



OUT TO PLAY

DRAMA ARTIST APPLICATION PACK



May 2017



OUT TO PLAY

DRAMA ARTIST JOB DESCRIPTION 2017

ROLE SUMMARY

Out to Play is a unique arts-based outdoor learning project that uses Drama, Storytelling and Theatre as tools to engage and develop learners and teachers in the subject area of Sustainable Development Education.

After a successful pilot in 2015, Eco Drama will now be delivering a full scale project spanning 4 project years 2017-2021, collaborating with 25 primary schools and nurseries within disadvantaged areas across Greater Glasgow, connecting children and young people with the natural world through quality creative learning experiences delivered in schools playgrounds.

We are currently recruiting for a Drama Artist to deliver Year 1 residencies in the first 4 Primary Schools throughout 2017. 2 Drama Artist positions are available, however one of these posts has already been filled by the returning 2015 Drama Artist, and so we are recruiting for one Drama Artist position for 2017 only.

Each Drama Artist will collaborate with 2 schools in-depth to deliver imaginative outdoor learning residencies lasting 7 weeks each, working with children and young people aged 5-11 and their teachers. Drama Artists will also collate resources to create a 2nd Edition Out to Play Resource Pack, maintain a Drama Artist blog, and deliver CPD workshops for teachers.

Job Title	Drama Artist (one position)
Location	Primary Schools in Glasgow (two schools per Drama Artist)
Times & Dates	<p>Monday-Friday each week, leading up to 3 sessions per day within the school timetable, with planning/blogging/resources time usually on Friday afternoon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Week: 21st – 25th August 9-5pm (working with the other Drama Artist to plan and share ideas, and meet the schools/teachers)• Residency 1: 28th August – 13th October 2017• Residency 2: 23rd October – 8th December 2017 <p>All residencies include a Twilight CPD workshop delivered by the Drama Artist in Drama/Storytelling/Outdoor Learning for all teachers of each school in Week 4 of each residency, to help them prepare ahead of their teacher led session in Week 5. This will involve sharing drama and storytelling skills, resources and nature connection techniques, empowering teachers to effectively deliver arts-based outdoor learning within their teaching practice.</p>
Fee	£600 per week (£9000 total fee for contract period).
Budget	A materials budget of £100 will be provided per residency.



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*"To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
An eternity in an hour."*

William Blake

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The *Out to Play* residencies are an opportunity to explore creative forms of environmental education, specifically, the role of **Drama** and **Storytelling** within Outdoor Learning & Sustainable Development Education.

Eco Drama will collaborate with partner Primary Schools & Nurseries in Greater Glasgow throughout a 4 year period 2017-2020 to deliver 25 *Out to Play* residencies, connecting children and young people with the natural world through quality creative learning experiences delivered in school playgrounds.

The 2017 residencies will be based in the outdoor environment of 4 Primary Schools in Glasgow with whom Eco Drama have built good working relationships over the past few years. Each of the schools are diverse, for example, one school has already started their outdoor learning journey, while another see this project as a catalyst. Another school has access to green space, whereas another has a mostly bare concrete playground. All however sit within built city environments within disadvantaged areas of Glasgow where children have less access to green spaces and fewer opportunities to engage in the arts and regular outdoor play.

The Drama Artist will design & deliver engaging outdoor learning sessions which utilise the unique surroundings of each school through imaginative play & adventurous learning, deepening young people's connection to our natural world.

We are particularly looking for a Drama Artist with a more visual drama background that is comfortable with the use of props and visual aids, to enable learners within concrete playground environments to be creative, develop imagination and feel a deeper sense of connection to the natural world.



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Aims



To improve children and young people's academic attainment in relation to Learning for Sustainability.



To improve children and young people's knowledge, understanding & enthusiasm for nature.



To advance children and young people's soft skills, health & wellbeing, social, moral & cultural development.



To improve children and young people's access to higher quality outdoor learning activities.



To increase the amount of time children spend learning and playing outdoors.



To improve Teachers knowledge, confidence & skills in delivering arts-based outdoor learning.



