



Wardrobes 2016

Summary of Project:

The Wardrobes Adventure was a collaboration between the Birmingham Community Libraries, Birmingham REP and KIT Theatre. The project was created and delivered between October 2015 and May 2016. This cross art-form project offered 19 key stage 1 classes in 9 local primary schools the chance to:

- explore and engage with an interactive wardrobes exhibition at the Birmingham REP
- engage in a digital adventure based around email interactions with a Time Traveller
- create their own time travel stories alongside KIT theatre's Storysmith
- visit their local community library to perform their story and meet a time traveller in person.

782 pupils were engaged in total, with 600 participating in the final adventure. Using the award-winning Adventures in Learning format, pupils were cast as heroes in a quest featuring 'missions' in classrooms and both venues. The project developed participants' creative writing skills and self-confidence, encouraged them to reimagine libraries as places of adventure and provided teachers and library staff with valuable CPD in using immersive learning techniques in their practice.

The project broke down into 3 key stages:

Stage 1: Interactive Wardrobes Exhibition in foyer of Birmingham REP

Stage 2: 5-week multi-venue Adventure in Learning with 19 Key Stage 1 classes

Stage 3: Tour of interactive Wardrobes Exhibition to 12 community libraries + Storytelling events at each library delivered by library staff.

Summary of Audience, Participants and Schools:

Part 1, Visitors to Wardrobes Foyer Exhibition at Birmingham Rep (14/12/15 - 27/01/16):

- 2100 daytime exhibition visitors (estimated at 50 per day)
- 31000 evening visitors (we estimate that 50% of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe audiences interacted with the Wardrobes exhibits.)
- Estimated total young people (under 16) visiting Exhibition: 18,000
- Estimated total adults visiting Exhibition: 15,100

Total visitors to Wardrobes Exhibition: 33,100

Part 2, Schools & pupils participating in Wardrobes (06/01/16 - 05/02/16):

- Nansen Primary School (4 classes - Year 2)
- Stanville Primary School (1 class - Year 1)
- Bordesley Green Primary School (3 classes - Year 1)
- Holy Souls Catholic Primary School (2 classes - Year 1)
- Holy Family Catholic Primary School (2 classes - Year 1 & 2)
- Ark Tindal Primary Academy (2 classes - Year 1)

- Oasis Academy Short Heath Primary School (2 classes - Year 2)
- Mapledene Primary School (1 large class of 46 pupils - Year 2)
- Holland House Infant School and Nursery (2 classes, Year 1 & Year 2)
- St Bartholomew's Primary School (Creating Wardrobe Exhibit - Year 5)
- Highfields School (Creating Wardrobes Exhibit - group selected from Year 7&8)
- St Eugene's Primary School, Kilburn (R&D only - 1 class, Year 1)
- Beckford Primary School, Camden (R&D only - 2 classes, Year 1&2)

Total participants:

- **782 pupils participated in total (692 from Birmingham & 90 from London R&D)**
- **24 classes participated (3 in R&D, 2 making Wardrobes Exhibits and 19 in the main adventure).**
- **Class breakdowns: Year 1: 12; Year 2: 10, Year 5: 1, Year 7/8: 1 (mixed group)**
- **24 teachers participated**
- **30 teaching assistants participated**

A range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds participated, with the following breakdown (based on a sample of 227 pupils for whom schools chose to share this data)

- Pakistani = 31.3%
- Bangladeshi = 9.4%
- White Other = 10.7%
- White Romanian = 4.5%
- African = 3.1%
- Black/White = 1.8%
- White Polish = 1.8%
- British = 29.6%
- Caribbean = 0.9 %
- Chinese = 0.4%
- Mixed Other = 3%
- Yemeni = 1.3%
- Indian - 1.8
- Asian Other = 0.4%

41% of participating pupils received free school meals

40% of participating pupils received pupil premium

Partner Organisations

The project was a partnership between Birmingham Community Libraries (<http://www.libraryofbirmingham.com/article/libraries/communitylibraries>), KIT Theatre (www.kittheatre.org) and Birmingham REP Theatre (<http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk>). Performers from Playhouse Theatre Company based at the REP Theatre participated alongside a range of freelance artists.

Part 3: Wardrobes Exhibition Tour to Birmingham Community Libraries + Storytelling sessions delivered by trained library staff (19/02/16 - 12/05/16)

Estimated number of public visitors to Wardrobes Exhibition in 12 Community Libraries:

- Estimated child visitors (under 16): 18,000

- Estimated adult visitors (over 16): 16,966

Total Public Attendance (estimated): 34,966

Number of children participating in library story-telling sessions delivered by specially trained library staff inspired by Wardrobes Exhibition:

- 0-2 years: 5
- 3-5 years: 32
- 5-7 years: 474

Total child participants: 511

Number of adults participating in library story-telling sessions delivered by specially trained library staff inspired by Wardrobes Exhibition:

Total adult participants: 111

Summary of Participant/Audience Numbers across Wardrobes Project:

Visitor Type	Child	Adult	Total
Wardrobes Exhibition Visitor (Rep & Libraries)	36,000	32,066	68066
Adventure in Learning Participants	792	54	846
Story Session participants	511	111	622
Totals	37,303	32,066	69,534

Summary of Artistic Team:

For KIT Theatre

Writer/Director: Tom Bowtell

Producer: Tom Bowtell

Workshop Co-writer: Fran Moulds

Educational Consultant: Juliet Desailly

Administrator: Natalie Raam

Illustrator: Clare Elsom

Designers and Production Managers: Acquis Media

Sound designer: Tom Mills

Costume Designer: Liz Vass

Documentation Film: Jam Av.

Documentary Wardrobe: Lyn Tyler

For the Birmingham REP Theatre

Associate Director: Steve Ball

Learning and Participation Manager: Lauren Fallon

Project Manager (freelance contract): Daniel Tyler

Stage Manager (foyer exhibition): Hannan Finnegan

Head of Construction: Margaret Rees

For Birmingham Community Libraries (CLSU)
Project Managers: Beverley Fryer, Selina Syder
Associate Project Manager: Liz Parkes

Wardrobe Exhibition - Commissioned Artists:

Ben Pacey
One Five West
Claire Brown
Lyn Tyler

Volunteer Host Performers

Grace Hussey-Burd, Katerina Xynogala, Erin Quilliam

Professional Performers

The Professor: Paul Magison & Simon Turner

In-school Storysmiths: Kayleigh Cottam, Rochi Rampal, Lily Page, Tom Bowtell

Time travellers: Nadi-Kemp Safi, Kayleigh Cottam, Rochi Rampal, Simon Turner, Tom Bowtell

Library staff Storytellers

The following library staff members created and delivered interactive storytelling sessions following training sessions from KIT Theatre:

Helen Donaghy, Jayne James, Jennifer Bates, Safina Akhtar, Susan Hill, Sarah King, Emma Braker, Adele Burns, Marian Wolff, Karen Hall, Ranjna Theaker, Catherine Auld, Geoff Millington and Lorraine Booth.

Total Artist Numbers

Professional: 29

Non-professional: 66 (50 pupils, 14 library staff storytellers + 2 volunteer performer/guides)