

Immersive learning in an arts and citizenship skills for 21 school groups from across London. Artist-led workshops in performance, storytelling & design explore Journeys, Histories & Futures. With “show & tell”, matinee concerts & museum discovery trails.

WORKSHOP LEADERS

CHLOE EDWARDS: VISUAL ARTS

Chloe Edwards is a textile artist, native of London with mixed British/Jamaican heritage.

After graduating from Goldsmiths College in 1996, she established a studio at Cockpit Arts from which she ran a business designing and making constructed textiles. She later trained as a British Sign Language communicator and now works widely within the University of the Arts London, providing access to arts education to d/Deaf students.

Chloe has an ongoing and close working relationship with performance artist Aaron Williamson who is deaf. This role has evolved over four years to embrace many aspects of the creative process: from prop and costume making, to camera operating and sound recording. It now includes performing as well.



VAYU NAIDU: STORYTELLING

Vayu discovered storytelling in her home city, Chennai. In 2001 she founded Vayu Naidu Company, to promote storytelling as theatre, with a signature style combining text, music and dance. Its inaugural production, *South*, was written and performed with musician Orphy Robinson. Later productions include: *Mistaken*, *Annie Besant in India* (which toured India and the UK in 2007); and *Bhakti and the Blues* (2008/09), a collaboration with singer Cleveland Watkiss.

Vayu gained a doctorate in Indian Performance Oral traditions and contemporary western theatre from Leeds University in 1988. She has since published several plays, including *There Comes a Karma*, *When*, and *Guess Who's Coming to Christmas?* In 2009 the Jaipur International Literature Festival featured her solo work *Mischievous Maidens*.



DEBORA ALLEYNE-DE GAZON & CREATIVE LEARNING CIRCUIT: PERFORMANCE

Debora Alleyne-De Gazon is a delightful and highly experienced Trinidadian storyteller, dancer, choreographer and arts educator. She is renowned for her dynamic and engaging presentations and is greatly in demand from community festivals, museums and schools across the UK.

Debora set up the Creative Learning Circuit (CLC) in Croydon in 2004, to develop and promote her own work and that of fellow of African-Caribbean artists. She is Managing Director of this unique artistic collective.

CLC offers participative learning opportunities through public performances and workshops in a range of creative and social skills that draw on the rich and multi-layered cultures of the Caribbean: drama games, improvisation techniques, choral speaking, interactive storytelling, traditional calypso and carnival costume design.



MATINEE CONCERT PERFORMERS

THURSDAY 1 JULY ROMANY DIAMONDS

One of the world's finest Roma violinists, Ricardo Czureja founded Romany Diamonds after migrating to London from Poland in 1998. Ricardo is passionately committed to enhancing cultural awareness to reduce the centuries-old social stigma afflicting Roma peoples. His band comprises three generations of virtuoso musicians whose combined musical brilliance goes far to achieving this.

Ricardo's son Benjamin explains that music is “what we live off; it's our bread”. The male family members play violin but Benjamin has broken with convention and plays guitar to add a jazzy feel to the band's music. Save for Yugoslav double bassist Viktor Obsust, all other band members are Roma and have been steeped in Roma music since childhood.



FRIDAY 2 JULY MOSI CONDE

Mosi Conde is a born crowd-pleaser, a masterful West African griot (praise singer) from Guinea-Conakry who leads his talented London-based ensemble Kaira Kora Afrika. This remarkable and highly skilled West African musician and his matchless crew sing and play a wide range of percussion and string instruments. “We griots are born in music, every family plays together. Music is our life”.

Mosi's compositions are from a strong traditional background yet demonstrate a global sonic awareness. His inspiring vocals and fine instrumental technique have graced Presidential visits by Nelson Mandela and Bill Clinton and delighted audiences at WOMAD and on BBC4.



THURSDAY 8 JULY JYOTSNA SRIKANTH

Jyotsna is a renowned classical violinist, proficient in both South Indian (Carnatic) and Western traditions. Her lively performances are creative musical adventures much loved by audiences of all backgrounds. She now adds contemporary jazz and the folk music of many countries to her continually evolving repertoire of world music genres.

Jyotsna's electrifying virtuoso performances have graced the Music Village, WOMAD and other festivals in Britain and beyond. She has also played on numerous Bollywood soundtracks and composed music for T.V. and ballet. A Fellow in Carnatic Music at London's Trinity College of Music, she has released several albums to international acclaim. Her band Fusion Dreams is justly in demand for its innovative contemporary Indian music renditions.



FRIDAY 9 JULY G.E.A.T.A.

A dynamic and professional creative arts group that started in 1997 with just 10 enthusiasts, G.E.A.T.A. has now grown to a 200-strong, London-wide organisation to sustain and develop Ethiopian culture here. Formed by Wendwosen Abebe, G.E.A.T.A. aims to give young British Ethiopians a positive sense of identity through the arts and to increase awareness and enjoyment of Ethiopian culture among the wider population.

The performing group at G.E.A.T.A.'s core has regularly brought London audiences to their feet with its unique and exhilarating synthesis of rhythmic Ethiopian music, dance and song. Its repertoire incorporates traditional instruments including: masinko, (one-stringed violin) and krar, (six-stringed lyre) along with a medley of voices and percussion.



WORKSHOP LEADERS**ADEMOLA AKINTOLA:**
VISUAL ARTS

Setting out at eighteen from his native Nigeria to travel the whole of Africa, Ademola is a visual artist who has always gone his own way for adventure's sake. He turned down a place at art college in order to make an immediate start to his career as an artist. Ademola moved permanently to the UK in 1990 after completing a number of residencies.

Ademola's theme has remained constant, not affected by the impact that the huge differences between Nigeria and the UK have made on him. "I think the most important thing about my work is that I project certain things within the spirit of a man, and within my own spirit."

**KATE CORKERY:**
STORYTELLING

Kate Corkery is an inspirational, award-winning Irish storyteller based in London whose spellbinding stories and songs are drawn from a rich repertoire of Irish Mythology and Folklore.

As storyteller-in-residence at The Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith, she runs weekly storytelling courses, a monthly storytelling club, occasional training days and conferences for teachers and a week-long combined arts Culture Camp for children during school holidays. She is also Director of the annual *Around The Fire* storytelling festival.

Kate travels far and wide, taking her work to schools, libraries, theatres and international festivals. She also works in a highly successful partnership with percussionist Winston Nzinga in their dynamic Celtic/Caribbean duo, Spud & Yam.

POETIC PILGRIMAGE:
PERFORMANCE

Poetic Pilgrimage is a progressive poetry and hip-hop duo formed in Bristol in 2002 by Muneera Rashida and Sukina Abdul Noor. Jamaican in origin, these two charismatic young Londoners recently converted to Islam. Their heartfelt lyrics brilliantly reconcile their diasporic Afro-Caribbean origins and newly adopted faith with captivating charm, deep devotion and sparkling wit.

These two top-class performers see themselves as part of a growing global hip-hop movement that embraces world music. Their own particular style additionally incorporates acid jazz, neo-soul, traditional Malian music and Afrobeat. They challenge the "monolithic image of oppressed women in Islam", and quash stereotypes by presenting themselves as strong, creative Muslim women who bring "a simple message of peace love and unity".

**MATINEE CONCERT PERFORMERS****FRIDAY 2 JULY**
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**FRIDAY 9 JULY**
KHANTARA

Ever since Colombian singer and multi-instrumentalist Anthar Kharana entered into the world of music at the age of 9, he has explored different sounds and adopted distinct influences from a variety of musical styles. Years of practising khoomeï, or Mongolian throat song, have enabled Anthar to develop a powerful and uniquely varied vocal range. He combines both the intimate and the soaring qualities of operatic singing with a multiplicity of ethnic voice techniques and instruments from around the world.

Anthar's cross-cultural musical experimentation has resulted in Khantara. The band's repertoire represents a thrilling fusion of South American and world music rhythms. Expect a truly scintillating soundscape that incorporates mystical Colombian roots with pounding Arabic and Gypsy beats.