



PRESS RELEASE

Interactive sandy fun, traditional tales, animal frolics and Circus Week in Watermans Spring Season of Children's Theatre

Listings are at the end of this press release.

Sunday afternoons and the potentially gloomy February half term feel brighter with Watermans' new season of family theatre, every Sunday afternoon at half term. With something for all children aged 0-8, we open with **Circles in the Sand** by the ever-popular Half Moon Theatre Company. In it, 0-3s are invited into a world of buckets and sandcastles, and to stay and play in it themselves. For older children, **The Three Billy Goats Gruff** and **Rumpelstiltskin** follow, giving the perfect opportunity to bring these traditional tales to life for your little ones. February sees the return of the hilarious Squashbox Theatre with the laugh-out-loud funny **Curious Creatures** as well as a quirky turn by Glovebird puppets leaning to fly in **Flights of Fancy** – something completely different!

The traditional tales continue at the end of February with **Chicken Licken** bringing 3 classic Ladybird stories to the stage – The Little Red Hen, Chicken Licken and The Fox and the Hen.

March brings **Lullaby Lane** where music and theatre combine in a theatrical gig-style show, following Katie as she returns to her childhood home and all its memories. More for 2-5s with **Handa's Hen**, featuring 55 stunning puppets in an engaging show which uses song and dance to engage its young audience. The run up to Easter brings **Flyaway Katie** from the makers of Shoe Baby and Arthur's Dream Boat, an adaptation of Polly Dunbar's well-known book with music by Tom Gray of Gomez.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM – CIRCUS WEEK

Following the huge success of Dinosaur Week in October, we're putting on another half term extravaganza for children and their families. **The Party** leads the programme, an entertaining show featuring impressive circus performance. **Paul Incredible** will roam Watermans amazing you with his stunning feats including magic, juggling and balancing! **Circus Skills Workshops** give you and your kids a chance to learn a few party tricks while **Giant Sculpture and Mask Making** will be fun for the crafty among you.

LISTINGS



Sunday 17 Jan, 11am, 1.30pm & 3.30pm

Circles in The Sand by Tam Tam Theatre presented by Half Moon

Age: Suitable 0-3 years

Running time: 45 minutes (including 25 minutes of playtime)

Tickets: £8 / £7 concessions

Join us in a world of buckets, castle building, spinning and tumbling in this delightful show for under 3s which explores sand in new and exciting ways.

Sunday 24 Jan, 3pm

The Billy Goats Gruff by Garlic Theatre

Age: Suitable 3-6 years

Running time: 50mins

Tickets: £7 / £6 concessions

This is the simple story of three hungry goats and a grumpy old troll, told with a gently ecological message. Watch out for the dance of the goats, the flying troll and load and loads of rubbish

Sat 31 Jan, 3pm

Rumpelstilskin by Ripstop Theatre and Norwich Puppet Theatre

Age: 3-8

Running time: 45 mins

Tickets: £8 / 37 Concessions

A fairytale favourite spun before your very eyes. Two great well-known children's theatre companies come together with their adaption of a classic tale. A woolly wonderland of a show with spinning, weaving, lively puppetry, music and storytelling.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS FEBRUARY 2016

Sun 7 Feb 3pm

Flights of Fancy by Hand to Mouth Theatre

Age: Suitable 3-6years

Running time: 45 mins

Tickets: £7 / £6 concessions

Description: *Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to fly?*

That's what the newly-hatched baby Glovebird thinks too...

Flights of Fancy tells the tale of a baby Glovebird learning to fly, while the earthbound puppeteer and stick-in-the-mud musician attempt to get the show off the ground.



**London Borough
of Hounslow**



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Sun 14 Feb, 3pm

Curious Creatures by Squashbox Theatre

Age: Suitable 5+ years

Running time: 50mins

Tickets: £7 / £6 concessions

Welcome to the Curious Creatures wildlife park, established by Jeremiah Johnson: world-renowned explorer, zoologist and animal collector. Nobody knows more about animals than him.

Unfortunately, Jeremiah Johnson is currently lost somewhere in the jungles of Africa, so he has handed the running of the park over to his inexperienced nephew Craig... and things don't quite go as planned.

HALF TERM IS CIRCUS WEEK

Join us for four days of Circus fun this half term. Be amazed by circus performance in our family show, learn new skills and join in making giant sculptures of circus characters! Full details on our website www.watermans.org.uk.



Thu 18 – Sun 31 Feb, 11am and 3pm

The Party by Nearly There Yet

Age: Suitable 4-8 years

Running time: 45mins

Tickets: £8 / £7 concessions

A show with circus performances. A man excitedly waits for the guests to arrive at his party. The cake is made, the presents have arrived, and the music is playing – all he needs are his friends to make this the best birthday

ever. Enter some uninvited visitors: a French cyclist, a man dressed as a giant chicken and a mysterious stranger who has apparently never had a birthday. An endlessly entertaining fantastically engaging show for all the family.

Other Circus Week Events:

Paul Incredible

Thu 18-Sun 21 Feb, various times throughout the day FREE

Mr Incredible, Circus performer extraordinaire will be wandering the corridors of Watermans amazing you with his stunning feats! He might even throw in a bit of magic if you're lucky.