To increase the level of arts-based outdoor learning happening in schools beyond the life of the project.

Content

The Drama Artist will design and deliver an interdisciplinary programme of imaginative outdoor learning sessions which apply the use of Drama, Storytelling and Theatre techniques as learning tools. Sessions will make connections across the [10 Eco-Schools Topics](#) and Curriculum for Excellence, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development Education. Sessions will have a key framework that is responsive to the needs and ambitions of each school and their diverse environments.

The 7 week programme *can* be created from a bank of [Resources](#) developed by Eco Drama during our 2015 *Out to Play* pilot project in Glasgow, covering subjects such as the Water Cycle, Bio Diversity, Animals, Waste Minimisation and The Web of Life. However, we encourage Drama Artists to build on this work with new imaginative session ideas, ensuring sessions are relevant to each schools unique grounds, and the age & stage of all children involved. The residencies are to be process-led in content however may culminate in an informal final sharing of work in week 7.



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Continued Professional Development for Teachers

Out to Play has a strong Continued Professional Development (CPD) element for Teachers. All activities are designed to ensure a lasting legacy with the advancement of teaching staff knowledge, confidence and skills in delivering creative outdoor learning activities. We want teachers to feel empowered to deliver creative outdoor learning for many years to come and have 'Out to Play' sessions become part of their school's weekly timetable.

The following sets out how we plan to work with each school and the collaborating teachers as part of the *Out to Play* residencies:

- Before the residencies begin all Class Teachers will meet their Drama Artist to discuss the needs/ ability of each class, what Eco/Sustainability topics they are currently studying and their wishes for the residency. This will inform the Drama Artist's planning and setting of learning outcomes. The Drama Artist will then plan and submit a detailed 7 week programme plan, enabling Teachers to plan their own lessons and learning outcomes around the residency, ensuring deeper engagement for pupils.
- Teachers & the Drama Artist will have regular review meetings throughout the residency and an Out to Play Committee of children will be involved, with the opportunity to provide feedback to the Drama Artist and influence their learning.
- Teachers will be encouraged to shadow the Drama Artist and co-deliver sessions where they feel comfortable, and will fill out a 'Creative Critique' after each session reflecting on the activities, use of creativity and recording ideas and inspiration to develop their own teaching practice.
- All participating Teachers will be required to attend a twilight CPD session in Week 4, led by the Drama Artist, to develop skills and ideas in drama, storytelling & outdoor learning, ahead of planning and delivering their own drama-based outdoor learning session in Week 5. The Drama Artist will provide support and feedback.
- Drama Artists will write an [online blog](#) throughout the residencies, which will be shared periodically with all participating Teachers, further contributing to the development of teachers' ideas and skills in delivering arts-based outdoor learning.
- Throughout the residencies the Drama Artist will record and collate the best of their resources, which Eco Drama will then format into a 2nd Edition Out to Play Resource Pack. This will be shared with Teachers, Eco Coordinators and the wider education community at CPD Workshops later in the project.



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DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

- To design and deliver a programme of imaginative outdoor learning sessions which apply the use of drama, storytelling and play as learning tools.
- To ensure sessions have a key framework that is flexible and responsive to the needs and ambitions of each school and their diverse environments.
- To ensure sessions have scope for the lead teacher to be actively involved in co-leading, where desired.
- To ensure sessions are fully participative and learner-led, working from the existing knowledge and experience of the young people involved.
- To design and deliver twilight CPD workshops for teachers in week 4.
- To maintain and develop the collaborative relationship with each partner school, holding regular meetings and feedback sessions throughout each residency.
- To develop and collaborate with a pupil-led *Out to Play Committee* at each school, holding regular meetings & feedback sessions with the young people.
- To monitor and evaluate young people's progress and personal development throughout the residencies through photographs, recording anecdotal sound-bites and evidence and encouraging the use of Wonder Boxes.
- To report to the Artistic Director on a weekly basis.
- To attend planning meetings with the other Drama Artist every Friday afternoon.
- To write a regular Out to Play Drama Artist Blog.
- To collate session plans throughout the residencies to be input into a 2nd Edition Out to Play Resource Pack of quality drama and storytelling outdoor learning resources.



