



AUTUMN 2025



MAGICAL THINGS
for you to SEE,
MAKE and DO

WELCOME to The HULLABALOO

Join us this autumn for journeys of friendship and discovery - from brand new Creative Play spaces that will take you up into the stars to enchanting Christmas shows about the power of friendship, there's something for everyone!

We kick off the season by celebrating 200 years of the Stockton and Darlington Railway with a special adaptation of *The Railway Children* for local schools.

Along with our friends at Libellule Theatre, we've been busy creating a brand-new Creative Play space, *Moonbeam*, with the help of Priory Woods School and George Dent Nursery. Children aged 0-7 will be able to discover all about the magic of the moon in this special playscape.

Hulla-ween makes a welcome return and we can't wait to see little ones enjoying *Mess-chievous Messy Play*, *Pumpkin Parties* and more!

We'll be racing through October half term with a wonderful retelling of the classic tale of *The Hare and the Tortoise*.

And soon the most magical time of the year will be upon us again and audiences are in for a real Christmas treat this year as we have not one, but two shows for you to enjoy with your little ones.

We can't wait to see you at The Hullabaloo for all the magical things we have to see, make and do!

Theatre Hullabaloo x














KEEP IN TOUCH



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What's On

See, Make, or Do	Date	Show/activity	Age	Page
	Wed 24 Sep	The Railway Children	7-11 years	08
	Sat 27 Sep	The Elves & the Shoemaker	4+ years	09
	Sat 18 Oct	Little Terror	3+ years	10
	Tue 28 & Wed 29 October	Hare and Tortoise	3+ years	11
	Thu 30 Oct - Sat 1 Nov	Hulla-ween		
	Thu 30	Trick or Trick Thursday: Pumpkin Party	2+ years,	12
	Fri 31	Fiendish Friday: Mini Monsters	5-7 years	12
	Fri 31	Fiendish Friday: Monster Circus	7-11 years	12
	Sat 1 Nov	Spook-tacular Saturday: Mess-chevious Messy Play	0-5 years	12
	Fri 7 & Sat 8 Nov	After Party	0-2 years	13
	Fri 28 Nov - Sun 7 Dec	Christmas Lights	1-4 years	16
	Thu 11 - Wed 24 Dec	Paper Dolls	3+ years	17

Creative Play Space

	Sat 20 Sep - Wed 12 Nov	Moonbeam	0-7 years	05
	Wed 26 Nov - early Feb 2026	Snow Play	0-7 years	05



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 artist-designed creative play experiences, storytelling, socially prescribed play 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.

FREE CREATIVE PLAY at The Hullabaloo

At the heart of The Hullabaloo is our Creative Play space which has a rolling programme of differently themed immersive playscapes where babies, children and their grown-ups can play for free together between 10am-2pm Monday - Saturday.

There's no need to book but there may be a wait during busy periods.

Moonbeam

Opens Saturday 20 September

Monday - Saturday • 10am-2pm

0-7 years and their grown-ups

Free, but donations very welcome

Take your first steps onto the moon and follow the beams... will you leap, bounce or dance around? Explore the craters, some soft, some bouncy, some full of surprises!

Count the stars, catch one if you're lucky...they have stories to tell and will unfurl a tale to those who listen. Put on a moon jacket with pockets galore - perfect for collecting treasures and cheese!

Snow Play

Opens Wednesday 26 November

Monday - Saturday • 10am-2pm

0-7 years and their grown-ups

Free, but donations very welcome

Slip, slide, ski and tunnel through a snowy landscape of imaginary play possibilities in our winter-themed playscape.

We also have bookable sessions in this play space for neurodivergent families or families with additional needs. Please go to page 06 for the dates and times.



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 neurodivergent 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 the website or call the office. You can also drop in and speak to one of our friendly Hullabaloo Hosts.

What is a Neurodivergent 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 ACTIVITIES

Moonbeam (pg 05)

0-10 years

Sat 27 September

2.45, 3.20, 3.55 & 4.30pm

Mess-chevious Messy Play & Moonbeam (pg 12)

0-10 years

Sat 1 November 2.30pm

Snow Play (pg 05)

0-7 years

Sat 13 December

3, 3.35, 4.10 & 4.45pm

NDF PERFORMANCES

Little Terror (pg 10)

3-7 years

Sat 18 October 11am

Hare and Tortoise (pg 11)

3+ years

Wed 29 October 11am

The Paper Dolls (pg 17)

3+ years

Sun 14 December 11am

Mon 22 December 1.30pm

British Sign Language

Christmas Lights contains little spoken word, and lots of BSL communication.

Shows for Schools and Nurseries:

CREATIVITY for every CHILD in the NORTH EAST!

Theatre Hullabaloo believes creativity should be part of everyone's childhood. We create joyful and inspiring theatre experiences and creative activities that are as brilliant as the children who take part in them.

