



PRESS RELEASE

13 DECEMBER 2016

East Tilbury Primary School finds Neverland at the National Theatre

Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer School East Tilbury Primary took their Year 6 classes to see the **National Theatre's** performance of JM Barrie's *Peter Pan* on 8 December.

73 Year 6 pupils also visited the National Theatre for a Make Theatre Day earlier in the term, to find out about the creative processes that go into putting on a performance at a national arts organisation. The students were able to watch some of the rehearsal process, tour the backstage areas and take part in a physical theatre and making workshop with National Theatre puppeteers and practitioners. They also discovered the skills needed for creating props using ordinary everyday objects, and had an opportunity to make their own props: divided into small groups, they made crocodiles and birds.

East Tilbury Primary School chose to have these workshops as part of the **Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer** programme. **Jade Caton, Trailblazer Cultural Champion** for East Tilbury, chose the National Theatre project as *Peter Pan* is a studied text for Year 6 students. Through this project, the children were able to gain an insight into theatre, both behind the scenes and in performance.

Jade said: "All children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and day at the National Theatre. The day catered for all of our needs including our vulnerable and SEND children. On reflection back in school some of the children said it was the best trip they had ever been on. All children felt confident to perform in front of others and use the puppetry techniques featured in the day, some have continued to use the techniques in dance lessons continued in school"

Thurrock Trailblazer is an innovative programme of high quality arts and cultural activities, visits to heritage sites and specialist teacher training, that boost creative learning in schools and accelerate pupils' development.

To find out more about Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer, please go to

www.roh.org.uk/trailblazer.

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Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway since 2006.

Since then, more than 60,000 people have participated in activities ranging from schools' projects to teacher training, from work-based learning to fully-staged community operas. People in Thurrock have both been able to watch special performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and gain a very special insight into the behind-the-scenes process.

The Learning and Participation team runs the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus which currently has over 140 members of all ages and regularly performs across Thurrock and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. For further information, please go to:

www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. Details of future performances and taster session for the Community Chorus can be obtained by emailing getinvolved@roh.org.uk or calling 01708 891200.

Regular public tours of the state-of-the-art Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop where the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House stage in Covent Garden are built, and the Bob and Tamar Manoukian Costume Centre, which opened in October 2015, are now available. Please go to www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours for further details.

In April 2012, the Royal Opera House agreed to become a [Bridge](#) organisation, working to connect children and young people to great art and culture across Essex, North Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Learning and Participation team is based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet which is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: www.hhpp.org.uk