

Eco Drama in partnership with Learning for Sustainability Scotland present:

Storytelling, Drama & Creativity Outdoors

An interactive webinar with Eco Drama

*“Logic will get you from A to B.
Imagination will take you everywhere.”*
Albert Einstein



Tuesday 23rd March 2021

4pm – 5.30pm via Zoom

www.ecodrama.co.uk

The Role of Drama, Storytelling & Creativity in Learning for Sustainability

It is widely recognized that schools, nurseries, educators and anyone with a responsibility for children and young people, must nurture in them a deeper connection to our natural world.

We also know that developing and embedding Learning for Sustainability across education is vital as we seek to take urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts.

What are the best ways to engage, inspire and elicit feelings of wonder, curiosity and care for nature in children and young people? What is the role of Creativity in Learning for Sustainability? What happens when we put the Arts at the core of environmental education?

These are some of the questions that Glasgow based theatre company Eco Drama have been exploring since 2015 through the delivery of award-winning creative outdoor learning project Out to Play, which this webinar is based around.

What is Out to Play?

[Out to Play](#) explores and promotes the role of **Drama**, **Storytelling** and **Creativity** in Outdoor Learning. The project involves a Drama Artist collaborating with a partner primary school or nursery over a 5-week playground residency, delivering drama and storytelling based outdoor sessions that advance Learning for Sustainability. The project facilitates interaction with the natural world through quality artistic experiences, re-thinking traditional views of nature and noticing and appreciating nature within urban city environments. Sessions are tailored to the unique surroundings of each school, and through imaginative play and adventurous learning, Out to Play deepens young people's connection to our natural world.



The project has been delivered in playgrounds in some of the most disadvantaged areas across Greater Glasgow, often with only a concrete playground within which to work. Now in its sixth year, the project is estimated to reach approximately 5,000 children and 600 teachers with tailored arts-based outdoor learning experiences and teacher CPD workshops by 2021, and due to ongoing interest for the project, Out to Play will now be continuing for a further two years until 2023.

"I hadn't realised the power of imagination within outdoor learning."
Teacher, Corpus Christi Primary, Out to Play partner school

Webinar Information

The Webinar will take place on Zoom. The link will be emailed to you prior. Here are some tips to have the best experience:

- ✓ Keep your camera on, but mute yourself when not speaking.
- ✓ If you'd like to speak/ask a question, use the 'raise hand' function, and/or type your question into the chat box and we will discuss these during the Q&A at the end.

Who is the webinar for?

The webinar is aimed at teachers, early years practitioners, NGO's and members of Learning for Sustainability Scotland who are interested to explore, promote and develop the role of Creativity in Learning for Sustainability / Outdoor Learning, either within their organizations, schools/nurseries or individual practice.

What will the webinar involve?

This practical and informative webinar will be delivered by Out to Play Drama Artist Ben Mali Macfadyen and Eco Drama's founder and Artistic Director Emily Reid, both of whom have been deeply involved in the creation and delivery of Out to Play since inception. Betsy King from Learning for Sustainability Scotland will also be in the webinar providing support.

This interactive webinar will:

- **Share evidence** from the Out to Play project, demonstrating the impact and benefits of using the arts in Learning for Sustainability and outdoor learning/environmental education for 3-11 year olds, specifically exploring the role of outdoor storytelling and drama.
- **Share practical, creative approaches** from the Out to Play project.
- **Provide opportunities for participation, discussion and reflection** on your current practice, planting the seed of curiosity on how to use drama and environmental storytelling in your setting.

