

Sheppey Shanties

**Exciting new arts project for coming out of lockdown!
A unique opportunity celebrating Sheppey Primary Schools,
Completely free of charge**

Sheppey Shanties is an exciting new project for four Sheppey Primary schools to work with Paper Balloon Theatre and their company of professional artists to create an original Sea Shanty music video, featuring performances by year 6 pupils.

Over the course of several fun and exciting workshops in the summer term, up to 30 pupils per school will co-write an original Sea Shanty with award-winning composer Darren Clark, engaging with Sheppey's maritime heritage.

The pupils will also devise an accompanying movement piece; featuring either physical theatre and puppetry, or contemporary dance, facilitated by Paper Balloon's experienced directors and choreographers. The song and accompanying performances will be recorded and filmed by the Paper Balloon team, and turned into an original, bespoke music video that champions and celebrates the young people's creativity and ideas.

The project explores ways to celebrate youth-led creativity through music and drama during a difficult and uncertain time. The delivery team will retain a flexible approach to reaching schools, whether working in-person, remotely, or through blended delivery.

How to apply

Theatre31 and Paper Balloon with the support of the Sheppey Creative Schools Network are looking for four primary schools in Sheppey to take part in this amazing project. Expressions of interest will be met on a first come first served basis. **Deadline 5pm, Friday 26 April.**

In order for us to fully engage four schools, we anticipate activity will commence from 3 May onwards.

Register your expression of interest:

<https://nq4cwi781z.typeform.com/to/tpPPvxaR>



Photos from The Boy and the Mermaid, a Paper Balloon production. Photo credit: Steve Roche

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Project package highlights

- The project engages and connects four primary schools on Sheppey;
- The company will work with one year 6 class per school;
- 4 weeks of engagement to create a unique song and music video;
- Delivery during the summer term – completed by the end of the school year;
- Through co-creation, your students will be inspired and stimulated to reach their creative potential;
- Artforms explored include drama, creative writing, music, puppetry, and physical theatre;
- Editing of music video handled by the team and delivered straight to you;
- Unique finished film starring own students delivered on completion which, can be shared on the school website or with a smaller circle of family and friends;
- Potential further performance opportunity of the student's songs in a public space as part of the Theatre31 festival in August;
- All completely free of charge.

Learning through creativity – project outline

- Each school will work with the artists of Paper Balloon to create their own individual music video – this is a unique experience to connect and create with industry professionals and to be guided in a fully supported environment.
- The piece of music created will be loosely based on the format of a 'sea shanty'. The young people will be taken on a creative journey that invites them to explore local stories and heritage.
- The creation of each piece will be done so with a youth led approach celebrating a co-creation relationship between young person and artist.
- The four individual music videos will be brought together, published and released on the Theatre31's Digital Stage, as well as schools' own websites.
- Involvement looks to enhance a young person's confidence, communication skills and creativity – whilst giving an experience and framework for self-expression and exploration of identity.
- All partners involved are committed to a Child Safety policy and have undergone appropriate safeguarding training. Those directly involved with delivery hold a valid DBS certificate.
- Theatre31 wishes to bring members of the Sheppey community together in a celebratory moment.

Teacher experience

We realise that although schools are back in their buildings and the world is starting to open, there is still a little while to go before we can get back to normal. This project is designed with lockdown restrictions in mind and can be delivered purely digitally or in a blended digital/ live process, according to your own Risk Assessments and learning environment.

Our team will meet your needs and work with you collaboratively to deliver the project best to your requirements – with direct consultation between Paper Balloon and your lead teacher throughout the whole process.

All materials required for project delivery and to enthral your students will be put together by Paper Balloon at no extra cost to you. The experience is fuss free! Should we have the opportunity to visit your school and deliver sessions on site, this will be done so in a Covid-secure way, following Covid mitigation policies and procedures.

Paper Balloon and Theatre31 maintain a flexible approach – and will deliver a structure that suits varying risk assessments. We want the young people to enjoy the project and have as much fun as possible, in a safe working environment.

