then hold up one finger before pantomiming the first word, two fingers before the second, and so on.)
- To pantomime a word that rhymes with the word you want players to guess, first tug on your ear to say "sounds like."

### **-Improvising**

Improvising (thinking on the spot) is a form of drama. Could you and someone in your family perform a One Word Story? A One Word Story is simply where you say one word and whoever else you are improvising with has to say one word that follows yours. For example: One. Day. I. Saw. A. Blinding. Red. Flash. Zoom . Across. The..... Does your story make sense? This might take a few tries!

### **-Write a play script**

Either for your favourite story or create your own story. Now use your play script to 'put on a show' for your family. Here are a couple of clips to show you what a play is and how to write and act in one: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsn4h39>

**EYFS:** Earlier this school year we learnt a lot about the little red hen. Can you remember the story? If not, have a look at this video:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLzna0Hrsc0>

- Can you retell this story using actions? They might be the actions we made already if you remember them, or you might want to make up your own.
- Can you retell the story using your toys?
- Can you make puppets to retell the story?
- Can you get members of your family involved to act out the story like a play?

**Could you write a review of a play you have seen?** There are lots of online plays that have been recorded for us to watch during Lockdown. Watch a play and then review it – did you enjoy it – why? Remember not to tell the reader the entire plot, but to tease the plot as if they were reading a blurb from a book.

**Could you turn a traditional tale that you know well into a play?** Perhaps Goldilocks and the Three Bears or Little Red Riding Hood. Or, think about the last story you read. Could you think of a way of adapting the story so that it could be performed as a play? You will need to think about staging directions and dialogue. Here is an example of a play script from *The Boy in the Dress* by David Walliams:



## **Play script**

### **The Boy in the Dress**

**Narrator:** Denis was different. When he looked in the mirror he saw an ordinary 12-year-old boy, but he felt different: his thoughts were full of colour and poetry. The story I am going to tell you begins in Dennis's ordinary house on an ordinary street in an ordinary town. It was all so ordinary, something extraordinary just had to happen...

#### **Scene 1- Dennis' bedroom**

**Dennis:** Hi everyone - *looking at the audience*- I am Dennis and this is my brother, John, and this is Dad. We live together and Mum used to live with us too. It was better when mum was around, but she left and dad burned of her pictures... but I managed to save one!

*Dennis shows to the audience the picture. Dennis and John are in their bedroom.*

**John:** Dennis? What are you crying for now?

**Dennis:** I do not know. It is just... well... I just wish mum was here.

**John:** Well, don't cry. She is gone and she isn't coming back.

**Dennis:** You don't know that.

**John:** She is never coming back, Dennis. Now stop crying. Only girls cry. And remember the three rules at home: no talking about mum, no crying and no hugging!

**Narrator:** But Dennis couldn't stop crying... Why was Dennis so different? Well, I am not going to tell you why yet, but the clue might be in the title of this play...

#### **Scene 2- Raj's shop**

**Narrator:** "Only 17 school children allowed in at one time" read the sign in the shop window. The shop was run by a very jolly man, Raj, who laughed even when nothing funny happened. Dennis visited Raj's shop most days.