School and nursery visits to The Hullabaloo are a fantastic way to ensure as many North East children as possible experience world-class theatre and creativity that helps them understand and make meaning in a complicated world.

We support your visit to The Hullabaloo by offering:

- Buy 10 tickets and get 1 free
- Spaces to eat packed lunches
- Follow-up activities and learning resources

Please contact Theatre Hullabaloo on 01325 405680 to book a show or for more information on school bookings.

This season our school shows are:

The Railway Children (pg 08) • Year 3-6
Wed 24 September • 10am & 1pm

Christmas Lights (pg 16) • Ages 1-4
Fri 28 November - Sun 7 December
9:30am, 11:15am & 2pm on school days

The Paper Dolls (pg 17) • Ages 3-8
Thu 11 - Wed 24 December
10am & 1pm on school days





THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

Becci Sharrock & Sam Slatcher

Wed 24 September • 10am & 1pm

We're inviting schools to join us for an intimate storytelling show that reimagines **The Railway Children** in the North East, as we celebrate the bicentenary of the first journey of the Stockton & Darlington Railway.

Written by playwright Becci Sharrock with new folk songs from singer-songwriter Sam Slatcher, the performance tells the story of three young children who stumble upon the world's first passenger railway and meet the pioneers who dreamt it all up, with all the adventure and mischief of the original classic tale.

7-11 years

SEE

Duration: 60 minutes

Tickets: £8 per ticket

SCHOOL VISITS:

Buy 10 tickets and get 1 free!

Contact us on 01325 405680 to book a show or for more info on school bookings.



Buy tickets here:



Celebrating the birth of the Modern Railway





THE ELVES & THE SHOEMAKER & OTHER IMPISH TALES

Chris Connaughton

27 September • 11am & 1.30pm

The shoemaker and her husband have a very busy shoe shop. Lots of different people all need new shoes for their journeys. There's an old lady visiting her granddaughter with a bright red cloak, a prince getting ready for a ball, and a father trying to follow a trail of breadcrumbs to find his children.

A trio of tiny helpers arrive in the night-time to make sure the shoemaker can finish the jobs in time.

With rhymes and simple song, the audience are invited to join in with Chris Connaughton's vivid storytelling, in this re-imagining of the favourite fairytale.

4+ years

Duration: 45 minutes

Tickets: £4 per person

*A master
storyteller.*

The Stage and
Television Today

Buy tickets here:





LITTLE TERROR

English Touring Opera

Sat 18 October • 11am (NDF) & 1.30pm

3+ years



Duration: 45 minutes

**Tickets: £8 per person
£28 group ticket
Under 1s free**

It's Alex's birthday, but she does not want to go to her birthday party.

To get there she has to go through the front door, to the deep puddle at the end of the street, past the scary school gates and by the boring playground with the parents who never do anything fun. And she has to wear her dreaded pink dress, which is no good at all. Alex wants to be a knight, and knights don't wear pink dresses...do they?

Little Terror is an imaginative, interactive and adventure-filled family opera all about finding inner strength and processing your emotions.

Buy tickets here:





HARE AND TORTOISE

tutti frutti Productions

**Tue 28 (1.30pm) &
Wed 29 October (11am NDF & 1.30pm)**

Two unlikely friends - the speedy, confident Hare and the calm, steady Tortoise - meet for the greatest race on Earth. A race filled with suspense, surprises, and a nail-biting, medal-winning finish. Ready... Steady... Is it time to GO?

This playful and imaginative adaptation of Aesop's classic fable is brought to life on stage in a vibrant performance. With three talented actors, musicians and a whole lot of energy, the story unfolds across the seasons - from the blossoming days of spring, through the fun of summer, to the icy sparkle of winter.

Guided by our storyteller, this heartwarming tale explores patience, friendship, and what it means to grow up.

SEE

3+ years

Duration: 60 minutes

Tickets: £8 per person
£28 group ticket
Under 1s free

The real pleasure here is the touchingly drawn friendship between the over excitable Hare and the careful Tortoise

The Guardian

Buy tickets here:



HAPPY HULLA-WEEN

Fiendish Friday: Mini Monsters

Fri 31 October

10am • 5-7 years • 60 mins

£4 per child

In this playful, hands-on session, your little beasts will design and bring their own paper monster puppets to life!



Fiendish Friday: Monster Circus

Fri 31 October

12.30-2pm • 7-11 years • 90 mins

£7 per child

Join us in this monstrously fun and imaginative immersive puppetry workshop for children followed by a performance with their newly created puppet friends at the end.



Trick or Trick Thursday: Pumpkin Party

Thu 30 October

10am • 11.30am • 1.30pm

2+ years

60 mins • £4 per person

Join us for our family friendly pumpkin decorating sessions alongside ghoulish games and tons of other fang-tastic fun!

