

Edinburgh International
**Children's
Festival**
25 May – 6 Jun 2021



Imagine

Online Schools Programme

WELCOME BACK



It's been a while since we were last able to present the Edinburgh International Children's Festival. In 2019 we celebrated our 30th anniversary and the world looked bright. None of us were able to gaze into a crystal ball and predict what would occur in 2020.

For 2021, we have made a commitment that we would not be cancelling our festival as we had to do last year. We have had to plan (and re-plan) events that can adapt to changing restrictions, so that no matter what, we can bring much needed art, culture and entertainment to children and

young people. However, while things are looking up, continued restrictions on live performances means that the only safe and sure approach has been to only programme digital performances for our 2021 schools programme. This has resulted in a smaller festival offer, but one that can be accessed anywhere in Scotland.

Whilst this Festival programme might look and feel slightly different, it is no less bold. We proudly place Scottish and UK artists at the centre of the Festival and have included innovative 'live' digital interaction within the performance offer.

I ask you to come along on the journey and experience what theatrical magic our artists have to offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Noel Jordan'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Noel Jordan
Festival Director

For further help or to check availability, please contact Julian Almeida on **0131 225 8050** or email **schools@imagine.org.uk**

HOW TO BOOK

All shows (except *Down to Earth*) are digital. Technical support will be provided.

1 Complete a booking form

- [Download a booking form](#) and email it to **schools@imagine.org.uk**
- **OR** [complete your booking form online](#)

2 Select the shows

Select the shows you would like to watch. Please also provide alternatives as some interactive shows have limited capacity.

3 Dates and times

Let us know which dates/times you cannot make so we can try and accommodate your group(s).

Schools booking are now open

First ticket allocation deadline: 22 March

Make sure you send your booking form by 22 March to be considered in our first round of ticket allocations. We will try our best to accommodate all requests but may not be able to.

Special Covid Cancellation Policy

To give you as much flexibility as possible, we will refund the cost of tickets in case of school closures or if your class is in self-isolation and it is not possible for your pupils/class to watch the performance from home.

Low ticket prices

- £3 per pupil (except *Islander*: free)
- FREE for teachers

Curriculum for Excellence

We provide information about the themes of the shows and the areas of the CfE which they relate to. Further details and learning resources available on the website.

Q&A Sessions at the Festival

There will pre-recorded and live Q&A sessions available for both *Removed* and *The Super Special Disability Roadshow*. This is just one way of increasing the learning opportunities for students, providing them with a first-hand insight into the artists' creative process.

POTATO NEEDS A BATH

SHONA REPPE
SCOTLAND

Duration: 30 min film followed by live 15 min Zoom party (3 min interval)

Capacity: 2 classes per show

Level: Nursery – P1 (3–5 yrs)

How To Watch:

Microsoft Teams. Watch the event with your vegetable friends through a private link at your allocated time.

Dates: Check time slots available [here](#).

Curriculum for Excellence:

Rich with wonderfully imaginative storytelling and creative play, *Potato Needs a Bath* offers a unique introduction to the world of fruit and vegetables whilst offering an exciting new stimulus for a range of creative activities in the classroom. This production can support work in **Health & Wellbeing, Literacy and Expressive Arts**. Links could also be made to food journeys, supporting work in **Social Studies**.

Potato has mud on his face. Potato has mud in his ears. Potato needs a bath (just don't get soap in his eyes!)

There is going to be a party, and everyone is ready – except for Potato. Onion is practising his guitar, Aubergine is wearing her new necklace and Peach is bouncing on the bed with excitement.

The problem is Potato needs a bath – but he has other ideas – because Potato loves mud!

Meet Maris Piper and her fruit and vegetable friends in this colourful combination of live and pre-recorded performance based on the much loved theatre show, then join the fruit and vegetable party of the year live on Teams.

Potato Needs a Bath (digital) is based on the original theatre show by Andy Manley & Shona Reppe and was commissioned by Theatre in Schools Scotland, a National Theatre of Scotland and Imagine partnership.

Get ready for the party:

Pupils are encouraged to bring a fruit or vegetable friend to the party. We will send you instruction videos in advance with suggestions of what to make to get ready for the vegetable party.