*Dennis goes inside Raj's shop and he grabs the Vogue magazine.*

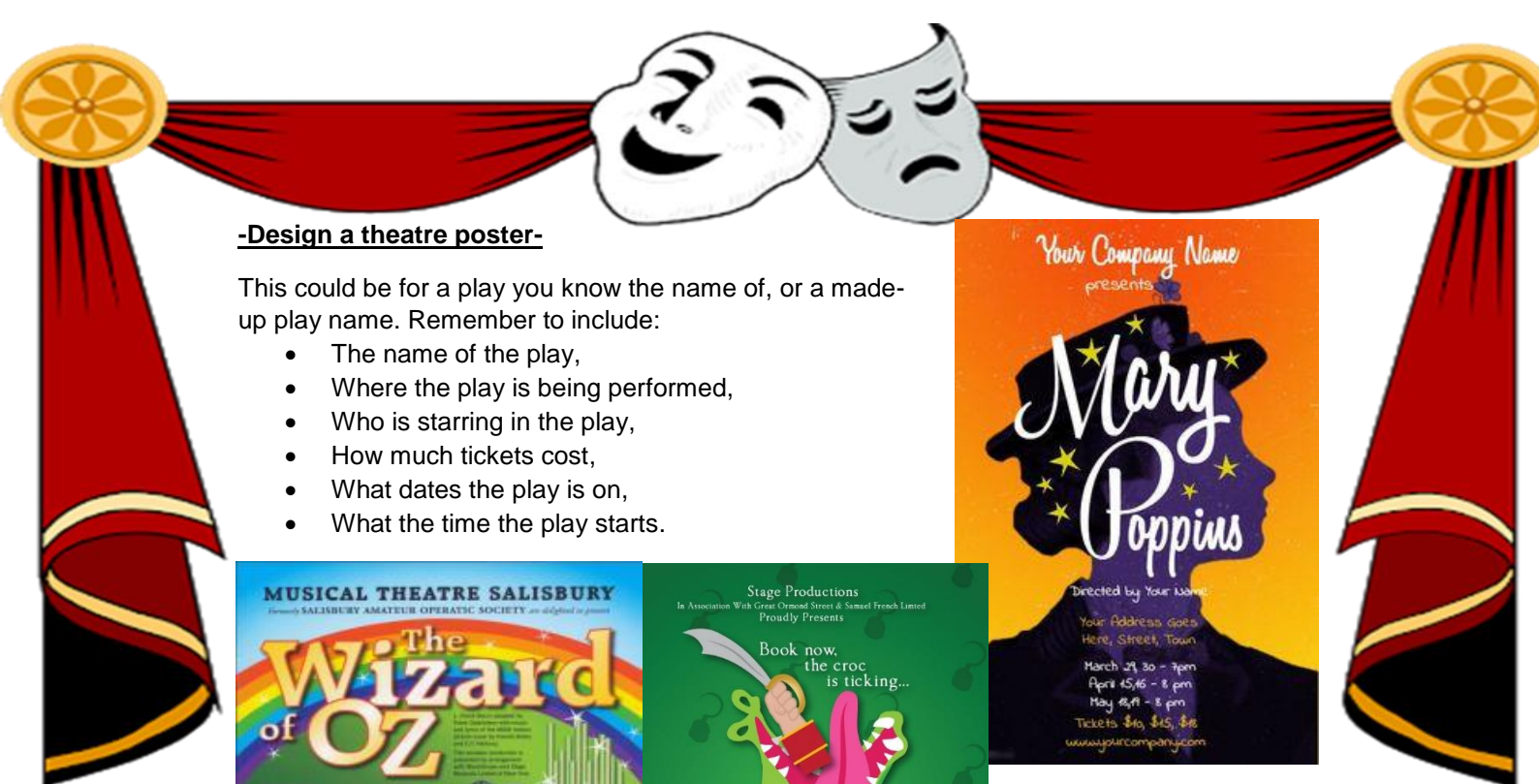
**Dennis:** Hi Raj. Just Match and....

**Raj:** Vogue? A boy of your age reading Vogue? Vogue is mainly read by women and your drama teacher Mr. Howard.

**Dennis:** It is a present for a friend, Raj.

**Raj:** Oh, I see. Would like some wrapping paper to go with it? Let me help! - *Raj bounded out from behind the counter and began*

