

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.
- 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.
- 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. Helping foster relationships and providing valuable shared experiences that can extend beyond the length of the performance.

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 UK.



About the company:

Peaceful Lion Productions was founded in 2007 to produce pioneering theatre for family and children's audiences. We are committed to making stylish and innovative theatre with a focus on storytelling and a sense of playfulness. Peaceful Lion have produced two children's shows based on the works of Edith Nesbit featuring original publicity artwork by Quentin Blake.

Praise for previous Peaceful Lion Productions performances:

Reviews for 'The Enchanted Castle'

"An hour of fun" (The Guardian)

"The cast bring boundless energy to it all" (The Stage)

Reviews for 'The Magic City'

"The adventure of a lifetime... delightfully creative" (Three Weeks)

"Great show... gorgeous to look at...kids will love it" (Hairline)



About Ollie:

Ollie Fielding is the Artistic Director of Peaceful Lion Productions. For the last two years Ollie has worked on the London Free Open Air Theatre Season at the Scoop and was responsible for taking one of performances of the season's family production into the Evelina Children's Hospital, they performed 'The Adventures of Jason and the Argonauts' in 2009 and 'Toad Hall!' in 2010. Directing credits include: *Shafted* (Etcetera); *The Magic City*, *The Enchanted Castle* (Pleasance), *The Secret Garden*, *Dracula*, *The Clouds* (Cambridge). Assistant directing credits include: *Once Upon a Time at the Adelphi* (Union), *James and the Giant Peach* (Polka); *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* (St. Stephen's); *The Scarecrow and his Servant* (Southwark Playhouse).

Both Ollie's parents worked in the NHS as biomedical scientists and his father now manages pathology at Pennine Acute (NHS) Hospitals Trust. Ollie himself began working in the NHS at only 16 when he took a part time evening job, which he continued throughout his university years. After graduating, looking for a job to support his directing career he began working in the radiology department of a local hospital before moving into anaesthetics. In 2008 Ollie was offered a consulting job working for the Campbell-Lange Workshop who supply operations software to the NHS, he continues to work there supplying software training and development ideas. This long term contact with the NHS means Ollie understands a hospital environment and is used to liaising with hospital professionals and is uniquely placed to start a project such as the Theatre for Hospitals Programme.

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