



DISTRICT-14 YOUTH THEATRE
TŶ PAWB, WREXHAM

SAMHAIN PROJECT FOR HALLOWEEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER – THURSDAY 31st OCTOBER 2019

WORKSHOP PLAN FOR JUNIOR SECTION

Week	Date	Time	Location
1	Wed 4 th September	6-7pm	TŶ Pawb

Workshop 1 - Devising our New Year Ritual

Rituals dominate our lives, whether it be the morning routine, a wedding or where you sit to watch your favourite team. More 'official' rituals, such as weddings, christening, funerals and parades, have been with us for thousands of years.

'Samhain' was marked on 31 October, a time when the light and temperatures faded to dark and cold. It was a time to say goodbye to the past and

welcome the future. As our first session coincides with children returning to school, the passage of time between summer and autumn is even more pronounced.



This workshop will invite students to say goodbye to those things that held them back and welcome, with optimism, new possibilities. We will take this information, the content, and give students the ingredients for making a ritual, the form, e.g. chants, parade, rote and call, gifts, vows, drums, etc. The ritual form will add great import to the goodbyes and pledges students make and, with our Halloween House performance in mind, we will be working on creating a strange, eerie mood in our ritual.





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2	Wed 11 th September	6-7pm	TŶ Pawb

Workshop 2 - “Trick or trick?”

At the Halloween House, our collection of young ghouls, sprites and monsters will entertain visitors with an invitation: “trick or trick?” This little twist on “trick or treat” will lead to members of the group performing a real magic trick. This workshop will introduce the group to simple magic tricks.

They will choose one to practice and perfect from the list below.

A link is also provided for parents so students can be reminded of the steps involved in their magic trick!



- The Rubber Pencil Trick
- Spoon Bending
- Disappearing Coin
- Egg Will Not Break
- Magnetic Pencil
- Walk Through Paper
- Cup Through the Table
- Levitating Card
- Instantly Turn Water into Ice

EASY MAGIC TRICKS FOR KIDS

www.care.com/c/stories/4051/easy-magic-tricks-for-kids/





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3	Wed 18 th September	6-7pm	TŶ Pawb

Workshop 3 - Choral Speaking

Choral speaking is brilliant for language development and oral communication. It involves the reading/reciting of a text by a group.

In this choral speaking workshop, we will be using the passage below which will serve as the introduction to our work at Halloween House. We will make sure students understand the text and then experiment by emphasizing vocal elements introducing different dynamic, such as:

- Volume
- Pitch (the highness, or lowness of sound)
- Tempo: speed
- Tone: light, medium or heavy sounds
- Respiration
- Phonation
- Resonation
- Articulation.



Halloween House – Choral Introduction

“Tonight, as the barrier between the two realms grow thin, Spirits walk amongst us again. They be family, friends and foes, pets and wildlife, fish and crows. This feast I shall leave on my doorstep all night. In my window one candle shall burn bright, to help my loved ones find their way as they travel this eve, and this night until dawn. Hear me now as the past year slowly dies, only to be reborn again. May the good come to pass and the bad be cast aside. With your divine guidance and protection, I step into the New Year. In life is death and in death is life, tonight we are joined again.”





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4	Wed 25 th September	6-7pm	TŶ Pawb

Workshop 4 - Characterisation The Lord of the Underworld's Procession

Celtic myths and legends surrounding 'Samhain' are packed full of interesting characters who, on 31 October, step through the thin veil between the afterlife and the living world and bring chaos to the natural order. Led by Donn, The Lord of the Underworld, students will create their own ghostly characters, inventing unique motivations, personality traits and physical ways of communicating these to an audience by using voice, movement, facial expressions and gestures. Why have these characters returned to the world of the living? And what exactly do they want? What one line of speech will reveal all? We will bring all the characters together and design a procession with an emphasis on how this strange army of ghosts interact with each other.





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Week	Date	Time	Location
5	Wed 2 nd October	6-7pm	TŶ Pawb

Workshop 5 - Mask-Making

Now students have been immersed in the mood and spirit of the drama and have played and met many strange characters, they will spend this workshop designing and adding materials to cardboard half-masks. This will be the half-mask students wear on the evening of Halloween House. We will provide the masks and materials free of charge, e.g. paints, papers, shapes, bits and bobs, glues, etc. This will be a messy session so please bare that in mind when choosing what to wear for this session.



