

Polka Theatre Listings  
October 2010 – February 2011

## *Autumn season announced at Polka Theatre*

**1 October – 6 November 2010**

*Polka Theatre and Unlimited Theatre present*

### **Mission to Mars**

*By Clare Duffy, Jon Spooner & Chris Thorpe, written in consultation with Dr Gail Iles & Dr Andy Newsam*

*Directed by Jon Spooner*

#### ***Join us for the mission of a lifetime!***

It's 2035, and we're ready to send the first human beings to Mars. Gail and Stephan have been selected from thousands, and are ready to launch. Their four friends and colleagues are following close behind. We want you to come with them.

Fun, fast-paced and packed with emotion, Unlimited Theatre's new show is based on the real science of planned Mars missions. Join Gail and Stephan as they defy gravity and go further through the solar system than we've ever been before. Ever wondered if you have what it takes? Come and experience all the excitement, danger and discovery of the next giant leap into space...

For ages 7-11

Tickets £6 - £12

Usually two performances daily Tuesday – Saturday, please check our website [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) or call Box Office on 020 8543 4888

**13 October 2010 – 12 February 2011**

*Polka Theatre and Travelling Light present*

### **Lost and Found**

*By Oliver Jeffers, directed by Sally Cookson*

#### ***Once there was a boy and he found a penguin at his door...***

He didn't know where it had come from or who it belonged to. The penguin looked sad and the boy thought it must be lost. So he decided to help it find its way home, even if that meant rowing all the way to the South Pole.

After the success of *How to Catch a Star* in 2008, this season Polka will bring to life on stage another of Oliver Jeffers' acclaimed picture books. This simple and touching tale of friendship is the perfect festive treat for a younger audience.

*"A heartwarming story" The Guardian*

For ages 1-5

Tickets £7 - £9

Usually two performances daily Tuesday – Saturday (either a 3-5 yrs performance or a special adapted performance for 1-2 yrs), please check our website [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) or call Box Office on 020 8543 4888

**19 November 2010 – 5 February 2011**

*Polka Theatre presents*

### **The Snow Queen**

*By Hans Christian Andersen, adapted by Mike Kenny & directed by Jonathan Lloyd*

#### ***Enter the spellbinding world of the Snow Queen....***

Once upon a time, there were two friends, Kai and Gerda. They did everything together and were inseparable. But, one cold, cold night, Kai falls under the spell of the evil Snow Queen and is whisked

away on her sleigh to the icy palace far away. Can Gerda save Kai from the Snow Queen and remove the splinter of glass in his heart? And will she survive the epic journey across rivers, forests and snow to reach him in time?

Join us this winter for an enchanting tale of friendship and discovery based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic story.

**BSL Interpreted Performance** –Saturday 4 December 2pm

**After-show Talk** –Saturday 11 December 2.30pm

**Autism Friendly Performance** –Thursday 30 December 11am

For ages 6-11

Tickets £8 - £16

Usually two performances daily Tuesday – Saturday, please check our website [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) or call Box Office on 020 8543 4888

**11 February – 9 April 2011**

*Polka Theatre presents*

## **The Machine Gunners**

*Based on the novel by Robert Westall, adapted by Ali Taylor*

It's 1940, and Britain is at war. Young Chas McGill has the second best collection of war souvenirs in town but desperately wants it to be the best. One day, he stumbles across a shot-down German bomber and snatches the ultimate souvenir to add to his collection: a machine gun.

Amidst the bombs and air raids, Chas and his friends plan their own war effort in their newly built bunker. Friendships are forged and loyalties tested, in the adventure of a lifetime...

The Machine Gunners won the Carnegie Medal and was recently voted one of the 10 most important children's novels of the past 70 years. This moving and touching story vividly re-creates life in Britain during World War II, and is guaranteed to resonate with children and adults today.

**BSL Interpreted Performance** – 2pm Saturday 5 March

For ages 9-13

Tickets £6 - £12

Usually two performances daily Tuesday – Saturday, please check our website [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) or call Box Office on 020 8543 4888

## **Visiting Adventures**

Tickets for Visiting Adventures are £8, schools and concessions £7, all running times are approximations

**Saturday 2 October**

*Peut-être Theatre presents*

## **The Bug and the Butterfly**

Enter a world where a dewdrop is the size of a swimming pool and a flower is as tall as a skyscraper in this heart-warming tale that celebrates love, friendship and dancing leaf to leaf.

