

LEARNING 01253 743232

Grand Theatre

33 Church Street, Blackpool FY1 1HT

www.blackpoolgrand.co.uk

GRAND

NEWS

Education

Get the GEN - share, care and learn

Welcome to the First Edition of *Grand Education News (GEN)*.

This newsletter has been put together to assist teachers, parents and guardians. A new edition will be produced each season to provide information on forthcoming productions, workshops and lectures which offer fantastic learning opportunities for all ages. Provided in the main for teachers and learning professionals, it will also inspire parents and guardians who would like to provide extra curricular experiences for their children.

This season is packed full of great productions from smash hit West End and Broadway musicals *42nd Street*, *Tutti Frutti*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Blood Brothers* and *Copacabana* to Ellen Kent Opera with the Chisinau National Opera Company performing Puccini's *Tosca* and Verdi's *Aida*.

The Grand Theatre also launches, **Opera School Workshops** in November - a unique experience for students to meet with some of the UK's biggest and most renowned opera companies such as Carl Rosa and Ellen Kent. Students will be given an insight into the world of opera, the stories, music, sets and costumes. Information will be emailed to schools very soon and posted in the Learning Area on our website blackpoolgrand.co.uk.

Favourites also this season include *Make Way for Noddy and Friends* and *Horrible Histories*. The Grand Theatre Academy are performing the play *Dracula* in the Lawrence House Studio following the success of *Billy Liar* and *Blood Brothers*.

To book for one of our productions or if you have an enquiry, call the Box Office on **01253 290190**.

Andrew Howard
Learning Manager

WEBSITE

Our website (blackpoolgrand.co.uk) now has over 1,000 pages - background about each production, articles, pictures, archive, annual reports, reminiscence and more. While online, please make sure you join our Grand e-Newsletter, so you will be the first to find out the latest news.

OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

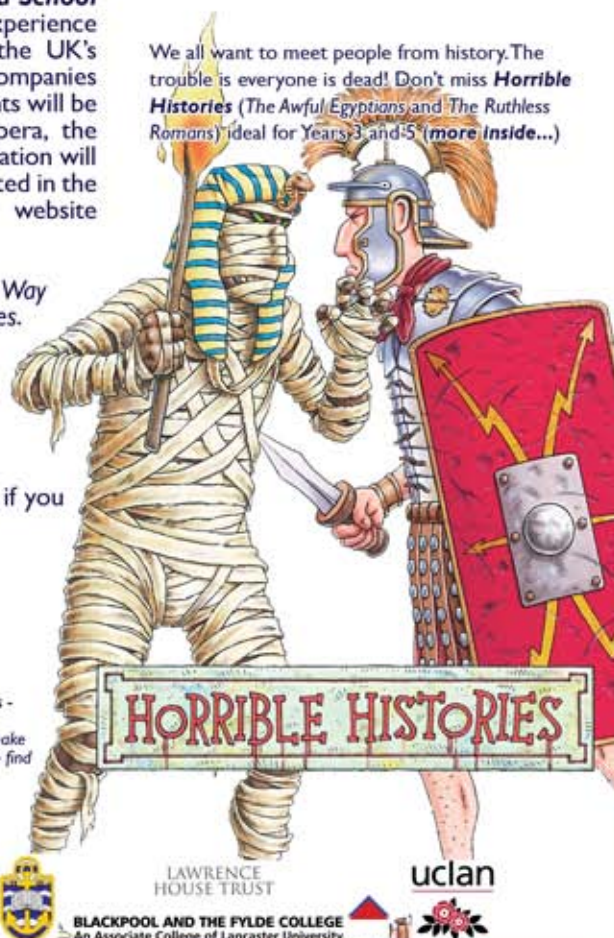


LAWRENCE HOUSE TRUST

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BLACKPOOL AND THE FYLDE COLLEGE
An Associate College of Lancaster University

We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! Don't miss **Horrible Histories** (*The Awful Egyptians* and *The Ruthless Romans*) ideal for Years 3 and 5 (more inside...)



NOW ON SALE!

IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO BOOK YOUR SEATS FOR THE MAGNIFICENT, TRADITIONAL, FUN-FILLED, GRAND THEATRE FAMILY, FAIRYTALE, PANTOMIME!

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Friday 7 December 2007 to Saturday 5 January 2008

Performance listing available online blackpoolgrand.co.uk

Sleeping Beauty will star **Ruth Madoc** (star of *Hi-de-Hi* and *Little Britain*) and Lancashire's favourite family entertainer and BBC Radio Lancashire presenter **Steve Royle**, returning for his fifth panto in a row!