SEE



Spook-tacular Saturday: Mess-chevious Messy Play

Sat 1 Nov

9.45am (0-2) , 11.30am (0-2),
1.45pm (3-5), 2.30pm
(Neurodivergent Friendly session 0-10)

45 mins • £4 per person

Our messy play session is the perfect way for little ones to have a Spook-tacular Saturday and discover a range of sensory activities in our Haunted House.

PLAY



AFTER PARTY

HurlyBurly

Fri 7 & Sat 8 November
10am & 12.30pm

0-2 years

Duration: 90 minutes

Tickets: £7 per person



Combining the beautiful and uplifting vocal music of the HurlyBurly ensemble with a playful and immersive multi-sensory world, this performance experience offers new families time and space to relax together whilst the interactive performance ebbs and flows around them.

Inspired by the intuitive freedom and curiosity of the very young and their talent for turning the world upside down, *After Party* invites parents to embrace the chaos of the early years and follow their children into a world of transformation and wonder where every gurgle, tumble, and reach becomes part of the performance.

After Party is brand-new durational performance for 0-2s where you buy a ticket for a 90 minute experience and everyone is free to enter and leave at whichever points they like.

Buy tickets here:





CHRISTMAS at The Hullabaloo
it's where the
MAGIC HAPPENS!



This year, for the first time, we have double the festive theatre fun at The Hullabaloo!

Families with children aged 1-4 will be able to enjoy the captivating festive show Christmas Lights whilst children aged 3+ can come and see The Paper Dolls, adapted from the much-loved book by Julia Donaldson.

Children can send a letter to Father Christmas via Reindeer Post, visit our wintry indoor creative play space and unleash their creative side with our Christmas crafts.



Snow Play

Wed 26 November - end January 2026

Mon - Sat • 10am-2pm

0-7 years

Slip, slide, ski and tunnel through a snowy landscape of imaginary play possibilities in our cosy creative play environment.



Reindeer Post

Sat 8 November - Sat 29 November

10am-2pm

Free, no need book

Reindeer post is making a special collection from The Hullabaloo again this festive season.

We have colouring sheets and letter templates available so that you can be sure Santa knows well in advance what to include in everyone's stockings.



For details of performance times and extended opening across the festive period, please visit our website:

theatrehullabaloo.org.uk





CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Filskit Theatre

Fri 28 November - Sun 7 December
Various times

1-4 years

Duration: 45 minutes

Tickets: £10 per person

Under 1s free

Join friends, Alvie and Kit as they embark on a playful mission to light up their house in time for Christmas. But what happens when your Christmas Lights seem to have a mind of their own?

With beautiful lights, original music, playful performance and integrated British Sign Language, **Christmas Lights** will be sure to dazzle children aged 1-4 and their families. Younger and older siblings are welcome to come along for this family show which has a stay and play session at the end too.

Buy tickets here:





THE PAPER DOLLS

Little Angel Theatre and Polka Theatre

Thu 11 - Wed 24 December
Various times

3-8 years

Duration: 45 minutes

Tickets: £12 per person
Under 1s free

Join us this Christmas for this beautiful co-production by A Little Angel Theatre and Polka Theatre, based on the original much-loved book by Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb.

When a little girl cuts out a string of paper dolls she takes them by the hand and together they go on a fantastical adventure whirling through their home and garden. But what happens when a very real boy with very real scissors threatens to snip their adventure short...

Buy tickets here:



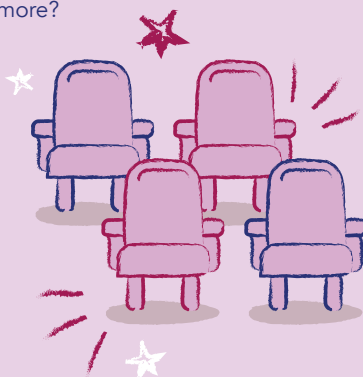


Theatre Hullabaloo is a registered charity and we work hard to maintain low cost and free activities to ensure that creativity is part of everybody's childhood.

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
- **Taking a Seat in our theatre**
a brilliant gift to mark a special birthday with a seat plaque and certificate for the lucky recipient
- **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
- **Pay It Forward**
you can now donate the cost of a ticket (via our website) to a family who wouldn't usually be able to experience the magic of our theatre



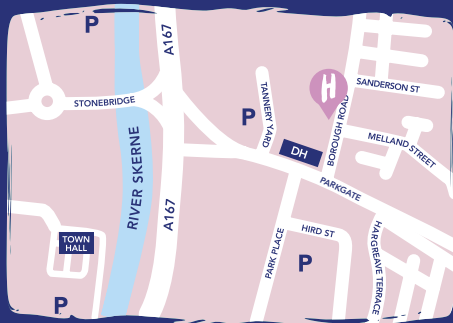
We are very grateful to our funders and to local businesses for their support too.

If you are a business who 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

THANK YOU for helping us to make the magic happen.

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 including a Changing Places Toilet, 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.

A very
BIG THANK YOU
to all of our
supporters



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