

Can you help?

Half Moon is a charity, and we fundraise to keep the cost of our activities affordable to all. Thanks to our generous funders, our Youth Theatre parents only pay **37%** of the cost of the sessions. Our small and dedicated team fundraises the remaining **63%** to ensure that young people in our community have access to affordable and inclusive drama activities. This funding pays for our experienced drama tutors, session resources and access workers so we can support young people with additional needs to be included in all the work we do.

If you are in a position to offer your continued support by **making a donation today**, adding a donation when you pay your Youth Theatre fees, or setting up monthly donations, it makes all the difference to us and the young people we support.

Please, help us to continue the valuable work we do with your young people by speaking to a member of staff about how you can make a donation.

Thank you to our donors:

CMS Social Impact Fund	Jack Petchey Foundation
Coop Local Community Fund	National Lottery Community Fund
The Derek Shuttleworth Educational Trust	St James's Place Charitable Foundation
The Fitton Trust	Tesco Community Grants
Garfield Weston Foundation	...and all individual donors

For any questions about Youth Theatre contact:

Phone: 020 7709 8900

Email: drama@halfmoon.org.uk



Registered Charity 1010192.

Youth Theatre Newsletter

Spring 2024



Early Years fun with Half Moon Creative Play



Half Moon runs our Creative Play programme for Early Years across children and family centres in Tower Hamlets. These sessions are completely free to attend and provide you and your baby with an unique and fun opportunity to explore playing together.

Our Creative Play programme was created in response to requests from Tower Hamlets children's centres for sessions to support children with their active play. Sessions take place across a term or just a few weeks and allow young children to explore their bodies and their imaginations, encouraging them to feel confident with moving and communicating.

These free Creative Play sessions, for Tower Hamlets babies and pre-school children and their parents and carers, are drama and movement based, using an imaginative journey to a different setting each week to build the children's imagination. For example, in the Magical Forest session, tutors lead the participants to explore trees and falling leaves, meet different forest animals, climb through spider's webs, find the magical castle, and dance with butterflies. Sessions last an hour and include free play where facilitators will interact with children and their parents/carer.

To find out which centres we are running in this summer and join a group, head to our website: www.halfmoon.org.uk/early-years



Every Saturday during term time, Half Moon becomes a vibrant and welcoming venue, showing theatre for audiences of all ages. All our tickets cost just £7! Book to see a show at Half Moon today by visiting www.halfmoon.org.uk/whats-on/



Say hello to Malachi, our Creative Learning Manager!

Malachi runs our Next Steps and After School Drama programmes. Next Steps is a Summer programme for Year 6 students to help them with their transition to secondary school.

How did you start working at Half Moon?

I started working with Half Moon in 2019 as an access worker on the Next Steps transitions programme. Androulla (Half Moon’s Head of Creative Learning) and Beccy (who used to be Head of Creative Learning at Half Moon) worked with me when I was 16 and saw that I had the potential to be a drama facilitator. Since then, I have been both an access worker and support tutor on after school clubs, Creative Play, Youth Theatre and Careers in Theatre. I then stepped in to the role of Creative Learning Manager in January and now lead the Next Steps programme and after school clubs. Half Moon have supported my professional growth over the years and have given me the opportunity to step in to more challenging roles.

What do you enjoy most about working with us?

I enjoy the fact that I get to work in a theatre every day! You never know what to expect day to day and it creates a great vibe in the building. I also enjoy working with the young people. They are amazing and I feel privileged to be able to see them weekly and support them using drama and games.

When you are not at Half Moon, what are your favourite things to do?

My favourite thing do outside of Half Moon is anything creative! I’m an arty person whose brain moves at a million miles per hour. Creating art through different mediums allows me to feel present.

Do you know a young person in Year 6 who might be interested in exploring the transition to secondary school through drama games and activities? Find out more about the Next Steps programme by emailing Malachi (malachi@halfmoon.org.uk).

Summer Term Dates 2024

	First Session	Half Term (No Session)	Final Session and Sharing
Solar	Mon 29 April	Bank holiday: Mon 6 May Half Term: Mon 27 May	Mon 15 July
Eclipse & Lunar	Tue 30 April	Tue 28 May	Tue 9 July
Equinox & Orbit	Wed 1 May	Wed 29 May	Wed 10 July

Celebrating Achievement

Each term we hold our **Youth Forum**, where members are voted by their peers to represent their views. Thanks to all the members who gave their opinions! This term our reps were: **Sebastiano & Jana** (Comets), **Drey** (Sunbeams), **Sofija** (Moonbeams), **Willow & Mafalda** (Eclipse), **Alethea & Khadijah** (Equinox), **Daphne & Eliza** (Lunar), **Yusuf & Ruben** (Orbit). One of our trustees also attends the meeting.

We also celebrate the positive contributions of two people from each Youth Theatre, as voted for by members of each group. This includes Jack Petchey Achievement Awards given to the members of our older groups.

This term we are celebrating:

- Comets** **Sofia**, for good acting and good facial expressions.
Ivan, for good crafting and good acting.
- Sunbeams** **Matilda**, for being a good at listening and a funny actor.
Ardin, for making funny faces and for doing good listening.
- Moonbeams** **Leon**, for good physicality and good participation.
Ida, for good leadership confidence and directing skills.
- Eclipse** **Isobel** for being kind, a good friend and being confident.
Olivia for coming up with great ideas and being caring.
- Equinox** **Elsa**, for being a good friend and a good actor.
Sidonie, for always putting in effort and being kind .
- Lunar** **Robson (Jack Petchey Achievement Award)**, for being a great actor, kind and working well in a team.
Georgia, for being enthusiastic, talented and a good role model.
- Orbit** **Malachi (Jack Petchey Achievement Award)**, for always bringing great ideas and for always putting in effort.
Aurora, coming up with great ideas and being fun to work with.
- Solar** **Ifaz** for being good at drama, making up new ideas and being friendly.

A huge well done to all our Youth Theatre members for their hard work, energy and enthusiasm this term!

