

DOORSTEP

THEATRE FESTIVAL

Bringing high-quality theatre to schools across East Anglia.

After the huge success of the first five years, Doorstep Theatre Festival is back at Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds for Summer 2025. The festival is designed to make high-quality arts activities accessible to schools by lessening the restraints of rural isolation and the financial implications that come with visiting an arts venue.



This children's arts festival provides schools with the opportunity to host a performance by leading theatre companies. Schools will also get the option of enrichment workshops led by our team of highly-skilled Drama Facilitators. Also, teachers are invited to a CPD session to explore how the themes within the performances and workshops can be carried into the classroom. The package offered comes at a heavily subsidised rate to schools.

Suitable for:
EYFS/KS1
Ages 3-7



Themes and links:

Imagination, - Exploration -
Creative Problem Solving -
Collaboration & teamwork -
Difference - Resilience -
Inclusion - Accessibility -
Empathy - Friendship - Barriers

A SQUARE WORLD

Performed by  daryl
and
co.

16-26th June AM or PM

A Square World is an honest, touching and quirky story of three friends and what happens when an unexpected change leaves one of them left out in the cold. Together they decide to redefine the rules of the square world in which they live and soon discover their lives won't be square ever again! This non-verbal story uses simple design and object manipulation to create an imaginative world where anything can happen.

This endearing and funny performance looks at the unfairness of being left out in a world designed for everyone else but yourself.

A Square World is inspired by the ideas of the Social Model of Disability. It was created in collaboration with a class of 5-year olds during an artist residency at a nursery. It presents the barriers of everyday life in a playful way, opening up an understanding or solidarity around disability, without being didactic to our early year's audience. The show doesn't take a sledgehammer approach to the subject of access or inclusion, but doesn't shy away from it either. This leads to a gentle, playful yet poignant message.

Daryl & Co is a Disabled-led children's theatre company where collaboration and co-creation meet mischief and merriment. They make accessible theatre to delight young audiences and their families and they tour all over the country.

"This simple, yet wonderfully effective piece really brings home how being different should be celebrated. Little hands love A Square World, and a touch of audience participation at the end really cements the message. Everyone is different, everyone is unique. And everyone is welcome to live in the Square World." Curious Mums

Suitable for:
KS2
Ages 7-11

Themes and links:

Nature – Resilience –
Trust – Teamwork –
Building Self
confidence



Performed by  VANHULLEDANCETHEATRE

16-27th June AM or PM

Olive Branch is a dynamic, feel-good, Funny and family friendly dance duet that intertwines physical theatre with martial arts.

Olive Branch is a poetic tale of rediscovering the wonder and beauty that nature provides. Following the new and unusual friendship between two strangers, they quickly learn to overcome differences, despite miscommunications, by developing trust and acceptance an alliance is formed to defend mother nature.

Founded in 2013 by neurodivergent Artistic Directors Laura Vanhulle and Oliver Russell, Vanhulle Dance Theatre is based in the East of England and is currently an Associate Artist at Swindon Dance. The company creates physical, emotive performances blending contemporary dance and martial arts, touring nationally and internationally in diverse settings such as schools, libraries and outdoor festivals.

Vanhulle Dance Theatre is committed to making high-quality dance accessible to all, regardless of financial circumstances. Their work focuses on connecting with audiences and supporting marginalized groups, including young people, rural elders with dementia and aspiring professionals through workshops, classes and commissions.

"Olive Branch is nothing short of mesmerising, the dancers effortlessly wove together contemporary dance movements with the precision and discipline of martial arts. It was a visual symphony of grace and power, leaving us all in awe." – Adult Audience Member

"The combination of storytelling, martial arts and all the stunts reminded me of Avatar; The Last Airbender, which I love. And the stick solo at the beginning was so cool and HYPNOTIC!" – Boy aged 12

DOORSTEER

THEATRE FESTIVAL

Subsidised Package Breakdown

- 1 performance of your choice from the info below
- 1 enrichment workshop delivered in school by our team of theatre practitioners up to 35 participants, this workshop is 1 hour and happens on the same day as your performance, either pre or post show.
- (Additional workshops can be booked for an extra small fee).
- CPD session
- Each show also comes with a teacher resource pack for you to continue learning activities in the classroom after the performance.

Package total:
£190

Additional
Workshops:
£60 per workshop
(up to 35
participants)



A STRANGE NEW SPACE

Olive Branch

Morning Sessions:

Get In: 8 - 9.30am

Performance: 9.30 - 10.20am

Get Out: 10.20 - 11.05am

Afternoon Sessions:

Get In: 1 - 2.30pm

Performance: 2.30 - 3.20pm

Get Out: 3.20 - 4.05pm

The company require:

- Step free access to any space (the artist is a wheelchair user)
- Ideally access to accessible toilets in any space
- Designated parking space close to venue entrance

Morning Sessions:

Get In: 8.30 - 9.30am

Performance: 9.30 - 10.00am

Get Out: 10.00am - 10.30am

Afternoon Sessions:

Get In: 1 - 2pm

Performance: 2 - 2.30pm

Get Out: 2.30 - 3.00pm

The company will require:

- 8x8m flat smooth and level surface -can be indoors or outdoors - if outdoors an indoor option will need to be provided as a back up if there is poor weather.
- Access to plug socket in the performance area
- 1 x parking space
- Step free access to performance area

To enquire or book, email engagement@theatreroyal.org with your interest and we will send you the formal application form.