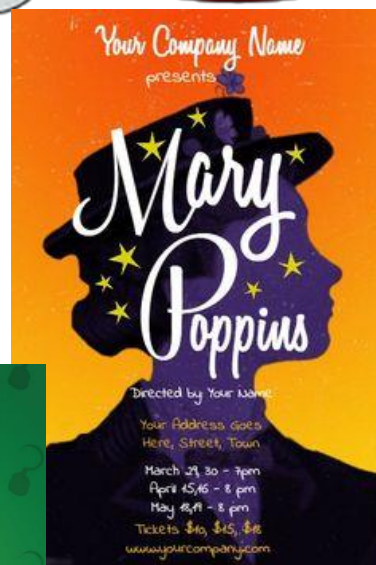
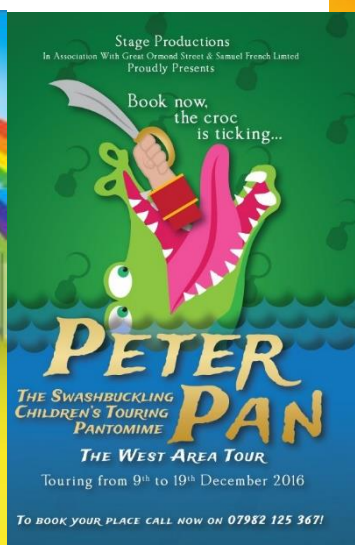
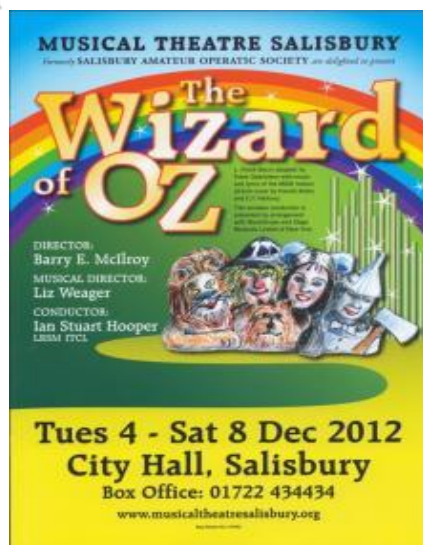




### -Design a theatre poster-

This could be for a play you know the name of, or a made-up play name. Remember to include:

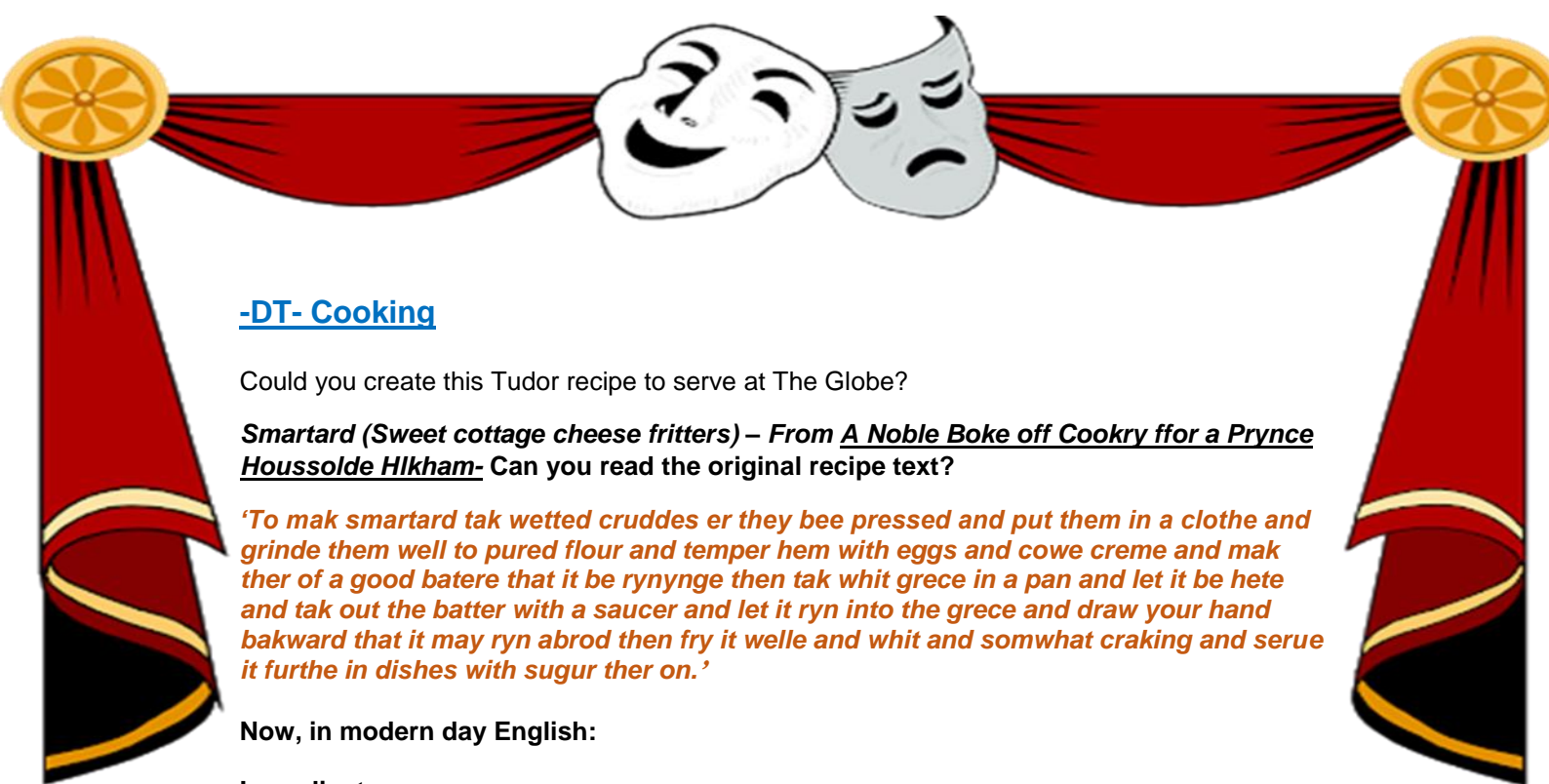
- The name of the play,
- Where the play is being performed,
- Who is starring in the play,
- How much tickets cost,
- What dates the play is on,
- What the time the play starts.



