

SNOWBALL



'Snowball'
from Reeling & Writhing

Notes for Teachers

Preparation

It's important for any audience coming to see 'Snowball' to know how it's made - that each show is different and is made up of the stories that audiences have given us at past performances. (See the other Information document for more detail.)

It's also important that audiences know that we hope to hear from them, with their own stories and anecdotes, and that those stories could well end up in the next show.

For audiences of different age groups there will be different approaches for how we will engage with them and there are notes below about how we would like schools to engage with us.

Thankfully 'Snowball' is a very flexible format and we can accommodate virtually any sort of story that comes our way. So it is quite possible for us to have stories from an established project, e.g. a local heritage project or from a recent school trip. Alternatively 'Snowball' could be used as the focus for some new work, e.g. a creative writing project or interviewing members of the family.

We see a great deal of potential in 'Snowball' for engagement in:

drama, history,
creative writing, english,
heritage research, & citizenship.

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What does the show need?

'Snowball' was conceived to be performed in libraries and that is an ideal space for it. It can, however, be performed in nearly any similar room or hall.



All we need is enough space to work on and around a large table (or two pushed together), and enough space for an audience of 30 or so to sit on chairs around the table and the performance.

We will bring a small sound system and there are no other technical requirements.

We will need at least an hour and a half in the space to set up and prepare ourselves.



The actual show usually lasts just under an hour and the conversation that follows can last 20 or 30 minutes.

Every performance of 'Snowball' is recorded for an on-line archive. The recording will be stopped when contributions from the audience begin so no permissions need to be sought from parents for the recording.

'Snowball' is performed by two experienced and skilled actors supported by the Artistic Director who will help set up and operate the sound system.



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Primary Schools

We welcome the involvement of teachers at the end of the show when we start to interact with the children.

With younger age groups it is important that they are prepared for making a contribution and will be very happy to hear from teachers if preparation has been on a certain subject or in a particular form. There may be a question you have for us that we can put to the group at the end, e.g. What happened to you last week? or What can you tell us about the sea?

It may be that some children can be primed with prepared stories that could be read or recited.

Ideally we would like to hear personal stories of their own experiences or perhaps from their family. We'd love to hear about the first time they did something, or a holiday or a birthday or special treats.

Secondary Schools

The show is very flexible for the sort of stories students can bring to us. For older students we also hope that they can be prepared to respond to the stories they hear in the show. They may hear something that reminds them of something that has happened to them or a member of their family or to a friend.

Students could be encouraged to interview an older member of their family or someone known to the family.

Objects can be good starting points for stories, or photographs or even music. We are very happy to see things the students want to share with us.

Students could also bring stories from local history. The origins of place-names can be a great source of story material, or the origin of a town or village itself.

Stories needn't necessarily be historical - an anecdote from the day before might be just as valuable a contribution as a tale extracted from a local heritage trail. We're happy to hear about recent events whether they be sport or music or whatever is holding current interest.

Students might also bring the fruits of a recent or ongoing project. For example something about the environment or politics or art or creative writing.

And it is certainly a good enough reason to share something just because it's funny!