Perhaps one of the most well loved of all fairy tales, yet rarely performed as a pantomime! *Sleeping Beauty* will follow the age old fight of good versus evil as the wicked fairy places a curse on the baby princess in revenge for her exclusion from the child's christening. At the age of 16 the princess will prick her finger and die! 'No...' we here you cry!

Don't panic as help is on hand in the guise of the good, if not slightly scatty fairy...

GREAT DISCOUNTS
SCHOOL GROUP TICKETS
FROM ONLY
£7

Book your seats for this guaranteed sell-out.

Teachers Resource - This Reception and Key Stages 1 and 2 resource has been written to give teachers a range of practical ideas for classroom activities related to the pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*. The resource is structured to tie in with the *National Curriculum* and *National Literacy Strategy*, with direct references to learning objectives for each year group.

The first section of the resource provides useful information on the origins of pantomime and fairy tales and also background details of the production. The second suggests classroom activities for Reception and Key Stages 1 and 2 based on the story and themes of pantomime.

GUIDED TOURS OF THESPIS Private Group Tours Available.

There is no theatre quite like the Grand. The published descriptions in 1894 said so, and contemporary theatregoers agree. This is architect Frank Matcham's masterpiece theatre, with a long and lively history.

A backstage and front of house tour is yours for the taking. See the renovated, ornate auditorium and learn about plans for further restoration and historical accuracy. Savour the wonders of the hidden, functional world behind the curtain. Stand on the raked stage and observe the cantilevered tiers of circles, boxes and pit - and the complete visibility of every seat in this atmospheric house, from the other side of the gilt 'picture frame'. Test the acoustic perfections and learn about the sound positions. See the stage from the wings, fly floor and bridge, the machinery for changing scenes and the latest lighting equipment in one of Britain's first all electric theatres. Inspect the under-stage and the 'traps' where actors could be raised or shot up through the stage. An enthralling look at every aspect of a complex theatre at work.

Groups 25+ £3 per person, Discount if taken with a production visit.

Tuesday 27 March at 7.30pm

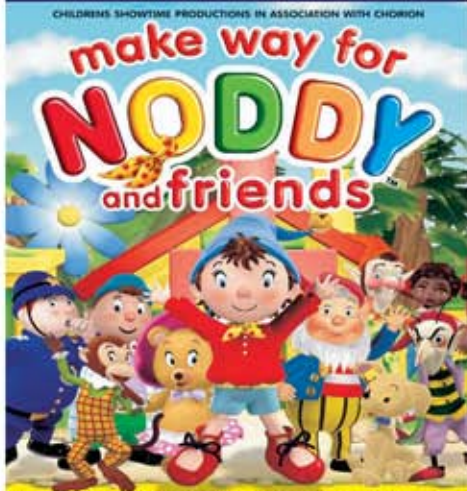
Young at ART

We proudly present remarkable young speciality acts

**Bispham High School Arts College
Blackpool and the Fylde College
Performing Arts
Blackpool Circus School
Dramability, Blackpool
Grand Theatre Academy
Phil Winston's Theatreworks**

Director: Paul David-Gough

In a visionary gesture made in 2005, the trustees of the Lawrence House School awarded an endowment to the Grand Theatre. This is to develop theatrical opportunities for young people from the Fylde coast. We have been producing a series of workshops and masterclasses led by professional theatremakers, of great educational value. Many of these projects are contributing to our new role as National Theatre of Variety. In the best show business tradition, over one hundred young artistes and their support teams bring you an exciting night of popular theatre, a performance crammed with talent.
School Groups £4



Sunday 1 April at 2pm and 4.30pm

Noddy is planning a tea party for his Toyland friends. Nod along with Noddy, clap your hands and join in all the fun as Big Ears and Tessie Bear help Noddy make delicious Googleberry muffins. Martha Monkey, Mr Sparks, Dinah Doll and Bumpy Dog can hardly wait for the party to begin!

Watch out for those naughty goblins, Sly and Gobbo, who try to spoil the party, and help Mr Plod solve a puzzling mystery. Will Noddy save the day, as the magic unfolds by the light of the Googleberry moon?

Make Way for Noddy and Friends is ideally suited for three to six year olds and is full of fun, humour and audience participation for all the family.