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PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates must have the following essential skills and attributes, and be able to provide evidence and examples of this in the application and at interview:

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong evidence of ability to plan, deliver and lead on the delivery of drama projects. ○ Min. 2 years experience working with children & young people aged 5-11 years, preferably within a primary school setting. ○ Enthusiasm for exploring the role of drama and storytelling in outdoor learning. ○ Strong interest in nature, sustainability, current ecological ideas and thoughts. ○ Creative and resourceful. ○ Ability to adapt leading style to different ages and stages. ○ Ability to plan adaptable sessions tailored for learners aged between 5-11 (P1-7) ○ Excellent communication skills. ○ Able to work on own initiative. ○ Ability to collaborate and co-deliver sessions as a team. ○ Well organised, punctual, reliable. ○ An interest in socially purposeful projects working at grass roots level. ○ Based in Glasgow or within commuting distance of the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experience delivering drama based environmental education and/or outdoor learning. ○ Forest Schools training certificate, learning for sustainability qualification, or similar. ○ Experience of environmental storytelling. ○ Experience of using teacher-in-role. ○ Good working knowledge of the Curriculum for Excellence. ○ Experience in resource creation and educational blogging. ○ Experience delivering CPD workshops for teachers. ○ Experience using Wordpress or similar website management system for blogs. ○ Child protection/ health & safety awareness.



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METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications are invited in the form of a **Drama Artist Proposal** to include:

- CV, including contact details for 2 references from recent employers
- Letter of application. No more than 4 sides of A4, outlining:
 - Why you are interested in the Out to Play project
 - How your skills & experience would enable you to meet the post requirements
 - How you would approach designing the delivery of the *Out to Play* residencies, making sure to describe what your 7 week plan would look like and any specific areas or ideas you would like to explore.
- Any appropriate supporting material to demonstrate your work – e.g. photographs of your work/resources or written material/DVD footage.
- Please complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form and send this by email along with your application documents.

Applications should be submitted by email to: recruitment@ecodrama.co.uk

For any questions or to have an informal chat about the role and project please contact Emily Reid, Artistic Director - emily@ecodrama.co.uk or 0141 552 9920.

Please note the position is subject to a check through Disclosure Scotland.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your application.

TIMESCALES

Deadline for submissions: **Monday 5th June at 5pm**

Interviews will be held on **Monday 19th June** at The Briggait in Glasgow.

Applicants must be available on this day. Interviews will include a practical element.



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PROJECT BACKGROUND

The idea for *Out to Play* initially grew out of conversations and evaluation, where teachers consistently recognised the tangible benefits of creative learning experiences whenever Eco Drama visited with a production or workshop. Specifically, the positive way that theatre and drama experiences were engaging young people both emotionally and intellectually in their learning for sustainability, and affecting attitudes, values and behaviours.

Out to Play started in 2015 as a response to the needs of schools within Glasgow. We became aware that Outdoor Learning was on many school Improvement Plans for the coming years, and several teachers asked if we had work that could support this. We realised that no other organisation in Scotland was currently focusing specifically on arts-based outdoor learning and we wanted to be the organisation to pioneer this.

The initial project was piloted in collaboration with 4 committed Primary Schools in Glasgow, reaching 283 pupils and 91 teachers during a 13 week residency from March – June. CPD sessions took place in September 2015.

A comprehensive **Report on Out to Play 2015** can be read [here](#) and more information about the project including blogs can be found [here](#).

Drama in Environmental Education

Not only is there a call for more environmental awareness in education, but in the development of innovative teaching methods. Kollmuss & Agyerman (2002) point out that increased knowledge does not always lead to pro-environmental behaviour, which is known as the ‘value-action’ gap. Hoogland* asserts that *‘the arts can address the emotional and imaginative connections missing in much environmental education’*, and that drama specifically *‘allows children to inquire about their relationship to their physical surroundings whilst also touching them emotionally’*.

