

11/4/2019

Dear CXYP Participants, Parents and Carers,

Drum Roll

It is the return of the Corn Exchange Young Performers newsletter!

Hope you all had a great Easter break and are all looking forward to Term 4 and what a term it is going to be!

This is our performance term and it is a busy one. In this newsletter you will get information about staffing changes, meeting dates and times, fees and subscriptions, class performances, backstage tours and theatre trips.

Announcements

Dance and Music Tuition

At CXYP we believe it is important to give our young people skills and experience in all the performing arts - drama, singing, music and dance.

This term we are lucky to have Alex Saunders joining us. Alex is a Community Dance Artist. She has her own company Live for Dance and currently works at Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre. She has also taught at Eden Court Theatre and Hampshire Dance. She has performed with Biggar Theatre Workshop, at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony and at The Mela in Southampton.

To start with Alex will be working with Jonathan and the Primary classes to add a bit of dance to their performances this term.

Primary and Senior Performances

All our classes are performing at some point this term. Both our primary classes have been working on devising. This means that they have been creating and coming up with ideas for their performance from scratch. The S1 and S2-6 class have each been working on a one act play.

The P1-4 and 5-7 Performances will be on the 31st May and 1st June 2019 at 6pm and the S1 and S2-6 performances will be 21st and 22nd June 2019 at 7:30pm.

Tickets will be on sale for these shortly. However you can get an idea of what all the classes have been working on below.

P1-4- A Journey through Crazy Worlds



The Primary 1- 4 Class have been exploring different worlds - underwater, sweetie and chocolate world and dancing unicorn world. Explorers will explore these worlds looking for pieces of a magical box. This performance will have a mix of puppetry, masks and imagination.

P5-7- Truce?

The Primary 5-7 Class have been exploring the theme of Good and Evil. There has been a group of people keeping these forces in check. The “Society of Sinisterly Evil” A party made up of everything evil in the world to promote everything evil in the world and the “Guild for the Graciously Good!” a party made up of everything good in the world to promote everything good in the world. This performance will include fairies, pringles, Dracula, pantomime princes, wicked witches, an evil maths teacher, bunnies and wizards. Can evil and good put aside their differences and work together? You will have to watch to find out!

S1- “Sparkleshark” by Philip Ridley

The S1 Class has been working on a one act play - “Sparkleshark” by Philip Ridley. Fourteen-year-old Jake, the classroom 'geek', takes refuge on the roof of a tower block in order to write his stories. Before long other young people join him and the taunting begins. Although at first he endeavours to hide, he learns to fight back in the only way he knows how - storytelling. Soon the whole group is enmeshed in the story, enacting a fantastic tale which resonates with the dynamics of their own friendships and enmities.

S2-6 - “Our Day Out” by Willy Russell

The S2-6 class is working on “Our Day Out” By Willy Russell. This is an account of a school trip for students from a remedial class: hilarious, chaotic and lively, but tinged with the suggestion that the disadvantaged children have little else to look forward to. Mrs Kay’s ‘Progress Class’ are unleashed for a day’s coach trip to Conway Castle in Wales, stopping off at the café, the zoo, the beach and the funfair, the children taking advantage of the numerous opportunities to bicker, fool around, steal and get lost. Russell presents an exuberant celebration of the joys and agonies of growing up and being footloose, fourteen and free from school.

Rehearsal Schedules

Given it is performance term for all groups, by its very nature it will be very different from the last few terms. Please find below a list of key dates and meeting times for all the Primary and S1 Classes. As we get closer to the performance week we will be holding some extra rehearsals. We understand that your child may have other commitments but if they can attend these sessions it will greatly help in pulling together the performances.

CXYP- Term 4- Primary Classes Meeting Times

**Tuesday 16th April Normal Meeting Time P1-4- 3:15pm - 4:15pm- Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

**Tuesday 23rd April Normal Meeting Time P1-4- 3:15pm - 4:15pm- Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

**Tuesday 30th April Normal Meeting Time P1-4-3:15pm - 4:15pm- Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7- 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

**Sunday 5th May Extra Rehearsal P1-4 1-2pm- Legion Hall, Biggar
P5-7 2-4pm**

**Tuesday 7th May Normal Meeting Time P1-4-3:15pm - 4:15pm- Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7- 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

**Sunday 12th May Extra Rehearsal P1-4 1-2pm- Legion Hall, Biggar
P5-7 2-4pm**

**Tuesday 14th May Normal Meeting Time P1-4-3:15pm - 4:15pm- Legion Hall, Biggar
P5-7- 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

**Sunday 19th May Extra Rehearsal P1-4 1-2pm- Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7 2-4pm**

**Tuesday 21st May Normal Meeting Time P1-4-3:15pm - 4:15pm- Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7- 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

**Tuesday 28th May Primary Show Technical Rehearsal P1-4 3:15- 4:30pm Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7 4:30-6 pm**

**Wednesday 29th May Primary Show Dress Rehearsal P1-4 3:30- 5pm Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7 5-7pm**

**Friday 31st May Primary Show 1- Both Classes- Call Time 4pm - Biggar Corn Exchange
Show- 6-7pm**

**Saturday 1st June Primary Show 2- Both Classes- Call Time 4pm - Biggar Corn Exchange
Show- 6-7pm**

**Tuesday 5th June Normal Meeting Time P1-4-3:15pm - 4:15pm- Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7- 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

Tuesday 11th June-NO SESSION (BIGGAR GALA WEEK)

**Tuesday 18th June Normal Meeting Time P1-4-3:15pm - 4:15pm- Biggar Corn Exchange
P5-7- 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

Tuesday 25th June Joint Party Night (All classes together) 4-6pm- Biggar Corn Exchange

Goodbye and Thank You Sam!



At the beginning of last term we said goodbye to Sam Swinton. He has been a group leader at CXYP for many years, teaching all classes at some stage but most recently he has been working with the S2-6 Class.

Sam had this to say-

"It has been nearly five years since I started working with this terrific bunch of young people back in 2014. Since then, we have:

- *Flown to New York*
- *Scouted for Big Foot*
- *Humbugged Christmas*
- *Grappled with "Illucinations"*
- *Navigated the life of a 13 & 3 1/4 year-old intellectual.*

All onstage, of course.

I can honestly say that I will miss this group enormously. They have been such a joy to lead. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers who have supported me over the years. You have always made me feel welcome and appreciated.

I look forward to seeing what this group will do next- for once, as an audience member! How exciting...

For now though, thank you and farewell."

The management team would like to thank Sam for all his time, dedication and commitment to CXYP over the years. We wish him all the best!

David Ross is back as the new group leader for the S2-6 class. David is a graduate of Queen Margaret University and has worked and volunteered in youth theatre for the past decade, mainly throughout East Lothian. Within the amateur theatre sector, David directed Musselburgh Amateur Musical Association (MAMA) for three years. He is currently the Director of Loretto Youth Players. David also tutors extensively through the East Lothian Youth Theatre (ELYT), and the Brunton Youth Theatre (BYT) based at the Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh.

Primary Classes Theatre Trip



We are hoping to organise a theatre trip to see Horrible Histories Awful Egyptians at Edinburgh Festival Theatre on Sunday 16th June at 3pm.

Using actors and ground-breaking 3D special effects, this show is guaranteed to thrill you. Historical figures and events will come alive on stage and hover at your fingertips! From the fascinating Pharaohs to the power of the pyramids, discover the foul facts of death and decay with the meanest mummies in Egypt. Are you ready to rumble with Ramesses the Great? Dare you enter through the Gates of the Afterlife? It's the history of Egypt with the nasty bits left in!

Tickets for this are limited and will be offered out to those in the Primary 1-4 and Primary 5-7 class on a first come and first served basis. If you are interested in attending please email for more information.

Parent Volunteers

Currently, we are looking for parent volunteers to help us with the new term ahead. We are extremely grateful for any time you can spare in assisting us with the smooth running of our drama sessions and in the run up to our performances. We need volunteers to help source props, costumes, build set, work front of house- selling programmes and raffle tickets. We also need people to be chaperones on the performance nights. If you would like to volunteer please send us an email or speak to one of the Group Leaders or Daphne Chad on Tuesday.

New Term Subscriptions

This terms fee for all classes is £42 for a single child, and £74 for two siblings, covering 11 session (i.e. including all extra rehearsals). Please note – although CXYP has to cover the costs of our activities, we are committed to providing access to all young people who want to be part of it. We do understand that there are many financial pressures on parents, and

that CXYP can be seen as just one more. If, for any reason, anyone feels that they would have difficulty meeting the costs, please tell us. Speak to Daphne, or email daphne.chad@btconnect.com (or mike.chad@btconnect.com) We will keep any such conversation strictly confidential.

We ask that all subscriptions for Term 4 are paid no later than Tuesday 23rd April. Please feel free to use:

- Electronic transfer to Biggar Corn Exchange (account 00613195, sort code 83-16-11) with "CXYP" and your initials in the "reference" box.
- Cheque (cheques payable to "**Biggar Corn Exchange**") which can either be brought to the next CXYP session or left in an envelope addressed to me at the Corn Exchange.

Looking ahead

In the summer we have some of the S2-6 Class attending Youth Theatre Arts Scotland's National Festival of Youth Theatre at the Ayr Gaiety on the 5-8th July. It is a weekend of workshops, performances and CAMPING with and by various youth theatres from across Scotland. It is a chance for young people to get together and meet likeminded people. Workshops are run by professional facilitators and have included acting, directing, play writing, beat boxing, stage combat, clowning, storytelling, magic and flash mob dance. Other social events happening during the weekend include a lip sync battle, open mic night, theatre sports and a Ceilidh.

We will also be running our annual Summer Workshops again - *Three Plays in Three Days* on Thursday 1st August to Saturday 3rd August for those in P5 to S6. Splitting into three production groups, CXYP participants will devise and stage three original one-act plays in under 72 hours. On the last day, local audiences will be treated to an evening performance of each play. Information on how to book your place for this will be circulated shortly.

A reminder: If you are on Facebook we also have a group which gets updated with news and pictures as well. Just search for Corn Exchange Young Performers or use this link- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1982694251986855/>

If you have any questions about the forthcoming term, please do get in touch.

Best Wishes,

Jonathan White
Programme Co-ordinator and Group Leader
P1-3, P5-7 & S1 Drama Groups

On behalf of:
David Ross
Programme Co-ordinator and Group Leader
S2-6 Drama Group
Alex Saunders
Community Dance Artist
Katy Bisson. Adam Lacey & Angus Allison Drama Workshop Assistants

Corn Exchange Young Performers (CXYP)
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