School Groups £7.50

The Grand Theatre is asking school children to colour the best picture of Noddy and Friends. **Check blackpoolgrand.co.uk.**

DIRECT FROM BROADWAY

PETER FROSDICK AND MARTIN DODD FOR UK PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENT

TONY AWARD WINNER

FOR BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL

42ND STREET



STARRING
PAUL NICHOLAS

COME AND MEET THOSE DANCING FEET...

Thursday 12 to Saturday 21 April

42ND STREET Direct from Broadway...

Winner of the 1980 Tony Award for "Best New Musical" and the 2001 Tony Award for "Best Revival of a Musical": *42nd Street* - the timeless, inspiring tale of small town Peggy Sawyer's rise from chorine to Broadway star. And those songs! *Lullaby of Broadway*, *We're in the Money*, *Shuffle Off To Buffalo*, *Keep Young and Beautiful*, *I Only Have Eyes For You*, and the spectacular title number *42nd Street* danced down a flight of steps that lights up as brightly as the faces of the cast. Blackpool will find out what it's like to float up to Musical Comedy Heaven.

Starring **Paul Nicholas** as Julian Marsh and directed by the show's author and Broadway director, Mark Bramble, the show features the stunning sets and costumes from the US production.

Tickets from £10.50 - £29.50

Groups 20+: £4 off, 50+: £5 off

Top two ticket prices only (excluding matinee performances)

**BRAND NEW TO THE GRAND
THIS COMING SEASON!**

GRAND OPERA SCHOOL 2007

THE FIRST OPERA WORKSHOP

The Grand Theatre is giving the opportunity to thirty children to meet with **Ellen Kent** the producer of many great operas including *Aida*, *Tosca*, *Carmen* and *Nabucco* to discuss the greatest of all stage performances. The participants will delve into the *Carmen* story, gaining a greater understanding of opera singing and also the opportunity to look backstage at the stage sets and some of the most extravagant costume designs. More details at blackpoolgrand.co.uk. **£9 per student includes show ticket to CARMEN.**

Thursday 29 March at 7.30pm

PUCCINI TOSCA

Puccini's **TOSCA** featuring the tender moving arias *Recondita Armonia*, *Vissi d'Arte* and *E Lucevan le Stelle*.

Friday 30 March at 7.30pm

VERDI AIDA

Puccini's **TOSCA** featuring the wonderful arias *Ritorna Vincitor*, *Celeste Aida* and the classic *Triumphal March*.

Both productions featuring a company of 200 and international guest soloists.

Student Stampede:
60 seats at £6 each available from 10am on the day

Monday 7 to
Saturday 12 May

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Following sensational reviews, Bill Kenwright's 'Amazing', 'Superb', 'Wonderful' and 'Beautiful' production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic family musical continues to enjoy huge success.



Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colours, this magical musical is full of unforgettable songs including *Any Dream Will Do*, *Close Every Door To Me* and *One More Angel*.

School Groups £9, Tuesday to Friday Matinees

KEY LEARNING RESOURCES

This pack is full of fascinating facts about Joseph; from when the original show was created to how a production is put together. There is information about the musical styles found in the show and background on the source and location of the original story. The pack also contains a range of activities for the classroom, mainly based on art, music or drama, with hints of how to put on your own production of Joseph.

Monday 28 May to
Saturday 2 June

BLOOD Brothers

"I have never seen a cast so emotionally involved in a production - they were real tears, and there were just as many in the audience. Executed beautifully with a strong cast... CAPTIVATING!"

WOLVERHAMPTON EXPRESS
& STAR



Blood Brothers, the international smash hit musical is returning to Blackpool following its SELL-OUT visit in November 2004. Few musicals have received quite such acclaim in recent years as Willy Russell's extraordinary *Blood Brothers*; scooping up no fewer than four awards as Best Musical and receiving a standing ovation at every performance since July 1988 in the West End.

WILLY RUSSELL, now universally regarded as one of this country's leading contemporary playwrights, has shown through his approach that despite the demands of the marketplace, it is still possible to marry together social commentary and subtle characterisation with a story of immense broad appeal. His ground-breaking *Educating Rita* and *Shirley Valentine* provided case studies of plays which achieved a delicate balance of gritty social satire and deep felt-emotion. *Blood Brothers* goes a step further - breaking new ground through ingenious appropriation of the genre of musical theatre.

School Groups £12.50 all seats, Wednesday Matinee

KEY LEARNING RESOURCES

We would strongly recommend *Blood Brothers* to any student of English or theatre studies as a stimulating complement to his or her coursework. As *Blood Brothers* is a set examination text, we are delighted therefore to offer your students a further opportunity to familiarise themselves with the text, as well as the concept that *Blood Brothers* was written as a musical.

