



Education

Blue
Elephant
Theatre
Camberwell

Blue Elephant Theatre Education Department

The Blue Elephant Theatre Education Department seeks to engage, respond to, reflect and promote the interests of the local community.

We primarily work with young people, although the focus of our work is to tackle all forms of social exclusion in our local area by engaging individuals through the arts.

Our social inclusion agenda ensures that: we are committed to ensuring access to the arts for groups of individuals who would not normally be able to access such activities for social, economic or other reasons.

Many of our projects target young people from refugee, asylum and migrant communities.

The Blue Elephant is an essential community resource (nurturing talent and academic ability as well as offering the opportunity to explore choices in life).

The Blue Elephant views: the arts as a valuable tool for reconnecting young people with mainstream education.

Our education work

- Addresses key social problems affecting young people at risk of or experiencing exclusion (e.g. by providing worthwhile creative activities)
- Changes group dynamics rooted in aggression and division into a supportive atmosphere (e.g. through positive, focused group work)
- Motivates young people (e.g. through providing a platform for achievement)
- Allows participants to explore personal issues through arts based activities
- Gives young people a sense of pride and achievement in demonstrating newly acquired skills

Some of our projects past and present include



Young People's Theatre

Our exciting "Young People's Theatre" offers children in Southwark free drama classes on Saturdays for young people aged 7 to 18.

Each term leads to a public performance on the stage of the Blue Elephant Theatre with the group taking part in the National Theatre's Connections project, musical theatre workshops and regular theatre trips to the West End.



Wyndham and Comber Community Play

In December 2011 the Community of Camberwell got together to create the Blue Elephant Theatre's



first ever community play! A cast over forty from aged 10 to 70 devised, created and designed their very own play called "A Camberwell Carol". The play featured church choirs, local residents, an elders choir and youth group.

An amazing achievement by the local community!

"I enjoyed the fact that I can show my kids that you can do what you want in life!"

Steven Ball
– Community Play participant

"I have enjoyed making new friends and learning new dance routines and I wish this was a real school"

Karen Roberts
– participant
[Keyworth Primary]

Forum Theatre

Forum Theatre is an interactive performance method that engages an audience to find a positive resolution to a play. The audience are supported by a facilitator who encourages them to intervene in chosen scenes of the play to influence a character's choices and guide them in a new direction.

In Forum Theatre there are no right or wrong answers, just the chance for the audience to work constructively to explore various possibilities and find a positive resolve. This engaging and creative process is an exciting way to work with groups to explore behaviour and empower them to make change.

Wyndham and Comber Dance and Drama Group!

On Tuesday nights meet a group made of young people from the local Wyndham and Comber estate who have been tackling Anti Social Behaviour by engaging in positive activities to raise aspirations.

They have participated in the Community Play, local Fun Days, Staying Safe events as well as tackle everything from Street Dance to Shakespeare!

Speak Out

Our Speak Out project is now in its 2nd fantastic year and has been successfully touring Secondary Schools and Community Centres in Southwark with its team of professional actors tackling subject matters effecting young people's lives.

Past productions have focused on young people's experiences and emotions. Speak Out likes to give young people a platform to explore issues such as, confidence and dealing with anger and the emotions that influence our every day actions and future possibilities.

"Speak Out is not just talking at you. It helps you to try and get things off your chest and makes you realize how other people feel when they are angry"

Participant
– Year 10
[Harris Academy for Girls]



Summer School!

August 2010 saw The Blue Elephant Theatre provide it's first ever Summer School for Southwark children.

Children aged 7 to 11 worked with West End performer Sherene Hanly as well as local Street Dance artist Steven Ochan to create their very own Michael Jackson episode of "Glee"!

Above are photo's from our current play "Father's Joy" in performance at St Michaels and All Angels School. The project also makes regular visits to Peckham Academy and Harris Academy Bermondsey.

To see footage of Speak Out please go to:
www.vimeo.com/19390859
or
www.vimeo.com/19654288



“I would like the Blue Elephant to continue so that children in the community have a place to go and learn about dance and drama.”

Janet Smith
– Wyndham and Comber
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“Marcus is quite shy, but this has really boosted his confidence and self esteem, especially as he got a special prize. He enjoyed every aspect of Summer School. He really shone in the showcase performance. He loved practising at home.

Thank you for this opportunity. We would have been socially poorer without it.”

Mrs Dolores
Gooden-Husbands
– participant’s parent

“It is going so well and we think it is the best we have ever seen”

Patrick Hill
– Assistant Head
Teacher
[Keyworth Primary]

“Inspired children’s, creative writing and imagination”

Suzanna George
– Y4 Teacher
[John Ruskin School]

“It teaches young people discipline, commitment and nurtures their talents”

– Wyndham and
Comber parent

The Blue Elephant Theatre needs continued support to be able to continue the work.

If you feel you could help please get in contact with

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