Big Art present

Giant Sculptures & Mask Making

Thu 18 & Fri 19, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm (£4)

An elephant and a giant clown sculpture will rise 6 feet into the air, as children join in to create them as part of this fun arts & crafts workshop. You'll also make a clown or animal mask to take home with you.

Paul Incredible & Nearly There Yet present

Circus Skills Family Workshops (ages 4+)

Thu 18 – Sun 21 Feb, various times (£10 for an adult & child, £5 additional child)

TEXT FOR FLYER

Time to learn a party piece! Paul Incredible will show you the wonders of juggling and circus skills, or join performers from Nearly There Yet who will teach you how to breakdance or perform balancing acts with your kids. Fun and interactive. See website for full details of times and dates.



Sun 29 Feb, 3pm

Chicken Licken by Dynamic New Animation

Age: Suitable 3-6 years

Running time: 45 mins

Tickets: £7 / £6 concessions

Three classic tales from Ladybird books Chicken Licken, The Little Red Hen and The Fox and the Hen are mixed into this recipe of food, puppets and music. A baby chick is born and thinks the sky is falling down. On the way to tell the King, she meets Henny Penny, Ducky Lucky & Turkey Lurkey, but there's a shocking surprise! Chicken Licken grows up to be the Little Red Hen and asks her friends to help her make bread, but no one wants to play

CHILDREN'S EVENTS MARCH 2016



Sun 6 March, 3pm

Lullaby Lane by Half Moon

Age: Suitable 3-7 years

Running time: 45mins

Tickets: £7 / £6 concessions

Join Katie as she returns to her childhood home on Lullaby Lane in search of forgotten friends, much-loved toys and the special gift of music-making her dad gave her. *Lullaby Lane* is a unique theatrical experience, mixing the vibe of a music gig with the intimacy and magic of theatre

Sat 12 & Sun 13 March, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm

Handa's Hen by Little Angel Theatre

Age: Suitable 2-5 years

Running time: 35 mins

Tickets: £8 / £7 concessions

Adapted from the book by Eileen Brown

'This warm, inclusive show has an increasingly energising effect on the young audience... It's a sweet safari with a clear learning objective...' **The Stage**

When Handa and her friend Akeyo go looking for Grandma's black hen Mondy, they find two fluttery butterflies round the hen house, three stripy mice under the grain store, four little lizards behind the pots... But where is Mondy?

This beautiful and engaging show features 55 stunning puppets all created by hand for this brand new production. Join in with Handa and Akeyo as they sing and dance in search of Mondy, meeting a host of colourful animals and birds as they go.

Limited Spaces in Studio 1

Sun 20 March, 3pm

Flyaway Katie by Long Noe Puppet Theatre

Age: Suitable 2-7 years

Running time: 50 mins

Tickets: £7 / £6 concessions

Flyaway Katie is an inspiring flight of fancy about the power of imagination based on the popular children's book by Polly Dunbar with music by Tom Gray of Gomez. Katie is all alone and feeling grey. The birds in the

picture on her wall look so colourful if only Katie could be as bright as them, who knows what might happen? By the makers of *Shoe Baby* and *Arthur's Dream Boat*, this show is bursting with colour, movement and surprises, with puppets of varying scales acting the story.

WEEKLY WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Mornings Are Baby And Toddler Mornings!

Pandemonium led by Tamar Swade

Date: Every Wednesday, 13 Jan – 23 Mar (excl. 17 Feb)

Time & Age range: 10:30am – 11:15am (0 – 24 months) / 11:30am – 12:15pm (2 – 4 years)

Tickets: £5 / £3 Concessions

A very popular musical workshop with plenty of fun and games, this is a brilliant way to bond and introduce music to your children. Pandemonium's mixture of sing-a-long fun is a great opportunity for big and small people alike to make new friends.

Parent & Baby Cinema

Date: Every Wednesday, 11.30am.

Tickets: £6.50 (£5.50 conc)

Screenings of the latest films for parents or carers with babies under one. The screenings are relaxed. There's a car park which is completely accessible for buggies, lots of buggy parking in the cinema foyer, and baby changing facilities. Plus a lovely big café where you can stay for cake, coffee and perhaps one of the delicious Indian wraps on offer!

Courses for Children and Young People

HAYA Youth Theatre at Watermans

(Hunt Academy for Young Actors)

Led by Sarah Hunt

Date: Every Thursday from 14 Jan – 24 Mar (excl. 18 Feb)

Time & Age range: 4.15pm – 6.15pm for 8-12 years & 6.15pm – 8.15pm for 13 – 18 years

Ticket Price for 10 weeks: £100

Description:

Drama classes for children and young people – whether you want to become a professional actor or simply gain confidence and experience, and meet new people. Classes are weekly with emphasis on developing and building on new skills including voice and speech training, audition technique, stage combat and more. The last session will end with a performance.

FAMILY CINEMA

Every Saturday Morning at 11.00am

Tickets: £5 whatever your age

Every Saturday morning. Half term and school holidays. Capture your favourite family films old and new, on the big screen. See website www.watermans.org.uk for detailed information.

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For More press information please contact Angela Hinds Direct-line: +44 (0)20 8232 1037

Email:angela@watermans.org.uk