This is a specially adapted performance of *Peut-être's* new show for children aged 18 months to 3 years.

Running at 35 minutes, the visual, physical language of the dancing insects and the poignant, poetical tale of the bug who loves a butterfly will engage and captivate the young audience.

**Polka Theatre**

240 Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1SB

+44 (0)20 8543 4888 [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com)

For ages 18 months–3 yrs

Performance times: 12.30am & 2.05pm

### **Saturday 19 February**

*Major Mustard presents*

#### **Animal Tales**

This bewitching mixture of well-loved and less-well-known traditional stories of animals, birds and fish from around the world will fascinate and enthral.

For ages 4-7

Performance times: 11.00am, 12.30 & 2.35pm

### **Tuesday 22 – Saturday 26 February**

*Little Angel Theatre presents*

#### **The Fabulous Flutterbys**

*By Barb Junger*

Join in the adventures of two very different caterpillars who eat their way to success! Using the themes of threatened ecology, recycled materials and metamorphosis, three performers bring this joyous puppetry show to the stage accompanied by live music.

*"A creepy-crawly delight"* **Time Out**

For ages 3-6

Usually two performances daily at 11.05 & 2.35, please check our website [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) or call Box Office on 020 8543 4888

## **October Half Term Workshops**

### **Black History Month Workshop**

Tue 26 Oct

10 – 11.30am

**5-8 years**

To celebrate Black History Month, take part in an interactive, storytelling and craft workshop for parents and children. Each child must be accompanied by a parent/carer.

**£7.50**

### **Digital Space Launch**

Wed 27 Oct

10am – 4pm

**7-11 yrs**

Go on a *Mission to Mars* by creating your own short film using stop motion animation.

**£35**

### **Mission to Mars**

Thu 28 Oct

10am – 12noon

**7-9 yrs**

Build your own spaceship in this interactive drama and craft session inspired by the show.

£15

### Lost and Found

Fri 29 Oct

9.30 – 11am

3-5 yrs

Book early for this gentle drama and craft workshop inspired by *Lost and Found*.

£15

## Christmas Workshops

### Lost and Found Christmas Workshops

Tue 21 and Wed 22 Dec

3-4 yrs (Foundation)

9.45 – 10.45am

4-5 yrs (Reception)

11.30am – 12.30pm

A fun-filled, two day drama and craft workshop for fans of the picture book – perfect for getting you in the mood for Christmas!

£25

### Once upon a time...

Thu 23 Dec

10am – 12.30pm

6-11 yrs

Enter into a world of fairy tales in this festive storytelling and craft workshop based on some of Hans Christian Andersen's best-loved stories.

£15

## February Half Term Workshops

### Chinese New Year Family Workshop

Tue 22 Feb

10am – 12noon

Ages 5+

Come and celebrate Chinese New Year in an exciting storytelling and craft workshop for the whole family to take part in. Participants must be accompanied by an adult.

£10

### The Machine Gunners Workshop

Wed 23 Feb

10.30am-3.30pm

9-13 yrs

Become an evacuee for the day with this drama based workshop inspired by *The Machine Gunners* and discover what life would have been like during World War II.

£25

### **The Fabulous Flutterbys Workshop**

Thu 24 Feb

9.30 – 11am

**3-5 yrs**

Venture into the garden and make an insect puppet in this fabulous craft and drama workshop.

**£15**

## **Polka Performers**

Polka Performers work with professional directors and artists to explore their own ideas and create inspiring new theatre. These ten-week courses take place in Polka's Acting Studio during term time.

**Autumn term:** Tue 5 Oct – Thu 16 Dec, **Spring Term:** Tue 18 Jan – Thu 24 Mar 2011.

Please note no classes w/c 26 Oct and 21 Feb 2011. Classes for different ages run throughout the week during the course, for more information visit [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) or call Box Office on 020 8543 4888

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### **Notes to editors**

- Polka no longer holds specified press performances. Press are welcome to attend any schools or public shows and should contact Elise on 020 8545 8354 to reserve tickets.
- Tickets can be booked online at [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com) or by calling the Box Office on 020 8543 4888

For more information about events including images and interviews or to book press tickets please contact Elise Neve on 020 8545 8354 or email [elise@polkatheatre.com](mailto:elise@polkatheatre.com)