**2003: The Land Inside Coyote; Reconceptualising Human Relationships to Place through Drama*

All partner schools have Outdoor Learning on their Quality Improvement Plans, with teachers keen to explore the role of drama in delivering Outdoor Learning, with one partner school citing: *“An opportunity like this to work with and collaborate with a drama and storytelling specialist has a wonderful CPD benefit for staff who will be able to embed the shared techniques and creative ideas in future years”*.

With the freedom for learning to exist beyond the school building, the landscape is full of opportunity for imaginative, experiential learning.



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Nature Deficit Disorder

The *Out to Play* residencies are an opportunity to advance the role of drama and storytelling within outdoor learning and sustainable development education, and a creative response on the need to reconnect children with nature.

“Since the 1970’s the area in which children may roam without supervision in the UK has decreased by almost 90 per cent, while the proportion of children regularly playing in wild places has fallen from over half to fewer than 1 in 10.”

Stephen Moss, *Natural Childhood* 2010

The disconnection of children, and adults, from nature is attracting considerable concern. As access to outdoor play areas shrinks, the indoor world has enlarged in importance. A lack of positive role models was one of the barriers to children spending more time outdoors highlighted by the recently launched National Trust’s [Natural Childhood Report](#). Other barriers noted include the rise of indoor entertainment technologies, over-scrupulous application of health and safety procedures and limited access to green space in urban areas, especially socially-deprived neighbourhoods.

“Even nature itself has become a commodity. Many believe they cannot experience it unless they are in a nature reserve, have the right pair of binoculars, or are wearing the correctly endorsed clothes...so often nature is seen as something to travel to – not something we are immersed in all the time and dependent upon for our physical, emotional and spiritual health.”

The Natural Childhood Report

It is a challenge, for teachers, facilitators, artists, parents – anyone responsible for children, to take action and facilitate interaction with the natural world. Children have a deep affinity to nature – they are internally wired to learn and play with their environment. Nature needs to be integrated into our everyday lives; however within cities and built landscapes this may mean re-thinking traditional views of nature as merely ‘sites’ and ‘reserves’.

Out to Play meets this challenge by enabling Drama Artists, Teachers & Pupils to collaborate within urban, built up environments and have meaningful, creative interaction with the natural world.



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COMPANY BACKGROUND

Eco Drama are passionate about making quality theatre and creative learning experiences for children and young people which nurture a sense of curiosity, wonder and care for our natural world and remind us we are part of an amazing living planet.

Founded in 2007, we deliver our [theatre productions](#), [projects](#) and [workshops](#) in schools, theatres, community venues and festivals across Scotland, touring in an [electric car and eco van](#) run on recycled waste cooking oil, reducing CO2 emissions by 85%. To date we have worked with over 64,000 children and young people.

The company also creates educational resources, deliver CPD sessions for teachers and host community events. We are passionate about:

Creating Quality Theatre & Creative Learning Experiences

We believe theatre & drama are powerful tools with which to explore and re-imagine our relationship to the natural world. We are passionate about creating meaningful work that inspires greater awareness of nature and reminds us we are part of an amazing living planet.

We believe all humans are born 'ecocentric' but that these values can often drop away as we grow older. We are privileged and excited to make work with and for children & young people in hope of nurturing compassion for the natural world, ensuring it remains a core value in the way we live our lives.

Collaboration & Community

We believe that joining forces with experts in the fields of outdoor learning, horticulture and education strengthens the quality and sustainability of our performances and projects. We also seek out opportunities to work in the heart of communities, in partnership with other arts, community and environmental organisations.

Evaluation & Research

We are committed to evaluating the impact of our performances and projects with the young people and communities we work with. We build monitoring, evaluation and reflective practice into all of our activities to maintain the quality of the work, provide evidence and share learning on the impact and value of theatre and arts-based learning.

We also involve children and young people in the development of our productions and projects, enabling us to tailor our work to suit specific audiences and enhance the arts experience. For full details of our work please visit: - www.ecodrama.co.uk