

SPRING 2026



MAGICAL THINGS  
for you to SEE,  
MAKE and DO



Theatre Hullabaloo is an award-winning arts charity that creates extraordinary creative experiences for children aged 0-10s and their families.

The Hullabaloo is our special venue based in Darlington and it's the only purpose-built theatre for children and young people north of London. Here you'll find world-class theatre made specially for children - including brilliant shows for babies and toddlers - free artist-designed creative playscapes, storytelling, socially prescribed play programmes and much more.

Spring 2026 has something for everyone with immersive creative experiences for babies and their grown-ups, marvellous messy play, dreamy dance theatre, interactive performances for Early Years disabled children and their families - the list goes on!

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

Theatre Hullabaloo xx

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.



KEEP IN TOUCH











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# What's On

Spring  
2026

See, Make, or Do	Date	Show/activity	Age	Page
	Fri 16 & Sat 17 Jan	Winter Wonderland Messy Play	0-5 years	05
	Thur 29 - Sat 31 Jan	First Light	0-18 months	08
	Thur 12, 19 & 26 Feb	Messy Music Makers	0-4 years	09
	Sat 14 Feb	Valentines: Love to Messy Play	0-5 years	05
	Fri 20 & Sat 21 Feb	A Square World	3-6 years	10
	Fri 27 & Sat 28 Feb	The Sleep Show	4+ years	11
	Fri 6 & Sat 7 Mar	Kish Kush	5+ years	12
	Sat 21 Mar	Hay!	3+ years	13
	Fri 27 Mar	Flip The Switch	0-5 years	14
	Fri 10 & Sat 11 Apr	Signor Baffo	3+ years	15

## Creative Play Space

	Until Sat 14 Mar Feb 2025	Snow Play	0-7 years	04
	Wed 18 - Thu 26 Mar	Little Light Explorers	0-5 years	04
	Wed 1 Apr - Sat 27 Jun	Moonbeam	0-7 years	04
	Wed 15 Apr - Sat 2 May	Build it Beautiful	3-8 years	16



At the heart of The Hullabaloo is our Creative Play space which showcases a variety of artist designed immersive playscapes throughout the year.

Babies, children and their grown-ups can play for free together whenever we are open. Please note that our new standard opening hours (from 19 January) are Wed - Sat 10am - 2pm. There's no need to book but there may be a wait during busy periods.

### Snow Play

Until 14 March 2026 • Mon - Sat, 10am-2pm (Wed - Sat from 19 Jan)

0-7 years and their grown-ups • Free, but donations very welcome

After a busy Christmas period our wintery playscape will be ready for lots more play time fun until mid March!

### Little Light Explorers

Wed 18 - Fri 20 & Wed 25 - Thu 26 March • 10am-2pm

0-5 years and their grown-ups • Free, but donations very welcome

Theatre Hullabaloo brings you and your littles our latest creative play opportunity exploring light, reflection and colour. There'll be lots to investigate amongst tuff trays in our theatre space.

### Moonbeam

Wed 1 April - Sat 27 June • Wed - Sat, 10am-2pm

0-7 years and their grown-ups • Free, but donations very welcome

Take your first steps onto the moon, explore the craters, 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!



# MESSY PLAY

## at The Hullabaloo!



### Winter Wonderland Messy Play

Theatre Hullabaloo

**Fri 16 January**

10am, 11.30am (0-2 years),  
1pm (3-5 years)

**Sat 17 January**

10am, 11.30am (0-2 years),  
1pm (3-5 years),  
2.30pm-3.15pm (NDF 0-10 years)

**Duration: 45 mins**

**Tickets: £5 per person**

Jack Frost has taken over our theatre and left a trail of textures and surprises behind! Children and their grown-ups can explore our winter wonderland and enjoy some messy play this January.



### Valentines: Love to Messy Play

Theatre Hullabaloo

**Sat 14 February**

10am & 11.30am (0-2 years),  
1pm (3-5 years),  
2.30pm-3.15pm (NDF 0-10 years)

**Duration: 45 mins**

**Tickets: £5 per person**

Celebrate Valentine's Day in our heart-filled messy play session! Love is in the air, and it's time to make memories with the people who matter most. Get ready to mix, mash, and make a beautiful mess together!

# EVERYONE is welcome!

We want every child and family to feel comfortable, so we offer lots of opportunities for those who are neurodivergent or have additional needs to join in their own way - whether that means smaller audiences, a relaxed pace, or a familiar face.

For details about what to expect, visit our website, call us (01325 405 680), or chat with one of our friendly Hullabaloo Hosts.

