

A group of children are performing on a stage, illuminated by blue light. They are wearing black t-shirts and dark pants. Some children have their arms raised, and one child is wearing a white t-shirt with a logo that says "Ultimate with power".

Playhouse

Theatr
Iolo

What is Playhouse?

Playhouse is a partnership between **Theatre Royal Plymouth**, **York Theatre Royal**, **Birmingham Rep**, **Theatr Iolo** and **Bristol Old Vic**.

Each year, the partnership commissions new plays designed to engage with children as performers and their teachers as directors.

In each of the participating areas, local schools come together to perform each play as a part of the Playhouse Festival.





How does Playhouse work in Wales?

The project begins with a virtual online day hosted by Theatr Iolo via Zoom for teachers and culminates in July with performances at a professional theatre.

During the virtual online day the teachers will spend a day with our writers and creative practitioners.

The writers will present their plays (one of which will be in Welsh language) and the teachers will have the opportunity to read the scripts and choose one for their class.

The virtual day gives the teachers the opportunity to learn more about the scripts and the writer's vision, as well as exploring how to direct and get the most out of young people during the process.

Following the virtual day, the teachers will begin rehearsing their chosen play with their pupils at their schools.

Theatr Iolo will provide the school with access to an additional half day session with a creative practitioner who will offer the teachers directing tips, advice and support.

Following the rehearsal process, the class would then perform their play in a professional theatre in July, which would be streamed online for friends and family.



Who is Playhouse for?



Primary school teachers interested in learning more about how to direct performances with a large young cast



Children aged 9-11 (Year 5 & 6) will have the chance to perform a new play in a working theatre



A whole-class experience! The play will be written for a cast of 20-35 so it can be performed by everyone in the class



What will the plays be like?

20-25 minutes in length

Enough characters for a whole class, on average between 20-35

Explore themes that have relevance to the lives of the performers, and that challenge their views of the world

Include a variety of theatrical techniques which may include chorus work, multi-media theatre and physical theatre



Why should I be part of Playhouse?

- Theatr Iolo will provide the schools with a bespoke additional half day session with a creative practitioner who provide the teachers with tips and advice
- You will have access to brand new Welsh scripts that have been specifically written to be performed by children aged 9-11 and will be premiered as part of Playhouse.
- The project is designed to provide teachers with a complete script so that you can spend more time focussing on directing the piece.
- Theatr Iolo will take care of booking the venue and be the main point of contact for project, so you can focus on the play itself.
- The project offers a unique end of term performance opportunity for your students to share with their friends and family.



How much does Playhouse cost? **£350 per school**



An Online Workshop hosted by Theatr Iolo via Zoom with playwrights and creative practitioners.



Theatr Iolo will provide the schools with a bespoke additional half day session with a creative practitioner who offer provide the teachers with tips and advice.



Given a new play already written for a large cast and/or in Welsh



Free performance space at a local Theatre, with the performance taking place on a professional stage and live streamed to friends, family and the general public.



Feedback from previous Playhouse Teachers, Pupils & Parents

It was very good; It was absolutely brilliant

Jubilee Park pupil

Good production with all children involved in some way

Audience member

Pupil confidence and quality of drama has improved. Providing pupils with a real purpose and audience was invaluable. The workshops provided me with a plethora of ideas to use in drama lessons and allowed me to reconsider how I direct performances in school.

School Teacher

The children enjoyed the experience greatly and made progress in their collaboration and self-confidence. It has given the children a greater appreciation for the dramatic arts. Teachers have more of an understanding of what is involved in producing a play and have a greater skill set as a result.

School Teacher

Amazing performances delivered sensitively but with a punch! So important!

Audience member





How can I get involved?

If you would like to be part of Playhouse
please contact:

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