### -Diction:

Actors on the stage have to be able to speak clearly so the audience can hear. They often practice tongue twisters to help them





## -DT- Cooking

Could you create this Tudor recipe to serve at The Globe?

***Smartard (Sweet cottage cheese fritters) – From A Noble Boke off Cookry ffor a Prynce Houssolde Hlkham- Can you read the original recipe text?***

*'To mak smartard tak wetted cruddes er they bee pressed and put them in a clothe and grinde them well to pured flour and temper hem with eggs and cove creme and mak ther of a good batere that it be rynyng then tak whit grece in a pan and let it be hete and tak out the batter with a saucer and let it ryn into the grece and draw your hand bakward that it may ryn abrod then fry it welle and whit and somewhat craking and serue it furthe in dishes with sugur ther on.'*

Now, in modern day English:

### Ingredients:

- 4 eggs;
- 230 ml oil for frying;
- 50 g cottage cheese;
- 4 tsp double cream;
- brown sugar to taste.

### Method:

1. Pass the cottage cheese through a sieve into a bowl to produce a smooth paste.
2. Add eggs and cream to the bowl, and whisk together until smooth.
3. Heat oil in a frying pan and fry the mixture a small amount at a time, spreading it out as it is poured into the pan.
4. Allow the fritters to cook until they start to brown around the edges, then carefully remove from the oil and drain on paper towels.
5. Arrange on a serving dish and sprinkle with brown sugar.

**Or perhaps you would like to make some fudge to eat while you watch a play?**

### 3 minute fudge

- 1 can Sweetened Condensed milk (14 ounces)
- 2 cups (1 12 ounce bag) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Butter a square pan and line with parchment paper for easy removal of set fudge. Set aside.
2. In a microwave safe 2 large bowl, heat chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk, on high for 1 minute.
3. Remove from microwave. Let sit for 1 minute, then stir to combine. If needed, heat an additional 30 seconds.
4. Stir until chips are completely melted and chocolate is smooth. Stir in vanilla extract. Pour fudge into prepared pan.
5. Let fudge cool completely before cutting into 1 inch squares. (you can place in the refrigerator for 1 hour to speed up the process.)