“The children were very stimulated by the film and looked forward excitedly to Potato’s party! The livestream party was really personal and Maris Piper engaged really well with the children!”

Teacher, St Andrews Primary, Orkney



MIXED UP

**KATY WILSON, CO-COMMISSIONED
AND PRODUCED BY IMAGINATE AND
STARCATCHERS**

SCOTLAND

Duration: 2 recorded sessions
(see details below)

Level: Nursery – P4

Capacity: Unlimited – The first 100 schools who book for *Mixed Up* will receive a small pack of art materials including chalks and confetti, to be used in school as part of the show's interactive outdoor experience.

How To Watch:

Watch the two sessions through a private link.

Dates: The pre-recorded films and activities can be accessed at any time during the Festival.

Mixed Up will be delivered as a series of activities over two 45 minute sessions and will consist of short films, creative workshops recorded by the artists and guided teacher-led activities.

Session 1: A 10 min film and a 30 min teacher-led movement and drawing-based playground activity

Session 2: Three short films and related teacher-led art activity and a discussion session on emotions

Mixed Up is a vibrant, interactive playground experience exploring our feelings and emotions through painting, music, and dance.

Central to the experience will be a short film to enjoy together as a class. The film is an energetic, colourful, and creative expression of hip-hop dance and street art, filmed outside in Edinburgh. Then it's time to get creative! Head for your playground for a teacher-facilitated large-scale drawing, supported by a range of materials, as part of the *Mixed Up* experience. The package also includes short videos and an in-classroom creative task to help children explore their feelings.

We've all been through a turbulent time – with separations, restrictions and loss. Our emotions are all mixed up and hard to express through words. This is a unique opportunity for young children to see how big feelings can safely be explored in a physical way.

Curriculum for Excellence:

This interactive performance explores feelings and emotions in turbulent times. Colourful and positive, *Mixed Up* provides a unique platform for young children to see how big feelings can safely be explored in a physical way, supporting work within **Health & Wellbeing** and **Expressive Arts**.



“Wilson has the knack of turning visionary ideas into practical adventures.”

The Herald

THE UNIVERSITY OF WONDER & IMAGINATION

CAHOOTS NI
NORTHERN IRELAND

Duration: 60 minutes

Capacity: 2 classes per show

Level: P3 – P7

How To Watch:

Microsoft Teams. Watch and participate in the performance on Teams at your allocated time.

Dates: Check time slots available [here](#).

Curriculum for Excellence:

This innovative digital theatre production gives students an opportunity to exercise choice and decision making to influence their own, unique performance.

Presented through a digital platform the production encourages problem solving and critical thinking, supporting work in **Health and Wellbeing, Social Studies, Literacy and Technologies.**

The University of Wonder & Imagination is now enrolling students of all ages and magical abilities.

Pupils will journey to the most unusual of universities, where the mysterious Professor Bamberg will send them off on a self-navigated quest where nothing is quite as it seems. They will interact with the liveliest of lecturers, choose their subjects of study, enter themed rooms and encounter all kinds of problems and puzzles, unlocking magical powers as they go. The choices they'll make during the event will shape their unique experience.

In this ambitious and unique undertaking, Cahoots NI will broadcast live from an extensive, purpose built set where magic and illusion have no boundaries, bringing a fun filled, immersive theatrical experience directly to your pupils.

“The University of Wonder & Imagination more than lived up to its name and is a fantastic example of how innovative digital theatre can deliver as engaging an experience as an in-person show, and share it with a far wider audience.”

The Family Stage



THE SUPER SPECIAL DISABILITY ROADSHOW

BIRDS OF PARADISE
COMMISSIONED BY IMAGINATE
SCOTLAND

Duration: 50 minutes

Capacity: Unlimited

Level: P4 – S2

How To Watch:

Watch the performance through a private link.

Dates: The show and activities can be accessed at any time during the Festival.

Q&A: Live and pre-recorded Q&A with the makers of the show.

Live Q&A: Thu 3 June 14:00

Access: Integrated BSL and captioning

Curriculum for Excellence:

Drawing on stories and experiences of disabled children this new commission from Birds of Paradise will explore difference, disability and identity with characteristic humour and heart. This is an ideal production to support work in **Health and Wellbeing** and **Social Studies** with links to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 10: **Reducing Inequalities**.

