

POLKA

Where Theatre Begins

Creative Learning
KS4 & KS5

★ POLKA ★

COMMUNITY DAY ★

Session 1 Session 2
11:00am - 1:00pm 2:00pm - 4:00pm

FREE ACTIVITIES

★ STORYTELLING TENT ★
11:15 / 11:50 / 12:20
2:15 / 2:50 / 3:20

★ PUPPET MAKING ★
★ WATER FELTING ★
★ FARM TRAILS ★



What Does a Creative Learning Department Do?

The Creative Learning Department deliver workshops, events, resources and other opportunities for the public to engage with theatre beyond watching a performance.



What Does a Creative Learning Department Do?

For example, at Polka, this includes...

- Family workshops
- Holiday workshops
- School workshops
- Youth Theatre
- Community Events
- Teacher Resources
- Work Experience
- Teacher Training
- Access Programmes
- Funded Schemes

And much more!



Linking to the Curriculum

The Creative Learning Department work closely with schools and education providers.

A large part of this work is finding ways to link Polka's Productions to the National Curriculum.



Linking to the Curriculum

For example, we may create a resource pack that uses characters from a production to explore a PSHE topic.

Or, we might run a Creative Writing workshop inspired by the script of one of our plays.



Over to You!

Today, you're going to have a go at designing a Creative Learning Activity.

If you're currently working on your own devised piece, you can use that. Otherwise, you can design an activity for a play you have seen, read or studied recently.



Finding Your Curriculum Link

Let's start by finding an area of the Curriculum that links to your play.

Your play doesn't have to be completely centred around a subject you study at school - you can often find a subplot or small element that explores an area of the curriculum.

On the next page, you'll find some possible curriculum topics - or you can think through topics you've studied over the past few years!



Curriculum Topics

PSHE

- Relationships
- Mental Health
- Bullying & Discrimination
- Media & Digital Literacy

English

- Literature (Pre-1914)
- Literature (Contemporary)
- Shakespeare

Geography

- Urbanisation
- Use of Natural Resources

Science

- The Effects of Recreational Drugs
- Genetics and Evolution
- Fuel & Energy
- Space Physics

History

- Medieval Britain
- The Renaissance and the Reformation
- The Slave Trade
- Colonisation

Let's Make a Game Of It

Drama games can make fantastic starter activities or warm ups for workshops.

Now that you've chosen your curriculum area, you're going to choose a game to adapt.

Start by making a list or mind-map of all the drama games you know. Why not play some of them while you're at it?



Let's Make a Game Of It

Now have a look through your list. Which of these games could be adapted to suit your chosen topic?

You'll find some examples of adaptations on the next slide.



Example Adaptations

- Change the key words/actions to match your topic.
E.g. 'Zip Zap Boing' becomes 'Macbeth, Duncan, Witches'.
- Choose a setting, characters or theme to match your topic.
E.g. 'Party Quirks' becomes 'Guess the British Monarch'
- Provide props, images or other prompts to match your topic.
E.g. Create a tableau inspired by images of different relationships



Using Your Play

Lastly, consider how your activity can link to- or teach your participants about- your play.

For example, you could use production photos, props, or excerpts of your script.

Finalise your activity and get ready to share it!





Sharing Time!

Lead the rest of your class through your activity.
What did they learn?

Hear from the Professional

Lizzie Corscaden - Schools Manager

Describe your job in one sentence.

I am responsible for all of Polka's work with education providers, including workshops, resources, funded tickets, long-term projects and, of course, Work Experience Week!

What are the top three skills you need for your job?

Excellent time management, a love for learning and lots of creativity.

Are there any specific qualifications or experience you need to be able to do your job?

You don't need specific qualifications for this role, but prior experience in teaching and education is helpful. I volunteered at local schools while at university, and have since worked as a facilitator, an administrator for an arts charity, a Creative Learning events producer and as an Early Years content creator. These may all sound disconnected but they've each built up skills and knowledge that I am now able to apply in the varied projects I get to design, plan and run at Polka!

What is your favourite part of your job?

I love making the resource packs – coming up with engaging drama activities that link each production to the National Curriculum is challenging but lots of fun.

Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for a young person hoping to pursue a career in your field?

Say 'yes' to every opportunity thrown your way. You never know which little nugget of knowledge or experience is going to come in handy – or even grow into a full career! I've had a really varied career and tried out lots of different roles until I found the one I really loved.



Hear from the Professional

Polly Simmonds - Head of Creative Learning

Describe your job in one sentence.

Lead the Creative Learning team and responsible for the development and delivery of accessible, inclusive and innovative learning and participation experiences for children, schools and families.

What are the top three skills you need for your job?

Creative thinking, strategic planning, excellent communication skills

Are there any specific qualifications or experience you need to be able to do your job?

No - I trained as an actor so I do not have specific qualifications for this role, but I have gained experience and built my skill set throughout my career by learning from others, attending short courses on the areas I needed more support (IT skills, management skills, teaching experience) and attending Network meetings to connect with people who work in the same field.

What is your favourite part of your job?

My most favourite part of my job is seeing the incredible impact of our work and watching children and young people thrive by taking part in our workshops. Drama allows children and young people to grow in confidence & self-worth, become more creative with their ideas, find social situations easier to navigate and become better communicators.

Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for a young person hoping to pursue a career in your field?

Start by becoming a freelance practitioner or director so you can get hands-on experience before you start creating your own projects. This will give you a better understanding of the 'content' of what you want to create. See what other organisations offer. Be open to ideas from others and don't worry if some ideas are not as 'successful' - you will still learn from it! Be curious, be inquisitive, learn from others, share ideas, be organised, keep learning.



Want to learn more about careers in theatre?

Head to polkatheatre.com to find out about Work Experience.