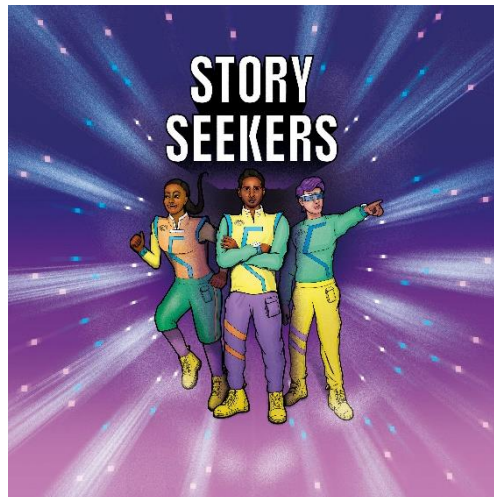


National Theatre and the Unicorn Theatre launch nationwide storytelling mission for primary school pupils



4 June 2021

Today the National Theatre and the Unicorn Theatre are launching **Story Seekers**, a new creative literacy project for primary schools across the UK.

Pupils aged 8-11 are invited to join in a nationwide mission to find, tell and share exciting stories from across the globe. Pupils will be led through the quest as they undertake the *Story Seeker's Training Programme* guided by filmed theatre performances. Created by **Justin Audibert**, Artistic Director of the Unicorn and **Jackie Tait**, Primary Programme Manager at the NT, there will also be workshops and performances by leading professional storytellers.

The mission will culminate with pupils creating their own filmed storytelling performances to share with their school community, other participating schools across the UK and beyond. Through the challenge, children will explore the rich oral storytelling tradition from the UK and around the world.

Available FREE to UK state schools, this project is designed to take place over six weeks and sit alongside the school curriculum. Continuing professional development (CPD) sessions and curriculum-linked resources developed in partnership with the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) are provided to support teachers to lead the project.

In response to the impact on children's learning following a year of significant disruption, *Story Seekers* focuses on supporting children to develop their communication, oracy and language skills to promote self-expression and wellbeing. The project also supports teachers to reconnect children with learning and their school community in a fun, creative and imaginative way.

Justin Audibert, Artistic Director of the Unicorn Theatre said, “I am so excited that children across the United Kingdom will be joining the Story Seekers in finding, exploring and sharing stories from around the world. What could be more exciting and rewarding for pupils and teachers alike than delving into the incredibly rich oral storytelling tradition and then reimagining and performing these stories to their wider school communities. This project will be a truly joyful and creative learning adventure for all involved.”

To sign up your school to take part, visit www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/storyseekers

Story Seekers will be offered on a termly basis. Applications to take part in Autumn 2021 are open until 17 September 2021.

ENDS

For images please click [here](#).

For more information and press requests, please contact Rhian Bennett on rbennett@nationaltheatre.org.uk

The National Theatre's Partner for Learning is Bank of America.

Story Seekers is supported by The Mohn Westlake Foundation, Buffini Chao Foundation, The Hearn Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Goldsmiths' Company Charity, Charlotte and Simon Warshaw, Susan Miller and Byron Grote, Mave Turner and David Dutton, The Derrill Allatt Foundation, The Casey Trust as part of the National Theatre's Let's Play programme.

Notes to Editors

About the National Theatre

The National Theatre's mission is to make world class theatre that's entertaining, challenging and inspiring – and to make it for everyone. It aims to reach the widest possible audience and to be as inclusive, diverse and national as possible with a broad range of productions that play in London, on tour around the UK, on Broadway and across the globe. The National Theatre's extensive UK-wide learning and participation programme supports young people and schools through performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play, while Public Acts creates ambitious new works of participatory theatre in sustained partnership with theatres and community organisations around the country. The National Theatre extends its reach through digital programmes including NT Live, which broadcasts some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries, the National Theatre Collection, which makes recordings of shows available to UK schools and the global education sector, and now National Theatre at Home. The National Theatre invests in the future of theatre by developing talent, creating bold new work and building audiences, partnering with a range of UK theatres and theatre companies. For more information, please visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

About the Unicorn Theatre

The Unicorn Theatre is the largest children's theatre in the UK, specialising in producing new, innovative and ambitious productions for children aged up to 13 years. Based in their purpose-built home at London Bridge, the venue is a creative space that welcomes around

65,000 families and schools every year, and reaches thousands more across the UK and beyond through touring and online theatre experiences.

Creating theatre with the values of curiosity, respect and courage, and working in partnership with schools and communities, the Unicorn connects young people with hopeful stories that question and explore the world.