

jersey arts centre

PLAY DAYS

Children's Festival
10 - 26 July 2025

**PLAY!
ADVENTURE!
DISCOVER!**



Box Office: 700444
artscentre.je



to Jersey Arts Centre's



Children's Festival

Throughout the following pages there are over 20 adventures to be experienced, including: performances, concerts, street theatre and an exhibition...

From tales of Gerald Durrell's childhood on the idyllic isle of Corfu to dreamy-undersea fantasies, there is another world to discover.

We are certain that all children, their friends and families will find much to explore and enjoy throughout the two weeks of the festival.

We encourage you all to:

play, adventure and discover

these stories about the world in which we live!

DANIEL AUSTIN
Director
Jersey Arts Centre

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)...

... is a human rights treaty, introduced by the United Nations (UN) in 1989. It sets out a list of rights that belong to every child and young person under 18 years of age.

The UNCRC's aim is to recognise the rights of children and young people and ensure that they grow up 'in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity'.

All UN member states (except for the United States) have ratified the Convention, making it the most widely supported human rights treaty in history.

In June 2014, Jersey became a State Party to the UNCRC, when it asked for the UK's ratification to be extended to the Island. As a Crown Dependency, Jersey is unable to independently sign or ratify international treaties, so must do this through the UK.

The Convention has 54 articles in total. Articles 43–54 are about how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights,

ARTICLE 31

**Every child has the right to relax, play and take part
in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities**

To this end, the **playdays** festival has created **Article 31 Tickets** whereby children and their families who might not otherwise be able to access the activities and performances of the **playdays** festival, can do so if they are being supported in any way by:
Brighter Futures, Barnardo's, Every Child Our Future, Liberate and mind Jersey.

If you know of other organisations with whom Jersey Arts Centre can work in the future, and who can be part of this **playdays Article 31 Tickets** opportunity, do contact us on:
director@artscentre.je



Street Theatre

Look out for the following street theatre performers around St Helier throughout the day!

THURSDAY 10 JULY –
SATURDAY 12 JULY

SWANK: Austerity Party Times

Feeling low?
Current events getting you down?

Not to worry, Hope and Joy are here to bring you an up-cycled, fun-filled party to lighten any troubled times with their big, bright and beautiful costumes fashioned from bags for life and the fabric from broken umbrellas.