What's it like to be disabled in 2021?

Find out at *The Super Special Disability Roadshow* – coming to a school near you! Designed for all school students, this hilarious energising multimedia show looks at how we talk about disability today.

Roadshow hosts Rob and Sal are coming to the end of their schools tour, but are running late for the day's gig. The audience is already waiting impatiently when they enter the stage, struggling with their touring kit. Opening with a cheery (some might say cheesy!) ditty, they launch into their show. Things are going pretty well, as Rob and Sal teach us what it's like for disabled people in today's world ... until the younger generation decides to set them straight!

Created by Robert Softley Gale, artistic director of Birds of Paradise Theatre and writer of the multi-award-winning *My Left/Right Foot*, this show exemplifies the company's vision of a culture where disabled artists are recognised for the excellence of their work and celebrated for the stories they bring to the stage.

**“A warm and funny
experience that achieves
what all the best theatre
does: open a window on
other lives...” ★★★★★**

*The Independent on
Purposeless Movements*



ISLANDER

HELEN MILNE PRODUCTIONS

SCOTLAND & ENGLAND

Capacity: Unlimited

Level: P4 – S2

How To Listen:

Listen to the performance through a link to BBC Sounds

Dates: This audio recording is being offered free of charge. Just add it to your booking to access it throughout the Festival.

Curriculum for Excellence:

This exquisitely stripped back musical uses a range of technology to re-examine the genre. Exploring identity, dreams and the nature of connection, *Islander* is the perfect audio performance to support work in and around **Social Studies, Health and Wellbeing** and **Expressive Arts**, particularly students working towards national qualifications.

“Islander is an immersive, elemental and beautiful musical reflection of life in Scotland’s island communities.” ★★★★★

The Skinny

Eilidh stares out to sea and dreams of a new life beyond her lonely island. Myth and reality collide when the tide washes a mysterious stranger onto her beach, changing her life forever. Epic storytelling told through a contemporary Scottish folk-inspired score.

In this audio recording, the two-hander cast perform a whole host of characters, while weaving, building and layering their voices using looping technology to create an expansive, ethereal soundscape for the ears and imagination.

Originally conceived and directed for the stage by Amy Draper, with musical book by Stewart Melton and music and lyrics by Finn Anderson, for Helen Milne Productions. Produced and Directed for BBC Audio Drama North by Pauline Harris. A BBC recording originally broadcast on Radio 4.

Listen (again) to the songs featured in the play on [Spotify](#).



REMOVED

PRIME CUT PRODUCTIONS NORTHERN IRELAND

Duration: 50 minutes

Capacity: Unlimited

Level: S1 – S6

How To Watch:

Watch the performance through a private link.

Q&A: Live and pre-recorded Q&A with the makers of the show.
Live Q&A: Fri 4 June 10:00

Access: BSL and captioning available

PrimeCut are offering workshops to facilitate post-show discussions around the themes of Removed. Limited free places. Please mention your interest in the booking form.

Curriculum for Excellence:

Drawn from the lived experiences of young people in the care system this show presents a hard-hitting story with heart, humour and humanity. This production is a perfect route into work around rights, responsibility and awareness, supporting learning in **Health and Wellbeing** and **Social Studies**.

Removed is a moving and shocking insight into the experiences of Adam, a young man sharing his story of living within the state care system.

“Adam is OK to share his story; really it’s all right. It’s OK that his life was turned upside down...and the social workers were nice, kinda.... and the foster homes, well... and his baby brother Joe??”

Sometimes heart-breaking, sometimes hilarious, Adam’s story reaches out and grabs you, pulling you into a world that you might think you know. While Adam’s story is fictional, it is an amalgam of the many stories of young people with experience of the care system, interviewed over three years across Northern Ireland. Although dealing at times with a dark subject matter, *Removed* is an ideal fit for young people.

The text has been beautifully shot as a direct to camera monologue rather than a filmed performance of the stage production – the result powerfully brings Adam’s story intimately alive for the viewer.

