

Theatre for Hospitals Programme

Aims and Objectives



Delivering regular theatre performances to children in a healthcare environment.

Aims:

- To establish a theatre ensemble dedicated to providing regular performances within a healthcare environment for audiences of inpatient and outpatient children along with their families, hospital and clinical staff.
- To address the need to provide a culturally stimulating and enjoyable activity to those children with limited access to the arts.
- To contribute to the recovery process of children with health problems by creating an artistically creative environment and improving patient experience.
- To promote the delivery of article 31 of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child which states we should: "Respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity." (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>)
- To enhance the sense of community within hospitals by providing an event for hospital patients, their families and the hospital staff to enjoy together.
- To help foster relationships by providing valuable shared experiences that can extend beyond the length of the performance and can assist in the break down of barriers between patients and medical professionals.

Objectives:

- To form an ensemble to deliver tailored performances to children within the healthcare system.
- To deliver new performances of short theatrical pieces within a hospital at a period of one a week.
- To work with healthcare professionals and medical experts to monitor the benefits and outcomes of the performances.
- To meet some of the artistic, emotional, social and educational needs of children within hospitals.

Plan of action:

- To begin by working with one (or a small number) of hospitals to establish a recurrent programme of performances within a hospital environment.
- To monitor the benefits of the performances by working with medical experts to build up a body of evidence of the benefits of theatre in healthcare setting.
- To gradually expand the company to provide performances within a greater number of hospitals, beginning with the Greater London area.
- To establish regular streams of income to allow the programme to continue to expand and deliver performances.
- The ultimate ambition of the Theatre for Hospitals programme is to establish a theatre company dedicated to providing regular performances of theatre within the healthcare setting across the U.K.