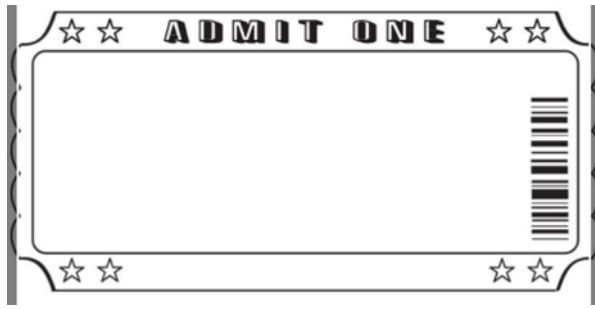
Store in an airtight container. Fudge does not need to be kept refrigerated.





## Maths Ideas

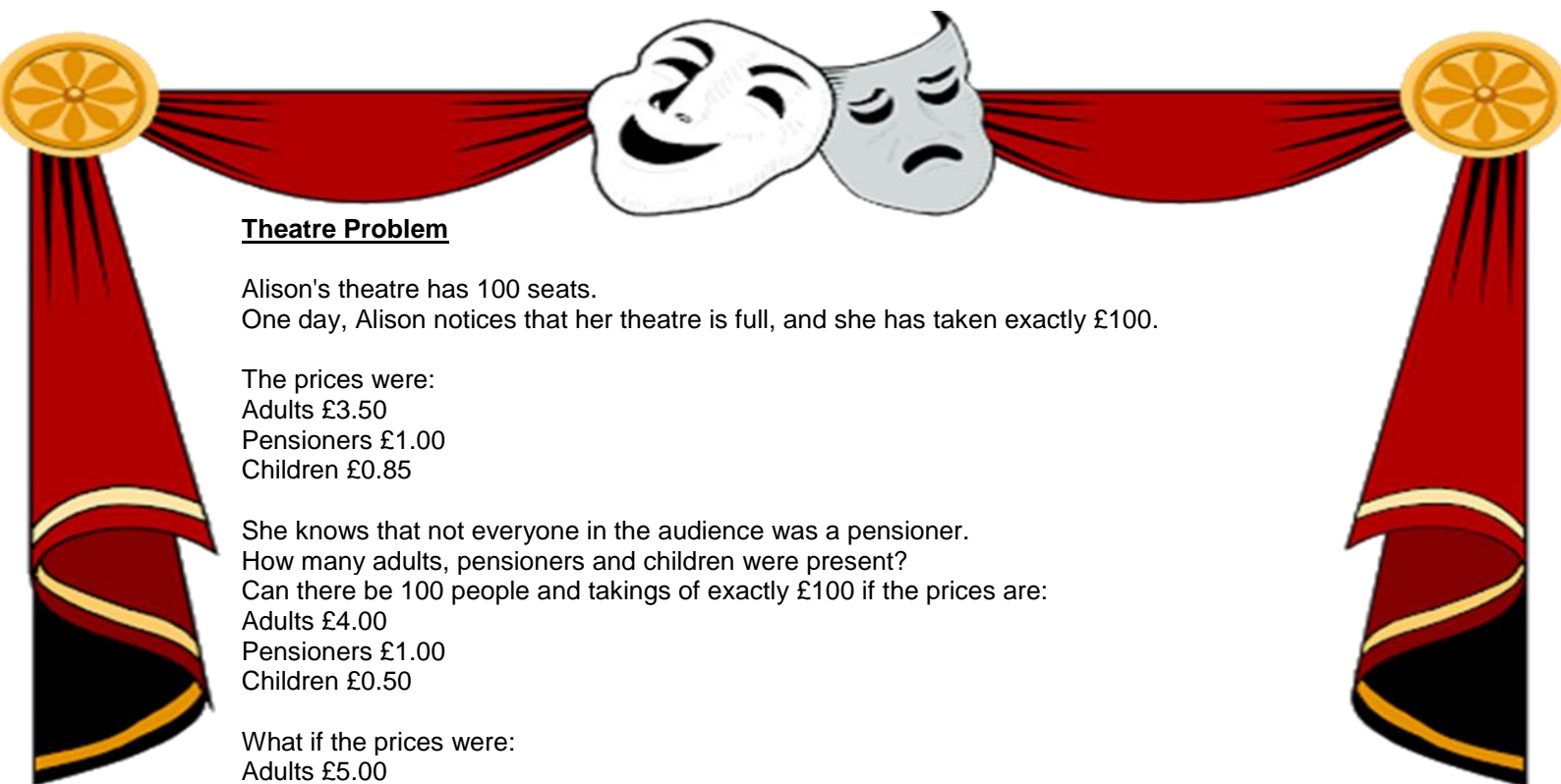
Role play going to the theatre and buying tickets: If tickets cost £1 each how much would it cost for your household to visit? To make it more of a challenge you could change the price of the tickets.



You could make a snack menu and give everything its own price. How much money would you need to buy the snacks you want?







### **Theatre Problem**

Alison's theatre has 100 seats.

One day, Alison notices that her theatre is full, and she has taken exactly £100.

The prices were:

Adults £3.50

Pensioners £1.00

Children £0.85

She knows that not everyone in the audience was a pensioner.

How many adults, pensioners and children were present?

Can there be 100 people and takings of exactly £100 if the prices are:

Adults £4.00

Pensioners £1.00

Children £0.50

What if the prices were:

Adults £5.00

Pensioners £2.50

Children £0.50

Here are some questions you might like to consider:

- How many solutions are there for each set of prices?
- If I can find one solution, can I use it to help me find all the other solutions?
- Can you find alternative sets of prices that offer many solutions?
- What about exactly one solution?
- If a children's play has an audience of 3 children for every adult (no pensioners), how could the prices be set to take exactly £100 when all the seats are sold?

### **Roman Gladiator Maths**

In Roman times, they didn't use numbers like we have today: they used Roman Numerals.

Roman numerals use letters instead of numbers. There are seven letters you need to know:

- I = 1
- V = 5
- X = 10
- L = 50
- C = 100
- D = 500
- M = 1000

You put the letters together to make numbers. Here are a few simple examples:

