

Playhouse Frequently Asked Questions...

What is Playhouse?

Playhouse is a partnership between Theatre Royal Plymouth, York Theatre Royal, Bristol Old Vic and Theatr Iolo. Theatr Iolo run the project in Wales and deliver the project in a Welsh theatre.

Each year, the partnership commissions new plays and re-commissions plays from the Playhouse back catalogue, 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.

What are the key dates that you have to be aware of and book in?

- Digital Writers Workshop: The project begins with a half day digital workshop for teachers in early March.
- Teachers Workshop Day: The teachers from Wales will take part in an in-person workshop at The Riverfront, Newport in April after the Easter Holidays.
- Playhouse Festival: The live final performances with all the children and schools involved will happen at The Riverfront, Newport in the first week of July.

Who is Playhouse for?

- Primary school teachers interested in learning more about how to direct performances with young cast
- Children aged 9-11 (Year 5 & 6) who will have 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?

- Playhouse offers a unique opportunity for teachers to learn new skills
- You will have access to brand new scripts, in both Welsh and English, 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 is it?

£350 per school. This includes the following:

- A Digital Writers Workshop for the lead teacher with the venues and participating schools from across the UK and the playwrights.
- A Teacher Workshop Day for the lead teacher, who will take part in a full day, in-person workshop with a practitioner and other teachers from Wales to explore the process of directing a play and provide ideas to take back to the classroom. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
- At least a half day visit from a member of the Theatr Iolo team following the workshop in which you will be offered bespoke tips and advice, depending on your specific play choice.
- Unlimited access to the Theatr Iolo team whilst rehearsing the production for help and advice.
- A backstage tour of The Riverfront for your whole class.
- Performance space at The Riverfront in Newport to perform to friends and family*

**If a live performance for friends and family is not possible due to COVID-19, we will endeavour to record the schools performances and provide a digital screening.*

What time / resources do I need to commit to?

- The lead teacher will need to commit to the dates for the Digital Writers Workshop, the Teachers Workshop Day and the Playhouse Festival dates.
- Adequate time will need to be allocated to rehearse the play with the students in schools.

How can I get involved?

If you would like to be part of Playhouse Cymru please email hello@theatriolo.com or give us a call on 029 2061 3782.