

# CAST

# PLAY HOUSE

# PLAYHOUSE 2026



CASTINDONCASTER.COM  
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CAST, WATERDALE,  
DONCASTER DN1 3BU

## PLAYHOUSE 2026... IS COMING TO DONCASTER!

DELIVERED NATIONALLY ACROSS THE UK, PLAYHOUSE IS A UNIQUE PARTICIPATORY THEATRE PROJECT THAT COMMISSIONS WRITERS TO CREATE NEW WORK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED 8-11 YEARS. OFFERING TRAINING TO TEACHERS, REHEARSAL SUPPORT AND FESTIVALS TO PERFORM IN; PLAYHOUSE CONNECTS SCHOOLS WITH PROFESSIONAL THEATRES, WRITERS AND THEATRE MAKERS, SO THEY MAY BE INSPIRED AND EMPOWERED TO EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS OF PROFESSIONAL THEATRE MAKING.





## PROJECT OVERVIEW

PLAYHOUSE IS A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BETWEEN THEATRE ROYAL PLYMOUTH, YORK THEATRE ROYAL, THEATR IOLO, LANDMARK THEATRES, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR, CAST.

TOGETHER, WE ARE COMMISSIONING PROFESSIONAL PLAYWRIGHTS TO WRITE SHORT PLAYS, SPECIFICALLY FOR LARGE CASTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 8-11 YEARS. FOR 2025/26 WE ARE COMMISSIONING TWO BRAND NEW PLAYS FROM ROBERT ALAN EVANS AND BRANWEN DAVIES, AND RE-COMMISSIONING TWO PLAYS FROM THE PLAYHOUSE CANON OF WORK.

CAST WILL WORK WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEACHER AS DIRECTOR. ALL PARTICIPATING TEACHERS COME TOGETHER FOR IN-PERSON REGIONAL IN-HOUSE TRAINING AND A DIGITAL WRITERS DAY WORKSHOP WITH THE WRITERS TO WORKSHOP, ASK QUESTIONS AND DEVELOP THEIR DIRECTORIAL SKILLS.

TEACHERS THEN RETURN TO THEIR SCHOOLS TO REHEARSE THEIR CHOSEN PLAY WITH IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT FROM PARTNER THEATRE PROFESSIONALS, BEFORE PERFORMING AT CAST IN A BRILLIANT THEATRE FESTIVAL IN JULY 2026. WE ARE ALSO OFFERING AN OPTIONAL SCHOOL VISIT TO PARTICIPATING GROUPS, INCLUDING A SCHOOL TOUR AND WORKSHOP.

## KEY INFORMATION DATES

### **SCHOOLS TO BE GIVEN SCRIPTS TO READ**

JANUARY 2026

### **SCHOOLS TO SELECT WHICH SCRIPT THEY WOULD LIKE TO PERFORM**

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2026

### **PROJECT WELCOME AND DIRECTOR'S CPD**

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2026

**TIME:** 4.30PM - 6.30PM

**LOCATION:** CAST, WATERDALE, DONCASTER, DN1 3BU

**FOR:** LEAD TEACHERS (PLUS 1 ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBER IS WELCOME TO ATTEND - THIS SHOULD INCLUDE THE TEACHER DIRECTING THE PLAY FOR THE SCHOOL)

**CONTENT:** WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT AND CAST SPACES. DISCUSSION OVER SCHOOL VISITS AND CAST DATES, AND IDEAS ON HOW TO DIRECT A PLAY WITH A PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS.

**INVITATION:** WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER ATTENDEES, UP TO TWO TICKETS TO WATCH *WAR OF THE WORLDS* BY *IMITATING THE DOG* IN CAST'S MAIN SPACE THAT EVENING.

### **PLAYHOUSE WRITER'S CPD**

**DATE:** THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2026

**TIME:** 4.00PM - 6.00PM

**LOCATION:** ONLINE - A WEBLINK WILL BE CIRCULATED BEFORE THE EVENT.

**FOR:** LEAD TEACHERS/ DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL'S PRODUCTION.

**CONTENT:** TEACHERS FROM ACROSS THE UK, WILL GET THE CHANCE TO MEET THE PLAYWRIGHTS AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEIR PLAY CHOICE.

## KEY INFORMATION

### DATES

#### **SCHOOL VISITS**

EACH SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL VISIT FROM A CAST ARTIST TO SUPPORT THEIR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAY BETWEEN MARCH AND JULY 2026

#### **PLAYHOUSE SCHOOL VISIT (OPTIONAL)**

**DATE/S:** APRIL/MAY 2026 (TO BE ORGANISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LEAD TEACHER)

**TIME:** 2 HOURS

**LOCATION:** CAST

**FOR:** CHILDREN AND TEACHERS

**CONTENT:** EACH SCHOOL WILL BE INVITED TO CAST TO EXPERIENCE A TOUR OF THE THEATRE, LEARN ABOUT THEATRE MAKING AND THE JOBS INVOLVED, PLUS PRACTICE THEIR PROJECTION SKILLS!