## NEURODIVERGENT FRIENDLY (NDF) PERFORMANCES

While The Hullabaloo is always relaxed, our NDF performances (open to everyone) offer extra support for families who may need it. At these performances:

- You'll receive pre-show information to help you prepare for your visit
- You can explore the theatre before the show begins
- Moving around and responding as you need to is absolutely fine
- Audience sizes are smaller for a calmer experience
- A safe, creative space is available if your child needs a break



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

## ★ NOF PERFORMANCES

**A Square World • pg 10**  
Fri 20 & Sat 21 February • times

Whilst not specifically NDF performances, *A Square World* is an inclusive show and non-verbal, making it very accessible for neurodivergent children.

**The Sleep Show • pg 11**  
Fri 27 February • 2pm

**Hay! • pg 13**  
Sat 21 March • 2pm



## ★ NOF ACTIVITIES

**Winter Wonderland Messy Play • pg 05**  
Sat 17 January • 2.30pm-3.15pm

**Valentines: Love to Messy Play • pg 05**  
Sat 14 February • 2.30pm-3.15pm

**Snow Play • pg 04**  
Sat 17 January • 3.30-4.30pm - group session  
Sat 21 February • Individual sessions for families  
at 2.45pm, 3.20pm, 3.55pm & 4.30pm  
Sat 14 March • Individual sessions for families  
at 2.45pm, 3.20pm, 3.55pm & 4.30pm

**Moonbeam & Build it Beautiful • pg 04 & 16**  
Sat 18 Apr • 2.30pm-3.30pm  
A group session for up to 4 families to  
play Moonbeam and Build it Beautiful.



The kids absolutely loved this and thank goodness for the neurodivergent session! Without these sessions we would really struggle to attend as a family.

## ★ FOR LEARNING DISABLED AUDIENCES

**Flip the Switch • pg 14**  
Fri 27 Mar • 10am & 1pm



# FIRST LIGHT

Daniel Nadaffy & Marty Langthorne

**Thu 29 - Sat 31 January**  
**15 min sessions between 10am & 4pm**

Bathe in sound and light with your baby as you explore the wonders of how their senses develop. Sit, lie down or stand while sharing this immersive, intimate experience.

Inspired by research from The Sussex Baby Lab into the expanding vision of children from birth until 18 months, this 15-minute installation distills the world of awakening perception into a unique show. Real-life soundscapes harmonise and echo a newborn's hearing as lights twinkle and colour slowly fills the performance pod.

Co-commissioned by the Barbican London and developed with support from Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts and Half Moon Theatre.



0-18  
months

**Tickets: £12 per session**

**One ticket allows up to 4 people (including the baby) into the performance pod at a time.**





# MESSY MUSIC MAKERS

0-4 years

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Duration: 60 minutes

Tickets: £6 per person

Theatre Hullabaloo & Bridie Jackson

**Thu 12, 19 & 26 February • 10am, 11.30am & 1.30pm**

Join musician Bridie and her fellow playmakers in this new session for babies and toddlers which brings together a medley of songs, musical games and messy play for your wee ones to navigate.

Whether your baby is a mover, a groover or just likes to get stuck into some sensory play on their own terms, these fun-packed sessions are perfect for you to enjoy play time together.

P.S We'll even clean up the mess for you.

The Hullabaloo is designed to be wipe-clean!



# A SQUARE WORLD

Daryl & Co

**Fri 20 February**

**10am & 1pm • School bookings available**

**Sat 21 February • 11am & 1pm**

3-6 years

Duration: 45 minutes

Tickets: £10 per person  
£36 group ticket  
School bookings  
11 for 10 tickets

A very endearing and funny performance with a gentle but poignant message, performed by wheelchair user Daryl Beeton.

When the daily routine of three friends' lives suddenly changes, they discover with a little fun and some mayhem how to adapt their world so they can keep playing together. *A Square World* looks at the unfairness of being left out in a world designed for everyone else but yourself.

*A Square World* is 100% nonverbal and an incredibly inclusive and accessible show so it's perfect for everyone to come and enjoy.

SEE

Profound, distilled brilliance. A perfect example of children's theatre at its best, working equally for both kids and adults.

Audience member



# THE SLEEP SHOW

Peut-Être Theatre

**Fri 27 February • 11am & 2pm (NDF)**

**Sat 28 February • 11am & 1pm**

4+ years



**Duration:** 50 minutes  
+ 10 mins stay  
& play

**Tickets:** £10 per person  
£36 group ticket  
(max 4 people,  
min 1 child)

Tuck in, let the magic of sleep unfold around you, and embrace the journey to dreamland with your little ones...

*The Sleep Show* is a dreamy performance which transforms the mysteries of sleep into a playful adventure. It mixes captivating dance and imaginative storytelling to explore all the funny and frustrating parts of trying to fall asleep, the fidgeting, the big thoughts, and that feeling of not wanting to miss a thing.

Instead of making bedtime stressful, the show turns it into something fun, magical, and wonderfully silly at times. Expect soft, cosy vibes, eclectic music, and boundless imagination, creating a world where a bedtime story truly jumps off the page and comes to life on stage.

It's the perfect show to spark gentle chats between kids and parents about why sleep matters.



# KISH KUSH

Teatrodistinto (Italy)

**Fri 6 March**

**10am & 1pm • School bookings available**

**Sat 7 March • 11am & 1pm**

A gentle performance for children 5+ and their grown-ups, highlighting the joy of connecting and embracing different cultures.

*Kish Kush* follows two strangers divided by a 3ft high paper wall as they learn to communicate across language and cultural differences. Through playful movement, sounds, and imagination, they discover friendship and understanding in a touching and humorous journey about connection and acceptance.

Drawing the shadows they see, listening to the sounds they hear and watching each other's movements, they connect through a universal language, sharing their cultures and stories.



5+ years  
(younger  
siblings  
welcome)

**Duration: 50 minutes**

**Tickets: £10 per person  
£36 group ticket  
School bookings  
11 for 10 tickets**





# HAY!

Lyngo Theatre

**Sat 21 March • 11am & 2pm (NDF)**

A story about growing up and discovering how to live your dreams, spread your wings and fly like the birds, from CBeebies' Patrick Lynch.

Scarecrow is tired of standing frozen in the field, his hat now a cosy nest for fearless crows. But when Farmer Geenie accidentally sets him free, he discovers - hay! - he can move at last. With Geenie's help, he explores a world full of surprises, learning about nature, how to walk, dance, sing, and ultimately find his place in it.

'Hay!' is the only word in this show but it means so much - the stuffing in Geenie's scarecrow, the sound she makes when he comes to life and his first word when he sees all the natural wonders of the world.

Expect lots of giggles from this show filled with puppetry, clowning, song and dance!

3+ years

Duration: 50 minutes

Tickets: £10 per person  
£36 group ticket

SEE

[Patrick Lynch]  
never seems to  
lose his rapport with  
the audience.

– British Theatre  
Guide





# FLIP THE SWITCH

Elena Joy Miller

**Fri 27 March • 10am & 1pm**

A sensory-rich interactive performance for early years disabled children and their grown-ups

Step into a world of play, imagination, and sensory wonder. *Flip the Switch* is a joyful, interactive performance shaped by the creativity of early years disabled children and the grown-ups who support them.

Born from a series of inclusive workshops exploring music, movement, and imaginative play, this unique experience celebrates every child's individuality. Their ideas, reactions, and discoveries guide the story moment by moment.

Please note that no formal SEND diagnosis is required to attend this heartwarming experience.

Ideal for ages 18 months–5 years, and also suitable for older children for whom this developmental stage feels right.



**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Tickets:** £10 per person  
£36 group ticket

For  
Early Years  
disabled children  
(18 months -5 years)  
and their  
grown-ups.



# SIGNOR BAFFO

Oh! Productions

**Fri 10 April • 1pm**  
**& Sat 11 April • 11am & 1pm**

3+ years

Duration: 45 minutes

Tickets: £10 per person  
 £36 group ticket

In this hilarious interactive children's show, *Signor Baffo* opens his one of a kind restaurant to children aged 3+.

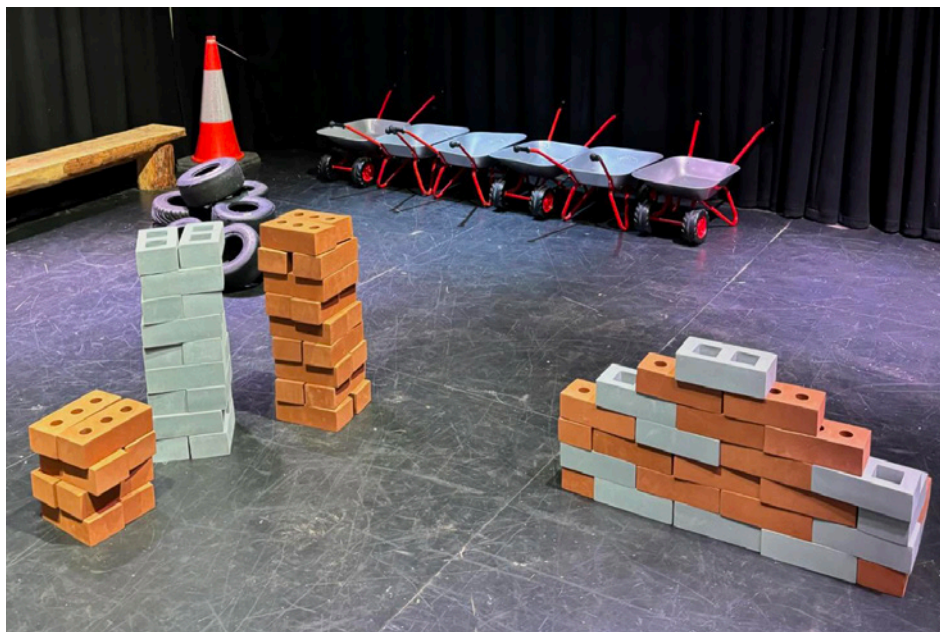
There's chaos in the kitchen when Signor Baffo is left in charge. With a long list of jobs to complete for his boss, he enlists some young helpers from the audience (swiftly dressed in mini chefs uniform and complete with stick on moustache!) which results in lots of messy fun.

Expect plates-full of fun, with generous helpings of silliness, mischief and adventure. What's the best way to mix meatballs with spaghetti? How do you make a chicken lay an egg, and how does a sausage roll? All is revealed in the charming culinary chaos of Signor Baffo's kitchen.

SEE

"I don't know who laughed more, the children (8 and 6) or me (46)"

- Parent



# BUILD IT BEAUTIFUL

Theatre Hullabaloo

**Wed 15 April - Sat 2 May**

**Bookable slots: 10am, 10.45am, 11.30am, 12.15pm, 1pm & 1.45pm**

The Hullabaloo theatre will be transformed into a builders' paradise for little ones and their grown-ups to enjoy lots of creative fun!

Don your hard hat and high vis and get stuck in to sand, blocks, wheelbarrows and all sorts of other fun designed to build motor skills and promote imaginative play.

3-8 years  
(younger  
siblings  
welcome)

Duration: 30 minutes

Tickets: £3 per person,  
under 12 months  
free

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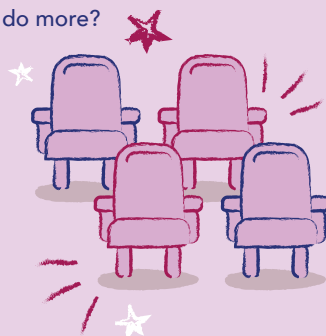
**At Theatre Hullabaloo, we believe every child deserves magical, creative experiences that inspire imagination and joy.**

As a registered charity, we work passionately to keep our performances and activities low-cost or free, so that no child ever misses out because of cost. Every moment of wonder at The Hullabaloo is made possible through generous subsidies and the incredible support of people like you. With your help, we can reach even more children, spark more imaginations, and make creativity a part of every childhood.

Together, we can make the magic happen - will you help us 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 your 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](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

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



# plan your visit



Our venue offers a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere for everyone. With a family-friendly café, cosy story corner, outdoor play area, creative play space and studio theatre, it's the perfect place to unwind and enjoy time with friends and family. 

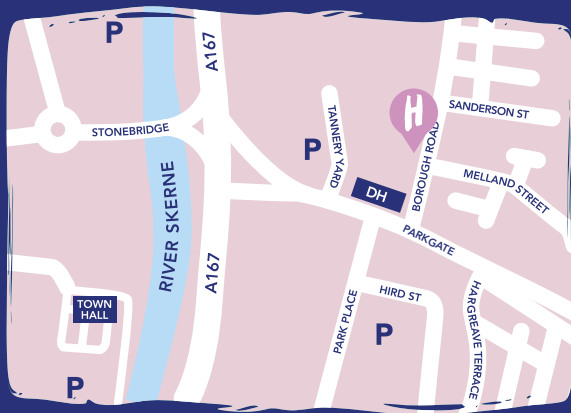
Our café serves a selection of hot and cold drinks, along with light snacks - including gluten-free options. You'll find plenty of highchairs and comfortable seating to make your visit easy and enjoyable.

The Hullabaloo is fully accessible at ground level and features ample toilet facilities, including a Changing Places Toilet, baby changing areas, and a handy buggy park. We also provide free Wi-Fi throughout the venue.

Please note that The Hullabaloo's new opening hours are Wednesday - Saturday, 10am - 2pm (from 19 January).



## ★ HOW TO FIND US



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.

## ★ 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.

## ★ BOOKING TICKETS

Box Office

Tel: 01325 405 405 • Monday - Saturday • 10am-8pm

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

**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.

You can also book wheelchair spaces online when booking your tickets.

We now have an Essential Companion scheme which allows those who are eligible to book a complimentary carers tickets online when they sign into their account. More information can be found on our website.





A very BIG THANK YOU  
to all of our supporters.

THEATRE  
**Hullabaloo**

 Supported along public funding by  
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