1) III = 3      three I's together is three 1's and  $1 + 1 + 1$  equals 3

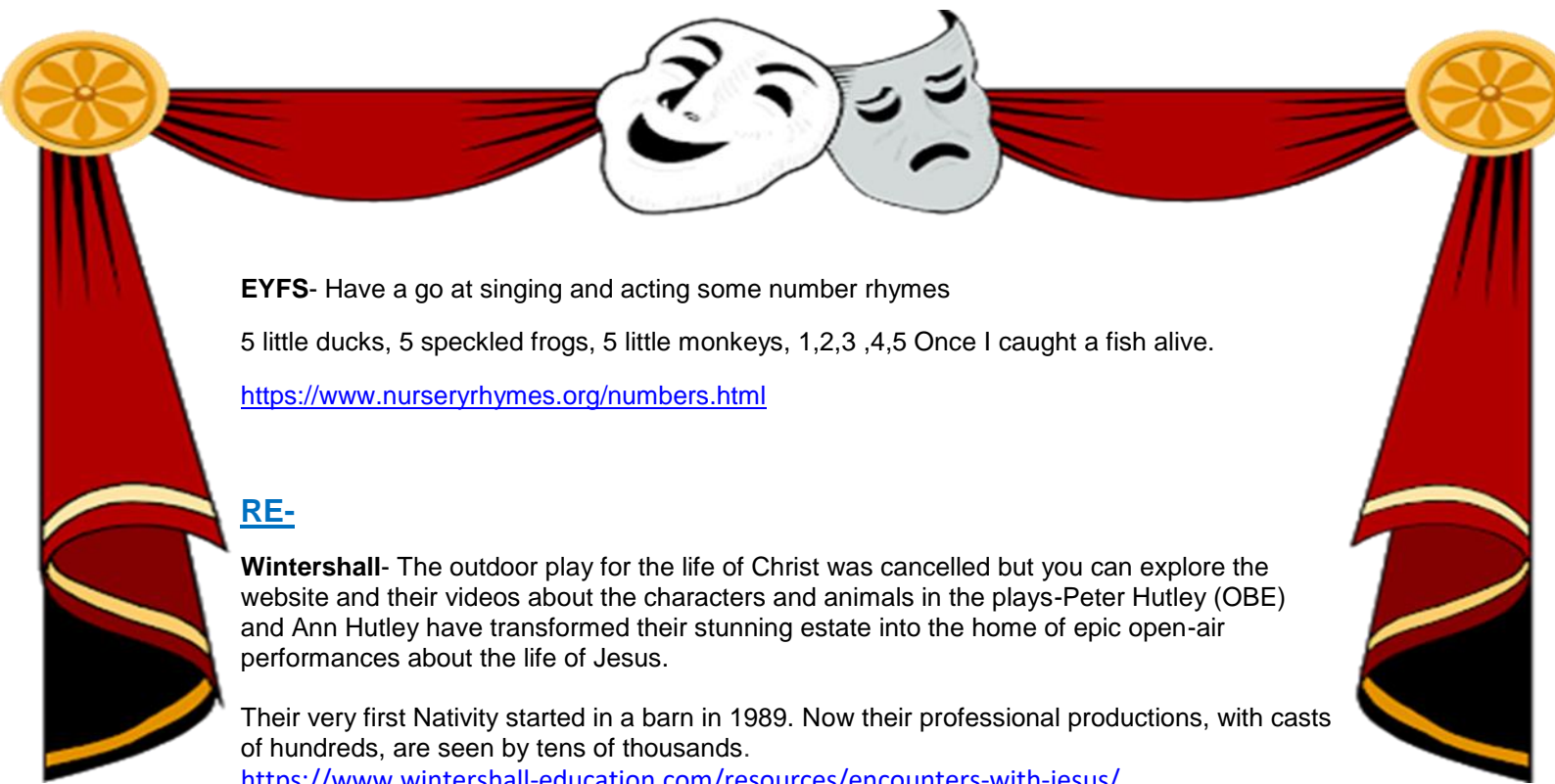
2) XVI = 16       $10 + 5 + 1 = 16$

**Now make up some numbers and calculations of your own**

Drama and acting can help use remember mathematical calculations- Try making up songs or action rhymes to help learn Number bonds and Times tables.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deVYbxmDCvU>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bPW5tHVZ\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bPW5tHVZ_c)



**EYFS-** Have a go at singing and acting some number rhymes

5 little ducks, 5 speckled frogs, 5 little monkeys, 1,2,3 ,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive.

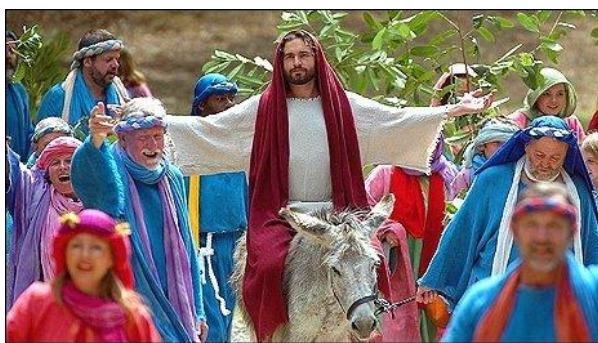
<https://www.nurseryrhymes.org/numbers.html>

### **RE-**

**Wintershall-** The outdoor play for the life of Christ was cancelled but you can explore the website and their videos about the characters and animals in the plays-Peter Hutley (OBE) and Ann Hutley have transformed their stunning estate into the home of epic open-air performances about the life of Jesus.

Their very first Nativity started in a barn in 1989. Now their professional productions, with casts of hundreds, are seen by tens of thousands.

<https://www.wintershall-education.com/resources/encounters-with-jesus/>



### **General Learning:**

Watch children's theatre productions for free on:

<https://www.halfmoon.org.uk/halfmoonathome/live/>

Here is a different link to a collection of other theatre productions that can be watched online, from Frozen, The Lion king, Little Red Riding hood, The Three Little Pigs and even Shakespearean plays. The plays are shown through YouTube, so as with all internet use, please ensure children are supervised. <https://www.dramanotebook.com/watch-free-plays-online/>

Here are some great ideas for activities at home from the National Theatre (we particularly like the banana argument one!):

[https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/sites/default/files/lets\\_play\\_at\\_home\\_final.pdf](https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/sites/default/files/lets_play_at_home_final.pdf)