In the hope of providing an experience that is enriching and educational as well as enjoyable, we have a pack available that we hope will be of use to you and your students when discussing the show and some of the themes in the text.

TUTTI FRUTTI



Tuesday 1 May to Saturday 05 May

National Theatre of Scotland

Written by John Byrne

Directed by Tony Cownie

Designed by Neil Murray

Musical Director Neil McArthur

In 1987 John Byrne's award-winning comedy-drama, *Tutti Frutti*, burst onto the nation's television screens, searing itself into a generation's consciousness in the process. For the stage, John Byrne has created a hugely popular live version of his legendary television show. The production sold out in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow in 2006. **This Grand Theatre visit is an England exclusive!**

Twenty-three years on from their slightly dodgy, single foray into the charts, Scottish pop sensations, The Majestics, are mourning the loss of Big Jazza - their charismatic front-man - whose Ford Sierra just collided with a bus shelter via an unwelcome late night kebab. With a Silver Jubilee tour booked, an album to cut and a television documentary in the offing, can Jazza's wee brother Danny, just washed up from New York with only four dollars to his name, save the day?

Schools: All seats £6 any performance



GRAND THEATRE ACADEMY

Bram Stoker's DRACULA

A chillingly beautiful dramatisation by John Godber and Jane Thornton (1996)

Wednesday 18 April to Sunday 22 April
Lawrence House Studio

The classic vampire story by Bram Stoker (1845-1912) is one of the Grand Theatre Academy's three main productions in the Lawrence House Studio, for 2007. Performed by the adult members of our youth theatre (age 19 to 25), the dramatisation of the famous horror tale revolves around a struggle between good and evil, tradition and modernity and lust versus chastity.

Tickets: £6

HORRIBLE HISTORIES

Tuesday 15 to Saturday 19 May

**TWO SHOWS
LIVE ON STAGE**™

Tue 15 May at 1.30pm - The Ruthless Romans
 Tue 15 May at 7pm - The Awful Egyptians
 Wed 16 May at 10.30am & 1.30pm - The Awful Egyptians
 Thurs 17 May at 10.30am - The Ruthless Romans
 Thurs 17 May at 1.30pm - The Awful Egyptians
 Fri 18 May at 10.30am - The Awful Egyptians
 Fri 18 May at 7pm - The Ruthless Romans
 Sat 19 May at 10.30am - The Ruthless Romans
 Sat 19 May at 7pm - The Awful Egyptians

These performances are ideal for Key Stage 2

So it's time to prepare yourselves for **HORRIBLE HISTORIES** live on stage! Using actors and ground-breaking 3D special effects, these two astounding shows – **THE AWFUL EGYPTIANS** and **THE RUTHLESS ROMANS** – are guaranteed to thrill both you and the children.

THE AWFUL EGYPTIANS - From the fascinating Pharaohs to the power of the pyramids, discover the foul facts of death and decay with the meanest mummies in Egypt. Dare you enter through the Gates of the Afterlife? Prepare to be ruled by Ramasses the Great!

THE RUTHLESS ROMANS - From the evil Emperors to the gruesome gladiators, find out why there's no place like Rome! Experience the terrible tactics of the Roman army. Hold on tight for a terrifying journey back into Roman Britain!

"Both shows are incredibly lively fun and genuinely educational. I loved it, the wildly enthusiastic school-age audience loved it, and you'd surely love it too!"

Manchester Evening News

"The auditorium seems fit to combust spontaneously in an explosion of joy and excitement"

The Times



**DONT FORGT TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
BLACKPOOLGRAND.CO.UK**



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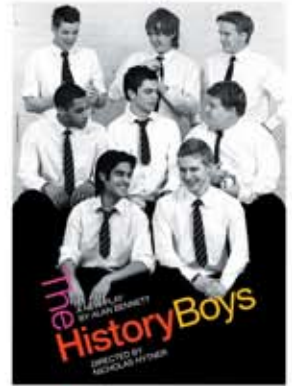
DO WE HAVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CORRECT?

If not contact us so we can amend our records. Call **01253 743232** and leave your old and new details. Your email address would assist us greatly too...

And look what else is coming...



Thursday 4 to Saturday 6 October



Tuesday 16 to Saturday 20 October



Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27 October



Tuesday 6 to Saturday 10 November



Friday 7 December 2007 to Saturday 5 January 2008