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About Theatre31

Theatre for young people, by young people.

Theatre31 is an exciting new programme, inspiring young people to be involved in theatre and putting them directly in the driving seat. Taking place across Medway and Sheppey, this youth led programme supports young people make decisions and call the shots on everything that happens – from deciding which artists to work with to designing the logo.

All the activities are free to access and there are many opportunities for young people to get involved!

Theatre31 is managed by Icon Theatre, based at the Brook Theatre in Chatham, who have been co-creating original performances with communities and young people since 2002. It is fully funded by Arts Council England, in partnership with Medway Council, Kent County Council and ROH Bridge, with support from the Medway and Sheppey LCEPs (Learning Cultural Engagement Partners). We also work closely with the Medway and Sheppey Creative School's Networks.

Theatre31 is an arts programme with no walls, which means all activities can be flexibly and quickly adapted to enable safe and creative delivery in a Covid world.

Cost

Completely free of charge!

As Theatre31 is funded by Arts Council England with support from Medway Council, Kent County Council and ROH Bridge, there are no charges for our activities including Sheppey Shanties.

About Paper Balloon Theatre Company



Paper Balloon produce original, innovative theatre for young people and their families. Since 2012 they have developed and toured new writing and devised work for young audiences, featuring a blend of original live music, puppetry, dance, and lyrical storytelling.

Paper Balloon also run a Creative Learning programme, collaborating with families, schools, and adult learners. They place young people at the centre of their work; whether facilitating creative experiences, or in co-creation of professional productions; such as developing *The Boy and the Mermaid* with families in Folkestone, Deal and Whitstable.

Alex Kanefsky (Artistic Director) is a writer, performer, and theatre practitioner with a specialism in working with young people. His work includes storytelling and facilitation with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Polka Theatre and Discover Children's Story Centre. He is a puppeteer and will lead a puppet focus on the project.

Darren Clark is an award-winning composer and lyricist and co-founder of Paper Balloon. Recent credits include *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (Jethro Compton), *The Wicker Husband* (Watermill Theatre 2020) and *The Scarecrow's Wedding* (Leicester Square Theatre).

Jenny Longley is an experienced director and freelance workshop leader having led theatrical workshops for many local Kent organisations. Following a professional career as an actor, Jenny has been resident director of The Hazlitt Youth Theatre for the past five years, directing shows including; *The Snow Queen*, *Footloose*, *Copacabana*, *The Wedding Singer*, *High School Musical* and *A Christmas Carol*.

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Josh Barnes is a Film Studies and English Literature Graduate with a background of working creatively with children at the Hazlitt Youth Theatre. Working in the media industry the past 3 years he has been a videographer at the University of East Anglia Students' Union creating event and campaign video content, along with producing many short films on a wide variety of social issues.

www.paperballoon.org.uk

Artsmark and Arts Award

Are you on an Artsmark journey? Are you looking to engage your students in creative activities to achieve Arts Award?

Theatre31 is an Artsmark Partner, and we support schools working towards Artsmark, as well as those that currently hold Artsmark status. We believe drama and improvisation should play a central role in every young person's creative education and we offer support, guidance, and practical activities to help schools make this a reality and embed creativity into their everyday culture.

At the heart of our practice is co-creation, where young people, or young artists, collaborate with artists – celebrating young people and their creativity. Theatre31 strives to create theatre-based opportunities for all young people whatever their socio-economic background and curates its programme of activities with a youth led voice.

As an Artsmark Partner, Theatre31 has a specifically designed schools programme for you to engage with including:

- Taster drama-based workshops – either online or in person
- Live theatre shows – offering touring professional shows live in your learning environment
- Specially created projects for your young people – culminating in performance opportunities
- Specialist advice and guidance on drama and how to use this to enhance creativity, self-expression, and communication for your students with confidence
- CPD opportunities for teachers and peers
- Direct funding for masterclasses delivered in your school by industry professionals, targeted specifically at your students creative learning needs.
- Direct funding for individuals to become Arts Award Advisors

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