“This production does what it aims to do well: represents the stories of those who don’t often get to be heard and does so with integrity and grit.” ★★★★★

The Irish Times

DOWN TO EARTH

BAMBOOZLE THEATRE COMPANY ENGLAND

Duration: 40 minutes

Level: P2 – S3 (ASN)

How To Watch:

This show is presented as a partnership with Oaklands School and is not available for bookings.

Curriculum for Excellence:

This interactive, multi sensory production explores the vital role of the Land Army during World War II. Rich with opportunities to explore the natural world and agriculture within an historical context, *Down to Earth* can support work around **Health and Wellbeing, Social Studies** and **Science**.

Using Bamboozle's own immersive style, *Down to Earth: Outdoors* is an interactive, multi-sensory production inspired by the Land Army girls of World War II. Individually welcomed into the production through song, children will touch and feel a vegetable patch full of earth and fresh produce, meet a mischievous mole and enjoy a night time forest journey with fireflies to help light the way.

A rare and moving experience, *Down to Earth* was first presented at our 2016 Festival and incorporates live music, movement and most powerfully, stillness, to ensure each participant has the time to respond to this gentle performance in their own way. During the COVID pandemic the production has been re-staged as an outdoor performance to ensure the safety of its audience members. This new version enhances the magical quality of the production which celebrates each child's closeness with nature.

“A brilliantly engaging, interactive, musical and theatrical experience loved by pupils and staff alike.”

Stuart Rooker, Ashgate Croft School



BEYOND THE FESTIVAL: THEATRE IN SCHOOLS SCOTLAND

[Theatre in Schools Scotland](http://www.theatreinschoolsscotland.co.uk) is a partnership between Imagine and National Theatre of Scotland developing the provision of high quality theatre and dance performances for Scotland's schools. Our productions are created by Scotland's leading performing arts companies, designed specially for school audiences in halls and classrooms and can travel anywhere in Scotland.

Our live touring programme is currently on hold but will resume during the 2021–2022 school year. The full programme will be updated on the website.

www.theatreinschoolsscotland.co.uk

“This is a fantastic experience which expertly balances quality and depth of material with very accessible performances which were fun and engaging.”

Lyn Boxall, Rattray Primary,
Perth and Kinross

TOURING INTO SCHOOLS (LIVE)

Highlights

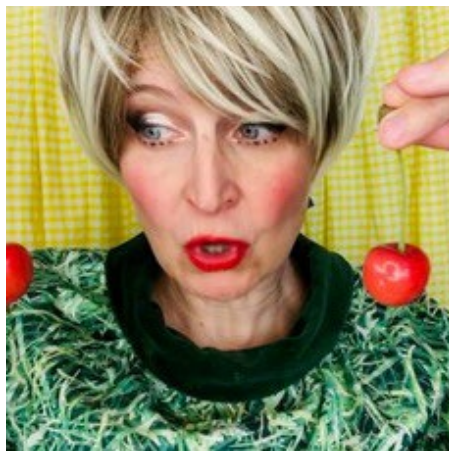
Potato Needs a Bath

Presented by Shona Reppe

Created by Shona Reppe and Andy Manley

There is going to be a party and everyone is ready - except Potato. Onion is practicing his guitar, Aubergine is wearing her new necklace and Peach is bouncing on the bed with excitement. Potato needs a bath - but he has other ideas – because Potato loves mud! A gentle and light-hearted show featuring fruit, vegetables and original music.

For Nursery – P1



Chalk About

Presented by Curious Seed

Originally created by Christine Devaney and Leandro Kees (Performing Group, DE) and commissioned by Imagine.

Join Hendrik and Holly on their journey as they ask some BIG questions about identity and the meaning of life! A playful, funny and sometimes moving look at how we see ourselves and others, featuring dance, chalk, chat and one perfect scene containing everything you could wish for...

For P5 – 7



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME COMPANY CREDITS

Potato Needs a Bath

Funded by Creative Scotland

Mixed Up

Funded by Creative Scotland

The Super Special Disability Roadshow

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Islander

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Removed

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Down to Earth

Funded by Arts Council England

FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



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Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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Foundation



Culture Ireland
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