

Kate Carmichael Resources Officer

Exploring Theatres Launch Speech

I am extremely thrilled to be with the Trust at this time, and proud to have the role of increasing awareness of our fantastic new resources. My job will also be to work with you to develop opportunities for learners to engage with Exploring Theatres.

The work of the Trust is founded on 'promoting the better protection of theatres for the benefit of the nation', or as we say now, 'protecting theatres for everyone'.

One of the most effective ways to protect theatres is to increase peoples understanding of the value of theatres.

The Trust is committed to doing this by providing better access to information and developing a range of opportunities to learn about theatres. Exploring Theatres is a great step forward in achieving this. importantly, the resources we have created aim to make learning about theatres fun.

As you entered the theatre and made your way to the John Lyon Room you will have noticed the questions lining the walls.

These questions are to be found in the downloadable Teachers Resource Sheets, and, by answering them, we hope, learners will be encouraged to think more about the theatre buildings they are visiting.

The questions on the walls have been tailored for The Unicorn, but are able to be adapted for other theatres and in a range of teaching situations

What is the role of learning in The Theatres Trust? Well, we are not looking to replace formal education. What we want to be able to do is to complement it. We believe that the work and resources of the Trust can benefit learners... and by being more informed about theatres, people's lives will be enhanced.

We hope that Exploring Theatres will really support lifelong learning and provide teachers with useful references.

Exploring Theatres comes at a time when, post the McMaster review, the recent Government initiative, 'Find your talent', aims to give young people in England 5 hours of culture a week. We believe our resources will aid those providing participatory activities, offering performances in theatres, and improving access to heritage.

The Trust and I will be working to promote the opportunities to use and develop Exploring Theatres in these areas. I'd be very pleased to talk to those involved in other government initiatives such as Engaging Places, . . . Learning Outside the Classroom, ... and the 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

Over the next year we will be building these relationships, whilst also working to 'learning proof' more of the Trust's resources. My first task will be to work with theatres and their education officers and regional theatre networks. I'll be making contact with them and exploring ways in which we could be developing the resources.

And naturally I also aim to ensure that online-curriculum material providers and the education press are helping us to promote the resources to teachers and schools.

We will also be developing Exploring Theatres as an online set of resources, applying technology, being proactive in their dissemination, and developing their interactivity.

Exploring Theatres potentially has no boundaries, if you are interested in finding out more, I will be here and happy to demonstrate the resources to you.

Thanks for listening and I hope to be having a dialogue with many of you in the future.