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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visitor Type</th>
<th>Child</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wardrobes Exhibition Visitor (Rep &amp; Libraries)</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>32,066</td>
<td>68066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventure in Learning Participants</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story Session participants</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,303</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,066</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,534</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Raaum
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)