Traces

A **playdays** Exhibition in the Berni Gallery

MONDAY 30 JUNE – SATURDAY 26 JULY

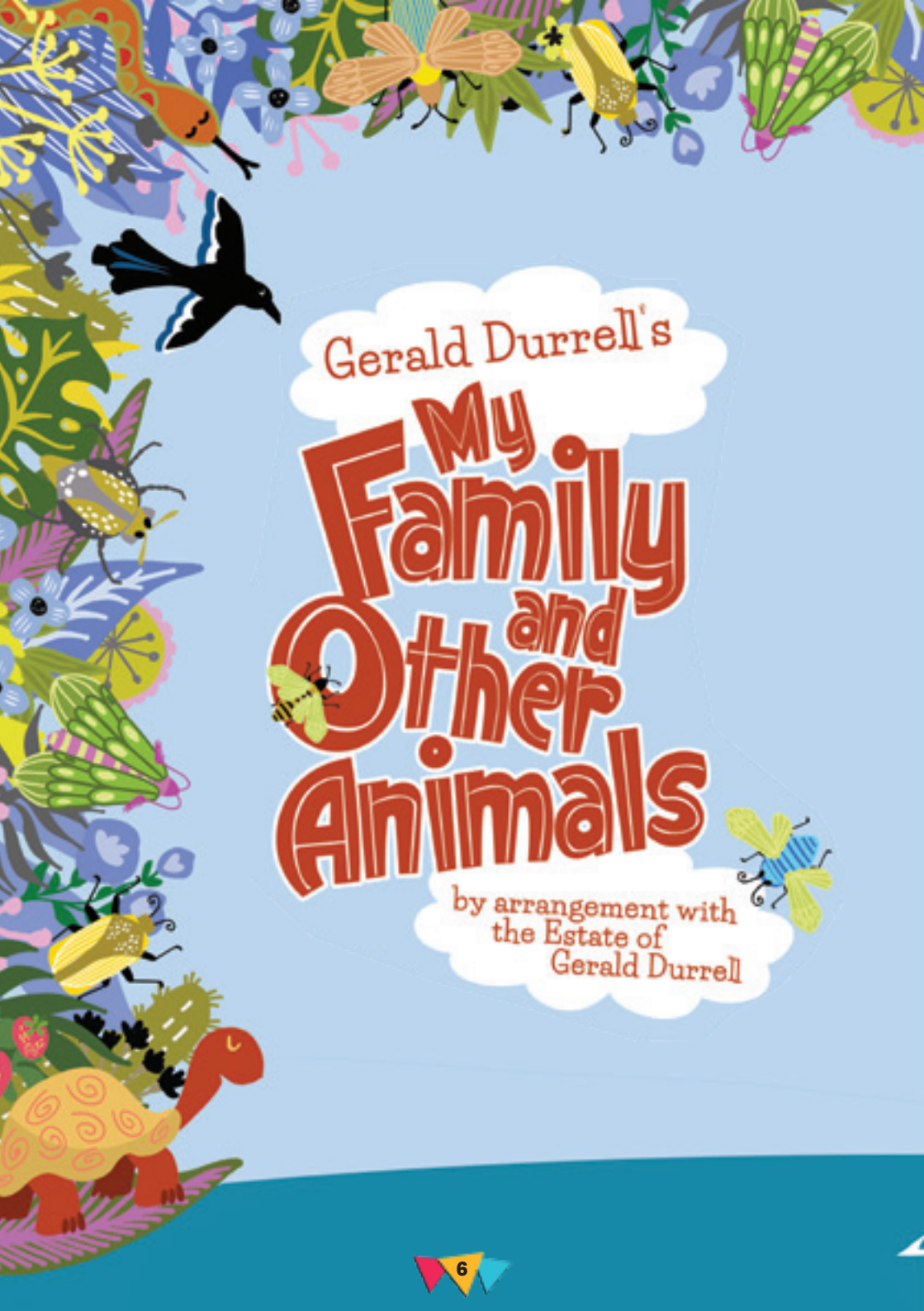
PREVIEW: MONDAY 30 JUNE 5.30PM – 7PM

What do we leave behind as we grow? What do we carry forward?

Traces is a creative response to these questions - a playful, evolving collaboration between children and artists. Beginning in a workshop setting, the project will explore how the marks of childhood can be shaped into something lasting, something seen.

Expect colour, imagination, and moments of transformation.





Gerald Durrell's

My Family and Other Animals

by arrangement with
the Estate of
Gerald Durrell



My Family and Other Animals

Based on the novel by Gerald Durrell

A Jersey Arts Centre Production

By arrangement with the Estate of Gerald Durrell

THURSDAY 10 + FRIDAY 11 JULY – 6PM

SATURDAY 12 JULY – 2PM + 5PM

SUNDAY 13 JULY – 11AM + 2PM

Set sail to the Ionian island of Corfu this summer, as Jersey Arts Centre once again presents Gerald Durrell's *My Family and Other Animals* to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Gerald Durrell's birth.

Join Gerry and the eccentric Durrells in this charming, whimsical story of one family's sojourn to an idyllic Greek isle in 1935. Fascinated by the Island's flora and fauna, young Gerry finds inspiration in insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and the larger-than-life characters that the family meet during their escapades.

Adapted and directed for the stage by Daniel Austin, *My Family and Other Animals* was first performed in Jersey, Guernsey, Sark and Corfu in 2007, and was revived as our Christmas production for 2020!

Let Jersey Arts Centre transport you across the Mediterranean with a production that's full of joy, humour and passion for the natural world - a wild adventure for all the family!

This production will also perform in Corfu as part of the Corfu Literary Festival between 9 - 12 September 2025.

£12 (MEMBERS: £10.20)



Animation Double Bill

Dog Man

USA 2025 | 89 mins | Cert: U

Director: Peter Hastings

MONDAY 14 JULY

4PM

Part Dog. Part Man. All Hero.

Dog Man is sworn to protect and serve as he doggedly pursues the feline supervillain Petey the Cat. This animated superhero comedy is based on Dav Pilkey's children's graphic novel series of the same name.

£5 (MEMBERS: £4.25)



The Wild Robot

USA 2024 | 102 mins | Cert: U

Director: Chris Sanders

MONDAY 14 JULY

6PM

After a shipwreck, an intelligent robot called Roz is stranded on an uninhabited island. To survive the harsh environment, Roz bonds with the island's animals and cares for an orphaned baby goose. This beautiful animation was nominated for three Academy Awards.

£5 (MEMBERS: £4.25)



Simply Singing

Musical Originals

Conducted by Imogen Nicholls MBE

TUESDAY 15 JULY

7PM

The Musical Originals Singers and the Musical Originals Training Choir, Jersey's premier youth choirs, will transport you to a land of classical singing where anything can happen.

Prepare to be surprised as 45 young singers describe far away islands, Chinese waterfalls and menacing giants. We will sing wild and crazy songs, calming songs, descriptive songs... and a few of our audience favourites, too!

Enjoy the beautiful *a capella* sound of the Musical Originals Singers!

£12 (MEMBERS: £10.20)



Sam the Sword

Written and directed by award-winning theatre-maker Drew Taylor-Wilson
Company Many in association with Jersey Arts Centre

THURSDAY 17 JULY - 4PM

FRIDAY 18 JULY - 4PM + 7PM

"If you explore, have fun and play... you'll find yourself along the way."

Join Kirsty Pickering (BBC Scotland's *River City*) for a poetic fishy tale of adventure, acceptance and joy about a tiny trans tropical fish. Delight in rebellious Sam the Sword's vivid journey across the tank as they discover exactly who they might be, if their tail will eventually grow and how fast you need to go... if you want to keep up with a Zebra Danio.

Sam the Sword features an eco-conscious transformative co-design by
Natasha Jenkins (West End + National Theatre) and puppeteer drag artist Scamp Niemz.

Suitable for 8 years +

£12 (MEMBERS: £10.20)



residency



Nicky Smith-Dale: Betty Steady and the Queen's Orb

SATURDAY 19 JULY

11AM (60 MINS)

Meet Nicky Smith-Dale's madcap characters and explore the land of Wobbly Rock. Discover how reading can make you feel great and that there are books out there for everyone. Plus, kids can let their imaginations flow as they create their own funny characters. Come along for crazy quizzes, an author Q&A and a whole heap of fun.

Suitable for 6 years +

£5 (MEMBERS: £4.25)

Larry Hayes: The Nightmares of Finnegan Quick

SATURDAY 19 JULY

2PM (60 MINS)

By night, Finn has horrible nightmares, by day, they come TRUE!

With years of children's event experience, Laugh Out Loud Book Award winner, Larry Hayes, knows better than anyone the appeal of a spooky story. Join him for a spine-tingling event with plenty of BOO moments to keep you on the edge of your seat!

Suitable for 8 years +

£5 (MEMBERS: £4.25)



I, Peaseblossom

Written and performed by Tim Crouch

Original design by Graeme Gilmour

Music by Karl James

MONDAY 21 JULY 4PM

TUESDAY 22 JULY 11AM

*'Something's going to happen.
I can feel it in my waters. In my fairy liquids'.*

This one-man show is the story of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as re-lived through the fevered dreams of Peaseblossom, Shakespeare's most neglected fairy. Funny, heart-breaking and ever-so-slightly crazed, *I, Peaseblossom* is a gloriously anarchic dream of a 'dream' - perfect for children and adults alike.

Tim Crouch is an internationally acclaimed, multi-award-winning writer, director, performer and theatre-maker; he is also Jersey Arts Centre's current Honorary Patron!

Suitable for 7 years +

£12 (MEMBERS: £10.20)



Playdays at the Piano!

ARTcomedia in association with Jersey Arts Centre



TUESDAY 22 JULY

7PM

Join ARTcomedia, and invited guests of all ages, as we take you on a Musical Theatre adventure celebrating children and their stories from this ever-popular genre.

Since 2013, ARTcomedia directors: Bertrand Larmet et Véronique Martinez, from L'Hermitage in Brittany, have performed their own work and musical theatre concerts at Jersey Arts Centre. They have also been our Musical Director and Vocal Coach on seven of our Community Christmas productions, including: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

This concert is a celebration of the work ARTcomedia has achieved with children and adults these past 12 years!

Suitable for 7 years +

£12 (MEMBERS: £10.20)



Image: ARTcomedia - *Je Suis Votre Mémoire / And You Are Mine*

Paddington in Peru

UK 2024 | 106 mins | Cert: PG | Director: Dougal Wilson

WEDNESDAY 23 JULY

11AM

Paddington returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey.

£5 (MEMBERS: £4.25)



Mufasa

USA 2024 | 118 mins | Cert: PG | Director: Barry Jenkins

WEDNESDAY 23 JULY

2PM

Mufasa, a young lion cub separated from his parents by a flood, finds himself rescued by another cub named Taka. They form a strong bond despite their differing backgrounds, but their friendship is tested when a threat to their pride forces them to confront their pasts and determine their true loyalties.

This musical movie serves as a prequel to *The Lion King* and features the beloved characters from the 1994 original.

£5 (MEMBERS: £4.25)



Mezzanine Theatre Presents...

Echo & The Bloop

Echo & The Bloop

Mezzanine Theatre

FRIDAY 25 JULY – 5PM

SATURDAY 26 JULY – 1PM + 4PM

Have you ever heard about Echo & The Bloop?

Join us as as one storyteller passes on his gifts to another. Along the way they will meet Echo, a little girl trying to find her voice, plus a Mackerel King with his crab army in tow and all manner of other noise-making creatures great and small.

In a kaleidoscopic dream of visuals, puppetry, songs and soundscapes, *Echo & The Bloop* is a story you won't soon forget.

Suitable for 5 years +

£12 (MEMBERS: £10.20)

Mezzanine Theatre are the company behind our Festival 40 commission:
One of Those Streets.

The Company comprises:

- **Simon MacDonald:** playwright, performer, theatre maker and director
- **Lisa MacDonald:** painter, illustrator, maker
- **Todd MacDonald:** filmmaker, musician
- **Lulu MacDonald:** fine artist, sculptor
- **Joss J. MacDonald:** performer, physical theatre practitioner
- **Martha MacDonald:** writer, performer, comedian
- **Christina Orchard:** composer

residency

the awards

In keeping with other arts festivals across the world, Jersey Arts Centre will be making three awards at the end of the 2025 festival:

the Charlie Lowe Award for Spirit of the Festival the playdays Award for Festival Adventure the Jersey Arts Centre Award for Festival Discovery

Charlie Lowe was a young actor and a member of Jersey Arts Centre's Junior Drama Group who died tragically with his father, Dean Lowe, in August 2023. The image of Charlie below is from our 2023 Junior Drama production of Georgia Christou's *Bright, Young, Things*, which was co-directed by Jordi Sunier and Victoria Gordon. Charlie's mum, Ashleigh Le Boutillier, will be presenting his award at the ceremony on 26 July.