#### **PLAYHOUSE FESTIVAL 2026 AT CAST**

**FESTIVAL DATES:**

7, 8 AND 9 JULY 2026

EACH SCHOOL WILL BE ALLOCATED A DAY TO PERFORM AT CAST.

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE BY APRIL 2026.



# KEY INFORMATION

## APPLICATION

### **PROJECT COST**

£400 (PLUS VAT). AN ADDITIONAL £50 FOR THE OPTIONAL PLAYHOUSES SCHOOL'S VISIT FOR A TOUR AND WORKSHOP BEFORE THE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

COMPLETE THIS FORM [HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/TBp4FHS1KP](https://forms.office.com/e/TBp4FHS1KP)

IF YOU DON'T KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS TO THE FORM AT THIS STAGE, THAT IS FINE, WE CAN FOLLOW UP WITH SCHOOLS FOR MORE INFORMATION LATER, BUT IT'S USEFUL TO KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU CAN SHARE AT THIS STAGE.

### **QUESTIONS?**

IF YOU'D LIKE TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT WITH US, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SARAH@CASTINDONCASTER.COM OR PARTICIPATION@CASTINDONCASTER.COM

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## KEY INFORMATION

### PROJECT ROLES

#### **THE ROLE OF THE LEAD TEACHER**

- THE LEAD TEACHER WILL BE THE KEY CONTACT FOR CAST AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPONDING TO EMAILS/ATTENDING MEETINGS AND COLLABORATING WITH CAST ON THE ORGANISATION OF THE PROJECT FOR THEIR SCHOOL.
- THEY WILL ATTEND THE TWO TRAINING SESSIONS (PLAYHOUSE WRITER'S CPD AND WELCOME AND TEACHER'S CPD SESSION)
- THEY WILL TAKE ON THE ROLE OF THEATRE DIRECTOR FOR THEIR SCHOOL AND DIRECT THE PERFORMANCE.
- WE WILL DISCUSS THE FESTIVAL APPROACH TO PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR EACH SCHOOL'S FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE WITH EACH SCHOOL'S LEAD TEACHER. IF CAST WISHES TO TAKE ANY PHOTOGRAPHS OR FILMING DURING THE PROJECT, WE WILL WORK WITH THE LEAD TEACHER TO SECURE THE NECESSARY PHOTO PERMISSIONS.
- TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME BY 7 JUNE 2025. WE CAN AGREE WITH THE LEAD TEACHER, WHAT INFORMATION THEY ARE HAPPY TO PROVIDE, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME SCHOOL'S MAY PREFER FIRST NAMES ONLY.

#### **WHAT CAST'S PROJECT LEAD WILL DO:**

- THE PROJECT LEAD FOR CAST WILL SUPPORT AND STEER THE PROJECT.
- THEY WILL BE A POINT OF CONTACT FOR EACH SCHOOL TO HELP AND SUPPORT AS NEEDED; BOTH PRACTICALLY AND CREATIVELY, DURING THE WHOLE PROJECT, AND ALSO AT THE FESTIVAL.
- THEY WILL ORGANISE THE FESTIVAL AND CPD AND SUPPORT VISITS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE NEEDS OF THE SCHOOL.

## KEY INFORMATION

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY & FILMING:**

- EACH SCHOOL CAN DECIDE WHAT THEIR APPROACH TO PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING WILL BE FOR THEIR PUPIL'S PERFORMANCE.
- AS CAST OUR STANDARD APPROACH IS TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT PRE-SHOW TO SAY THAT PHOTOGRAPHS ARE NOT PERMITTED, THIS IS THEN MONITORED BY OUR USHERS.
- WE HAVE GOLD LANYARDS THAT ANY STAFF MEMBER/PHOTOGRAPHER THAT YOU WISH TO EMPLOY SHOULD WEAR SO THAT WE KNOW THAT THEY HAVE THE AUTHORISATION TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS.
- WE WOULD USUALLY TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS DURING THE DRESS REHEARSAL, SO THAT THERE IS THE FREEDOM TO MOVE ABOUT AND GET THE IMAGES THAT YOU WISH.
- IF THE SCHOOL'S WISH TO ALLOW PARENTS AND CARERS TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS, THIS NEEDS TO BE AGREED BEFORE THE PRODUCTION, AND ON WHAT BASIS (FOR EXAMPLE, THEY MAY BE ABLE TO BE TAKEN FOR PERSONAL USE, BUT NOT FOR SOCIAL MEDIA). THIS INFORMATION WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO AUDIENCES IN THE PRE-SHOW EMAILS, AND BEFORE THE PLAY'S START.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

- WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THE BRILLIANT WORK THAT YOUR SCHOOLS ARE DOING ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS (WE HAVE FACEBOOK, TIKTOK AND INSTAGRAM), AND TAG YOUR SCHOOLS IN.
- WE WILL REQUEST PHOTO/FILMING PERMISSIONS FOR ANY GROUPS THAT WOULD LIKE TO BE FEATURED, ALONG WITH A GENERAL SOCIAL MEDIA PERMISSION THAT WILL BE AGREED WITH THE LEAD TEACHER, AND THAT SHOULD CORRESPOND TO EACH SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES.