



SPRING 2024

 **MAGICAL**  
**THINGS**   
for you to  **SEE, MAKE** and  **DO** 



## CELEBRATING PLAY, EVERY DAY

We're kicking off 2024 with a celebration of play at The Hullabaloo. Visit us this spring and discover oodles of opportunities to play together!

Join us for dance performances, get lost in magical worlds for babies and toddlers, and enjoy storytelling with colour and clay for older children. This season at The Hullabaloo is jam-packed with unique experiences for you and your little play experts to have fun and get involved in.

We have lined up some of the leading children's theatre makers from across Europe to perform for you, and we have also created brand new homegrown play spaces at The Hullabaloo.

Slide, ski and tunnel through snowy landscapes, enjoy some meditative relaxation in the Zen Garden or build a super-sized sandwich in a Giant's Picnic, our free creative play spaces invite you to enter into imaginative worlds together.

We can't wait to welcome you and your family to enjoy all the magical things to see, make and do. Come and celebrate play with us at The Hullabaloo this Spring!

Theatre Hullabaloo x



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[@theatrehullabaloo](#)






# What's On

Spring  
2024



See, Make, or Do	Date	Show/activity	Age	Page
	Thu 18 - Sat 20 Jan	Fields of Tender	6 months - 2 years & neurodiverse children up to 10 years	08
	Wed 7 - Sat 10 Feb	Claytime	3-6 years	09
	Sat 17 - Sat 24 Feb	Half Term Hullabaloo: Small Worlds Play Play in a Day	0-10 years 2-4 & 3-5 years 6-10 years	10-11
	Fri 23 & Sat 24 Feb	Thumbelina	3-8 years	12
	Fri 8 & Sat 9 Mar	Boxed In	3-6 years	13
	Thu 14 - Sat 16 Mar	Kaleidoscope	0-2 years	14
	Sat 30 Mar - Sat 13 Apr	Holidays at The Hullabaloo	0-7 years	11
	Wed 3 Apr	Forever Friends: Storytelling with Elena	2-4 years & 3-7 years	11
	Thu 11 Apr - Sat 13 Apr	Velveteen Rabbit	6 months - 3 years & 4 years +	15

## Creative Play Space

	Until Mon 22 Jan	Snow Play	0-4 years	06
	Tue 23 - Mon 29 Jan	Giant's Picnic	0-10 years	06
	From Thu 1 Feb	Zen Garden	0-7 years	07

My daughter has been enthralled every time we visit,  
be it the Storyteller, the Creative Play or musical events.  
The reading/chalk area in the cafe is great, as is the café.



# ABOUT THE HULLABALOO

The Hullabaloo in Darlington is the only purpose-built theatre for children and young people north of London.

Situated on Borough Road, adjacent to Darlington Hippodrome, it is a special venue for children and families and an exciting place to play and learn.

At The Hullabaloo, you will find world-class theatre made specially for children – including brilliant shows for babies and toddlers - free creative play installations, storytelling, social prescribing programmes and much more!

Our venue is relaxed, informal and accessible. We have a family friendly café, story corner, an outdoor space to play and a buggy park. We are accessed on ground level and have wheelchair spaces in our theatre and creative play.

What a wonderful initiative! Such a gem, we will definitely be back. Coffee was great too and the kids enjoyed the play area with books and colouring in.





# EVERYONE is welcome!

We want every child and their family to feel comfortable at The Hullabaloo, so we make sure that there are lots of opportunities for families who have children who are neurodiverse or have additional needs to join in, in the way that suits them best. That could mean fewer people, a more relaxed pace or a familiar face.

For more information about what to expect at any of these events please go to our website, call the office or drop in and speak to one of our friendly Hullabaloo Hosts.

## What is a Neurodiverse Friendly (NDF) Performance?

Although The Hullabaloo is always pretty chilled, we do have specific NDF Performances (open to everyone) where families with additional needs might feel more comfortable. At these:

- pre-show information is available to help you prepare for your visit
- you can peek into the theatre before the show begins
- getting up, moving around and responding in your own way to the show is absolutely fine

## NDF Performances

Fields of Tender: Sat 20 Jan, 2pm-4.30pm

Claytime: Sat 10 Feb, 11am

Boxed In: Sat 9 Mar, 11am

## NDF Bookable slots in Creative Play

Neurodiverse families can book the following slots in our Zen Garden:

Group sessions (for up to 4 families): Sat 17 Feb & Sat 23 March

Individual sessions: Sat 2 March

As always, The Hullabaloo was a fabulous venue. They're super inclusive and very aware of neurodiversity and additional needs.

They even included a visual story on their webpage to help guests to prepare for their trip.

Mum of Boys  
North East

# Come and PLAY

**At the heart of The Hullabaloo is our Creative Play space, which grown-ups, children, and babies can play in for free together between 10am-2pm Monday - Saturday. We also run neurodiverse friendly sessions outside of those hours.**

Around four times a year the Creative Play space changes its theme and in the past, we've had a Fairytale Forest, Undiscovered Island, Deep Sea Adventure, Star Dust and many more imaginative worlds! They're the perfect place for your imagination to run free.

You don't need to book to attend our Creative Play, although please be aware that we limit capacities so everyone has the best experience and there may sometimes be a short wait.

## **Snow Play**

**0-4 years and their grown-ups**

**Until 22 January,**

**Mon - Sat • 10am-2pm**

**Free**

Slip, slide, ski and tunnel through a snowy landscape of imaginary play possibilities in this new cosy creative play environment inspired by wintry fun.



## **Giant's Picnic**

**0-10 years and their grown-ups**

**23 - 29 January • 10am-2pm**

**Free**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to play amongst a Giant's picnic? To stack the biggest cheese sandwich tower? To roll with sausages, rest under a lettuce leaf or jump in and out of doughnuts?

A big hit at this year's Hullabaloo in the Park, Giant's Picnic returns to The Hullabaloo for more super-sized fun for all ages.



# at The Hullabaloo!

## Zen Garden

0-7 years and their grown-ups

From 1 February,

Mon - Sat • 10am - 2pm

Free

Zen Garden is a play adventure inspired by the peace and calm of the natural world.

Dance with the rainbows and the lotus flowers, build stone sculptures and rake spiral patterns into the sand - Zen Garden is a relaxing space for the whole family to play in together.



## NEURODIVERSE FRIENDLY SESSIONS IN CREATIVE PLAY

Spend valuable family time together by booking exclusive access to Creative Play or by joining one of our group sessions with a few other families. Sessions are designed specifically for families/groups with neurodiverse children and those with additional needs. Refreshments included.

## Zen Garden

For children aged 0-7 years and their families

Group session (for up to 4 families):

Sat 17 February • Sat 23 March

Individual families: Sat 2 March

If you'd like to know more, please contact Theatre Hullabaloo on 01325 405680 or drop in and chat to one of our friendly Hullabaloo Hosts. Bookable sessions run from 2.15pm or 2.45pm.



Group sessions:

Individual families:





# FIELDS OF TENDER



Dalija Acin Thelander & Company

**Thu 18 & Fri 19 January**

**10am**  **& 1pm** 

**6 months - 2 years**

**Sat 20 January**

**10am**  **• 6 months - 2 years**

**2pm**  **• exclusively for neurodiverse children aged 5-10 years**

6 months  
- 2 years &  
neurodiverse  
children from  
5-10 years

**Duration: 2-2.5 hours**

**Tickets:** Combined ticket:  
£12 (adult and child)  
Additional adult  
or child: £7

*Fields of Tender* is a dance performance by leading dance artist and choreographer Dalija Acin Thelander, from Stockholm. Audiences will enjoy a festival-like experience with dance, music, sounds, extraordinary objects and interactive video projections that create an exciting yet calm and intimate environment.

You and your little one are invited to explore this imaginary world inspired by tenderness, affection and love on your own terms. Within your allocated time slot, you can come in when you are ready, exit and re-enter during the show and leave when it suits you most.

*Buy tickets here:*







# (CLAYTIME

Indefinite Articles

**Wed 7 - Fri 9 February • 10am & 1pm**  
(available for nurseries & schools)

**Sat 10 Feb • 11am  & 1.30pm**

3-6  
years



**Duration:** 55 minutes  
+ 20 minute  
workshop to play  
with clay

**Tickets:** £7 per person /  
£24 group ticket

**11 for 10  
large group offer**

After the success of Pinocchio here at The Hullabaloo in April 2023 the award-winning Indefinite Articles return with their work for the very young: *Claytime*, a play with clay, where the audience are invited to participate.

Each *Claytime* performance is totally unique - creating its own world, its own characters from clay and its own stories drawn directly from the imaginations of the young audience. Truly interactive theatre at its most engaging.

...a masterclass  
in clowning and  
visual improvisation.

*Total Theatre  
Magazine*

...an out-of-the-  
ordinary theatrical  
experience.

*Lyn Gardner,  
The Guardian*

Buy tickets here:





# HOLIDAYS at The Hullabaloo

## MAGICAL THINGS FOR YOU TO SEE, MAKE AND DO AT THE HULLABALOO

Come along for lots of fun during the school holidays!

There'll be storytelling, shows and of course our usual free offer of crafts to enjoy. Leave your mark at The Hullabaloo by decorating our beautiful butterfly with your fingerprint during February Half Term or let us know all about your most treasured toy in our April Holiday craft activities.

### ★ ★ FEBRUARY HALF TERM

**Small Worlds Play** →

Sat 17 & Mon 19 Feb

10am & 12.30pm (2-4 years)

11am & 1.30pm (3-5 years)

Combined ticket: £3 (adult and child)

Additional adults or children: £3

Duration: 45 minutes

Join us in the Theatre for Small Worlds Play, the perfect play opportunity for the curious. Guided by Hullabaloo Host Laura your child will create their own small world from natural materials. Build a twig house, den, boat or dinosaur habitat - the possibilities are endless!

Buy tickets here:





## Play in a Day

00

Wed 21 Feb

10am-4pm

6-10 years

Tickets: child £20,  
additional sibling £18

Buy tickets here:



Calling all budding theatre makers!  
Devise characters and words with new friends as you bring a story to life. Our fantastic facilitators will help you to craft a performance worth sharing. Grown-ups are invited to join at 3.30pm to see the show.



## Butterfly crafts

00

Sat 17 - Sat 24 Feb • 10am-2pm

4-10 years

FREE, no need to book

For our half-term craft activity, we've been inspired by the upcoming show Thumbelina. In the show, Thumbelina watches a butterfly flying down the river and children will have the chance to create their very own butterfly in this self-led activity.



## April activities

The dance theatre show Velveteen Rabbit will be at The Hullabaloo in Easter holidays and to celebrate we'll have a bunny themed trail around The Hullabaloo.

Continuing the theme from the show, we'd love children to bring in their treasured toy and take a photo to display in our treasured toy gallery.



Buy tickets here:



## Forever friends: Storytelling with Elena

Wed 3 April

10.15am & 11.15am:

2-4 years and their grown-ups

1pm: 3-7 years and their grown-ups

Tickets: Adult £3 / child £3

Duration: 30 mins

Join our brilliant storyteller Elena Joy-Miller as she shares stories about treasured toys, teddies and friends that last forever. Expect giggles, games and songs as well.



# THUMBELINA

Speedwell Dance

**Fri 23 & Sat 24 February**  
**11am & 1.30pm**

3-8  
years

**Duration: 60 minutes**  
**including interactive**  
**play**

**Tickets: £7 per person /**  
**£24 group ticket**

*Thumbelina* is an enchanting tale of a miniature girl trying to find her place in the world, brought to life through live music, dance and song.

In this highly interactive piece, children and their adults help Thumbelina escape from a hungry toad, build a shelter from sticks and through their play, give her the strength to carry on and make it safely home.

A gentle and playful experience with the beauty of the natural world at its heart.

A beautiful,  
moving, and magical  
afternoon for both of us.

Audience  
feedback

Everyone was  
captivated, neither of us  
could resist joining in.

Audience  
feedback

Buy tickets here:







# BOXED IN

A Daryl & Co and Half Moon Theatre Production

**Fri 8 March • 10am & 1.30pm**  
(available for nurseries & schools)

**Sat 9 March • 11am  & 1.30pm**

3-6  
years

Duration: 45 minutes

Tickets: £7 per person /  
£24 group ticket

A playful show about (mis)understanding the rules.

*Boxed In* explores the unspoken barriers of attitudes, social etiquette and behaviour that surround us...

How do you know a barrier is there if you can't see it?  
And if you can't see it, how can you remove it?

This heartfelt story is about being made to feel naughty, just because the rules don't make sense.

*Boxed In* is a Daryl & Co and Half Moon co-production; an exciting collaboration by a ground-breaking Disabled-led theatre company and the UK's leading small-scale young people's venue and touring company.

*If you would like to hear  
about our schools offers  
please contact  
kateweston@  
theatrehullabaloo.org.uk*

Buy tickets here:





# KALEIDOSCOPE

Filskit Theatre

**Thu 14 & Fri 15 March**  
**9.45am, 11.30am & 1.30pm**

**Sat 16 March - 10am, 11.45am & 1.30pm**

0-2  
years

Blink. Blink again. What do you see?

Day by day your world is filling up with colour, little one.

Reds and blues, yellows and greens. Twinkling lights that glisten and gleam.

Your reflection is staring back at you. Wide eyed and full of hope. Mirrors, lights, colours and sounds. The world is your *Kaleidoscope*.

Inspired by research into how a baby's sense of sight develops and how they instinctively begin to categorise colour, watch as a multi-coloured Kaleidoscope is brought to life for you and your baby in this mesmerising show.



**Duration:** 25 minutes  
+ optional 15-20  
minutes stay and  
play

**Tickets:** Combined ticket:  
£12 (adult and child)  
Additional adult  
or child: £7

*Buy tickets here:*





# THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

balletLORENT

**Thu 11 - Sat 13 April**  
**11am (0-3 years) & 1.30pm (4+ years)**

balletLORENT invites you into a magical world with their retelling of *The Velveteen Rabbit* suitable for children aged 4+ years, with a version especially adapted for children aged between 0-3 years and their families.

In both shows, toys come to life through the magic of storytelling, music, and dance. A toy rabbit and a boy embark on an adventure about growing up and the meaning of love. At the end of the performance's children are offered an opportunity to interact with the costumed performers.

***"When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real"***

Under  
3 years /  
4+ years

**Under 3 years**

**Duration: 30 minutes**

**Tickets:** Combined ticket:  
£12 (adult and child)  
Additional adult  
or child: £7

**4+ years**

**Duration: 45 minutes**

**Tickets:** £7 per person /  
£24 group ticket

Buy tickets here - Under 3 / 4+ years:





A very BIG THANK YOU  
to all of our supporters.

THEATRE  
**Hullabaloo**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**TEES  
VALLEY**



**DARLINGTON  
ROUNDTABLE**

*Creative*  
**Darlington**

Theatre Hullabaloo is an award-winning creative charity for children and families. We are committed to helping children and the grown-ups in their lives be the best they can be for each other.

Every year 28,000 people visit our theatre, take part in our family festivals, or enjoy our free creative play programmes. We work with some of the most deprived communities in the UK.

We couldn't do any of this without your generous support.

**Darlington**  
Building Society

A special thank you to Darlington Building Society  
for supporting this season at The Hullabaloo.

**INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THEATRE HULLABALOO?**

Get in touch.

Call us today on 01325 405680  
or email [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)





**Theatre Hullabaloo is a registered charity and we work hard to maintain low cost and free activities to ensure that creativity is part of everybody's childhood.**

Almost everything we do at The Hullabaloo is heavily subsidised to make it as available to as many people as possible. Without the generosity of the local community and our funders, we wouldn't be able to do so much - can you help us to do more?

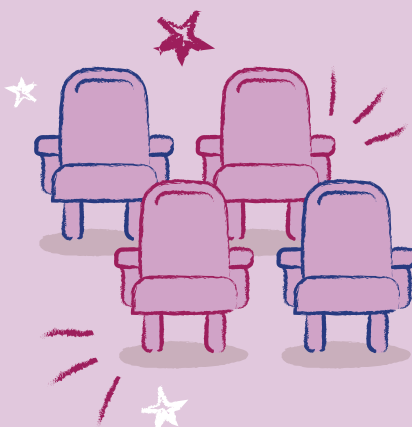
You can support Theatre Hullabaloo by:

- **Purchasing Gift Vouchers from our website**  
(they make a great present or special treat, go to the Visit The Hullabaloo page on our website)
- **Donating in person**  
(we have a donation box in the café that takes cash and card payments)
- **Donating online**  
(you can add a donation when you purchase your tickets or donate via our website)

### **Coming soon!**

We know many of you give us regular donations. We can't thank you enough for your ongoing support, and we would like to give you the recognition you deserve.

Stay tuned for news of our new Hullabaloo Membership scheme. In the meantime, if you would like to talk to us about supporting the work we do with local children and families, please do email us [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk).



**THANK YOU** for helping us to make the magic happen.

# MAGICAL THINGS to DO for FREE at The Hullabaloo

As well as a packed programme of wonderful theatre, we have lots of fun activities to do at The Hullabaloo.

## Join us and...

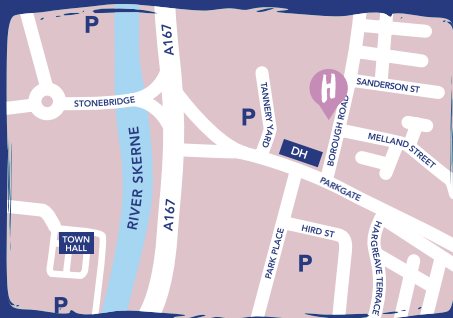
- Discover 3 different Creative Play installations this spring; Snow Play, Giant's Picnic and Zen Garden
- Create your very own butterfly
- Take a photo of your treasured toy using our instant camera and display it in our gallery
- Visit our story corner and read a selection of fun stories



*I think The Hullabaloo is brilliant and think we're so privileged to have it in the North East. Great interaction from staff. Super craft ideas.*

# plan your visit

## How to find us



## Café Hullabaloo

Open Monday - Saturday • 10am-2pm

Our family friendly café provides a relaxing space to spend time with friends and family, serving hot and cold drinks and light snacks (including some gluten free options).

There are plenty of highchairs and comfy chairs available for your visit. There's easy access to toilets, baby change facilities and our buggy park. We also offer free wifi access.

## The Hullabaloo, Borough Road, Darlington DL1 1SG

The Hullabaloo is easily reached on foot from Darlington Town Centre, public transport or car. We are only a 5 minute walk from Darlington train station.

## Box Office

We share our Box Office with Darlington Hippodrome and this means they will be the lovely people making your booking over the phone.

**Phone:** 01325 405 405

Monday - Saturday • 10am-8pm

### In person:

Monday - Saturday • 10am-8pm

Open until 6pm on non performance days

### Online:

Tickets can be booked online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and there are no booking fees.



## Parking

The Hullabaloo does not have a car park but there are short and long stay off street car parks close by to the venue. There are also 2 hour parking bays on the roads surrounding The Hullabaloo.



CREATIVITY  
for every CHILD

BOX OFFICE: 01325 405 405  
[theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](http://theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

The Hullabaloo, Borough Road  
Darlington DL1 1SG