Week	Date	Time	Location
6	Wed 9 th October	6-7pm	TŶ Pawb



Workshop 6 - Multimedia Soundscapes

With rapid advances in technology, multimedia techniques in theatre open up a whole new world of possibilities on stage. This workshop will focus on the use of film, projections and soundscape to create atmospheric backdrops to our work on 'The Dumb Supper.'

'Samhain' saw living friends and family make supper not just for the living on 31





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October but also for the dead! When the time to eat supper came, empty seats and full plates of food would be laid out for the dead. Taking this as a basic 'photo', we will explore this situation. Do friends and family cross the veil? Why? What happens next? Do they have a good gossip? Is their unfinished business? Regrets? Words left unspoken? Are we told anything of the afterlife? What if the dead are able to cross the veil but remain unseen by their friends and relatives?

Students will create their stories using mime, articulating complex ideas through means of non-verbal communication. The stories will be structured like a live comic-strip, a series of photographs, or still-images', that are weaved together using transformations (slow crossfades) between images.

Analysing the still-images in forensic detail, we will focus on key moments, zooming in to interesting parts and photographing them for inclusion in a backdrop projected film. Once we have identified at least five moments, the group will use their voices, percussion and/or bodies to speak and/or create atmospheric sounds that would suit each image.

Week	Date	Time	Location
7	Wed 16 th October	6-7pm	TŶ Pawb
8	Wed 23 rd October	6-7pm	TŶ Pawb

Bringing it all Together

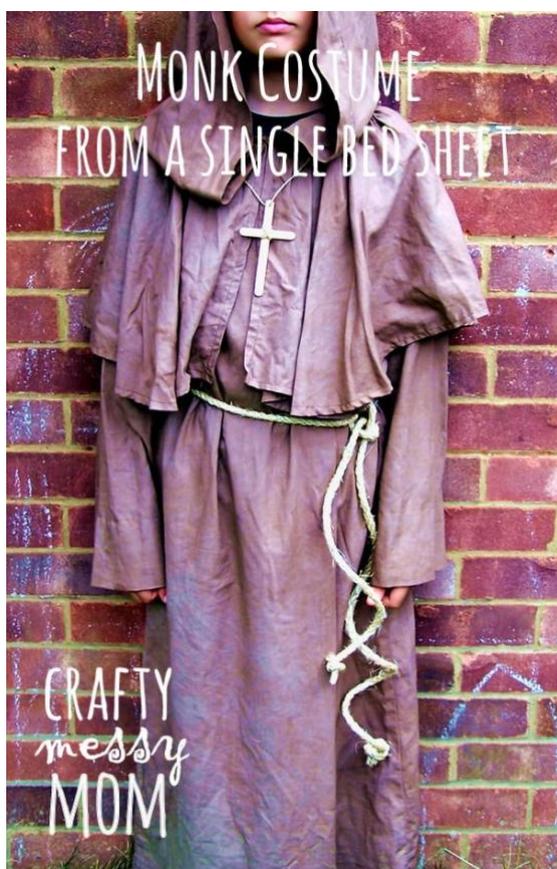
Both workshops, on Wednesday 16th and 23rd October, will bring all the work created in the first 6 weeks together as a coherent piece of theatre. When we perform at Halloween House, we will have approximately 20 minutes of dramatic action to perform 'on loop', on five-six occasions. The action will take place in different areas, inside and outside, Halloween House. Students will be made visually aware of the performance map using a plan and photos of the performance venue.





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Week	Date	Time	Location
9	Thurs 31 st October	4.00- 8.15pm	Halloween House, Salop Road, Wrexham



We meet at Halloween House at 4.00pm on Thursday 31st October. Well advance on the performance evening, parents will be sent the finer details, such as meeting points, supervision, environmental factors, etc. as part of a full risk assessment and schedule.

The plan is to keep the costume simple with the masks being the focal point. If all members of the group could wear a simple robe with a hood over warm (not bulky) underclothing that would be more than sufficient. The robe could be any colour and can be made out old sheet - a cord around the waist adds a simple but effective touch. As this is a not for profit event, our budget cannot stretch as far as providing all the sheets, cord and lollipop sticks the whole group would require so we kindly ask for assistance from parents to help us with costume. If this is difficult for you, please let us know and we'll find a solution.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING SIMPLE HOODED ROBE COSTUME

<https://craftymessymom.com/2018/07/26/monk-costume/>