Jersey Arts Centre employees are not eligible for an award. A recipient may only receive one award. The 2025 **playdays** awards will be announced at 3pm on Saturday 26 July from the Jersey Arts Centre stage.

the jury

The Awards Jury for 2025 comprises three members and a moderator:

A grown-up juror to be announced

Teia Bedward - a secondary school student

Grace Perkins - a primary school student

Moderator: **Daniel Austin** – JAC Director



Charlie Lowe
in *Bright, Young, Things*.
July 2023

Thanks and Credits

Jersey Arts Centre's
playdays Children's Festival
is supported by:



Jersey Arts Centre's
playdays Children's Festival
companies include:



playdays works with the following organisations in order to develop arts accessibility:



THE FESTIVAL TEAM

Festival Programmers
Festival Administrators
Festival Stage Logistics
Festival Schools' Liaison
Festival Poster Design
Festival Brochure Design
Festival Marketing
Festival Press + Social Media
Festival Finance
Festival Galleries + Photography
Festival Box Office

DANIEL AUSTIN + HETTIE DUNCAN
GRAEME HUMPHRIES + JORDI SUNIER
STEVEN LAFFOLEY-EDWARDS, JASON KENYON + NIC ROLLAND
HETTIE DUNCAN + VICTORIA GORDON
LAURA CRAIG
NICK CARVER
NICK CARVER
NICOLE TWINAM
NICK POINGDESTRE
WAYNE STEWART
JORDI SUNIER, TAISIE HUMPHRIES, ESTHER CORFIELD,
KATE MEADOWS, MARTHA WILLIAMS

Our Very Special Thanks also extends to:

Ashleigh Le Boutillier, Pippa Le Quesne,
... and all our Jersey Arts Centre Volunteers, without whom...





FESTIVAL EVENTS AT A GLANCE

DATE	AT JERSEY ARTS CENTRE, PHILLIPS STREET, ST HELIER	
THURSDAY 10 JULY	PLAYDAYS OPENING CEREMONY MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS	5PM 6PM
FRIDAY 11 JULY	MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS	6PM
SATURDAY 12 JULY	MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS	2PM + 5PM
SUNDAY 13 JULY	MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS	11AM + 2PM
MONDAY 14 JULY	ANIMATION DOUBLE BILL - DOG MAN ANIMATION DOUBLE BILL - THE WILD ROBOT	4PM 6PM
TUESDAY 15 JULY	MUSICAL ORIGINALS: SIMPLY SINGING	7PM
THURSDAY 17 JULY	COMPANY MANY: SAM THE SWORD	4PM
FRIDAY 18 JULY	COMPANY MANY: SAM THE SWORD	4PM + 7PM
SATURDAY 19 JULY	JFOW: BETTY STEADY AND THE QUEEN'S ORB JFOW: THE NIGHTMARES OF FINNEGAN QUICK	11AM 2PM
MONDAY 21 JULY	TIM CROUCH: I, PEASEBLOSSOM	4PM
TUESDAY 22 JULY	TIM CROUCH: I, PEASEBLOSSOM ARTCOMEDIA: PLAYDAYS AT THE PIANO!	11AM 7PM
WEDNESDAY 23 JULY	PADDINGTON IN PERU MUFASA	11AM 2PM
FRIDAY 25 JULY	MEZZANINE THEATRE: ECHO AND THE BLOOP	5PM
SATURDAY 26 JULY	MEZZANINE THEATRE: ECHO AND THE BLOOP PLAYDAYS AWARDS CEREMONY MEZZANINE THEATRE: ECHO AND THE BLOOP	1PM 3PM 4PM

F.A.Q.s!

Q: DOES EVERY CHILD REQUIRE A TICKET FOR EACH EVENT?

A: YES, DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS, EACH ATTENDEE, REGARDLESS OF AGE, MUST HAVE A VALID TICKET

Q: CAN FOOD + DRINK BE TAKEN INTO THE AUDITORIUM?

A: NO - WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WATER IN NON-GLASS BOTTLES

Q: WHY ARE THE TICKET PRICES THE SAME FOR EVERYONE?

A: ALL PRICES ARE OFFERED AT THE CHILD'S RATE!

Q: DOES JAC HAVE A SAFEGAURDING POLICY?

A: YES - PLEASE VIEW THE POLICY ONLINE AT: artscentre.je/about-us/polices/