Attendees have the opportunity to access three in-depth Out to Play resource packs with age/stage tailored ideas, session plans, nature stories and tips for delivering arts-based outdoor learning. (see next page)

Webinar Overview

- 4:00 – 4:10: Housekeeping / Welcome from Emily Reid, Ben Mali & Betsy King**
- 4:10 –4:15 Opening Activity – A Nature Memory**
- 4:15-4:25: Presentation on Eco Drama & Out to Play**
Brief introduction to the history of Out to Play and importance of creative, nature-based learning plus project impact shared from the Out to Play final report.
- 4:25 - 4:50: An interactive workshop on The Out to Play Journey**
Drawing from drama, sensory play, music, improvisation, movement, storytelling, 'teacher in role' and oracy, Ben Mali will take you on an experiential journey through the seasons of Out to Play. We begin with 'Spring', where we gather outside, connect with nature and share a discovery that begins our adventure. In 'Summer', the wild rumpus begins, with energetic and playful activities to explore and express. At 'Midsummer' we gather to share nature stories, drawing from the rich world of traditional tales as well as our own imaginations.
- 4:50: Brief comfort break and movement activity**
- 4:55-5:10: The journey continues!**
As we reach 'Autumn' we harvest this wisdom to collaboratively create our own gifts to share with each other. For this you will be in breakout rooms to imagine how your outdoor spaces can be re-imagined. In 'Winter' we return to celebrate, reflect on our journey and look ahead to how we can bring this learning forward. Along the way you'll be given practical ideas of approaches and activities, whilst being supported to consider how you can bring creative nature-led opportunities to your own context.
- 5:10-5:20: Sharing Opportunities of using Drama, Storytelling and the Outdoors in Learning for Sustainability**
- 5.20-5.25 Q & A**
- 5:25-5:30: Making a pledge for your practice and close.**

Creative Outdoor Learning Resource Packs



Since Out to Play began in 2015, Eco Drama has created [3 resource packs](#) for teachers, early years practitioners and educators to develop imaginative approaches to outdoor learning, specifically drawing on the tools of drama, storytelling and creative play. Although written for primary school teachers and early years practitioners, these resource packs will be an invaluable tool for anyone working with children and young people in places such as nature clubs, camps, after school clubs, drama groups, youth groups or other creative learning settings.

There are 3 packs currently available – an **Early Years Pack** written by Sarah Rankin and **2 Primary School Packs** written by Ben Mali Macfadyen and Sophie McCabe.

Ordering Packs from Eco Drama

We are offering attendees of this webinar the chance to buy all 3 packs for **£40 (inclusive of postage)**, which is a 25% discount to what they would be separately full price (it's usually £48 for all 3 packs). Alternatively, you may like to purchase just one copy of a specific pack, the prices for each are below:

- **'Let's Go...Out to Play!' Resource Pack (2nd Edition, 2018)**
£20 per booklet plus £4 postage and packing (within UK)
- **'Let's Go...Out to Play!' Early Years Resource Pack (2020)**
£15 per booklet plus £4 postage and packing costs (within UK)
- **'Out to Play' Resource Pack (1st Edition, 2015)**
£12 per booklet plus £4 postage and packing (within UK)

We can also post out multiples of any pack to your setting. Please contact us for a tailored quote.

You can view more information and see some samples of each pack here: ecodrama.co.uk/resources/

If you would like to order copies of any **Out to Play Resource Pack** for your nursery, school or organisation, or the special trio offer for webinar attendees, please contact:

Nina Doherty - nina@ecodrama.co.uk / 0141 552 9920



About the Facilitators

Ben Mali Macfadyen

Ben Mali Macfadyen is an artist, activist and community facilitator who has been part of the Out to Play team since the project was created in 2015. When he isn't taking primary classes out on imaginary adventures with Eco Drama, he teaches nature awareness, sustainable leadership, nurture, inclusion and creativity skills with diverse communities across Britain. He is committed to working alongside teachers and other community leaders whose commitment and skill is an endless source of inspiration. As well as Out to Play, Ben has been working with teachers, children, organisations and community groups across Glasgow for The Village Storytelling Centre, and is currently undertaking a PGDE in England.



Ben co-authored the 2015 Out to Play Resource Pack, and subsequent Second Edition Resource pack in 2018, "Let's Go...Out to Play!" with Drama Artist Sophie McCabe.

Emily Reid

Emily is a theatre-maker and the Artistic Director of Eco Drama. She is committed to devising quality theatre and creative learning projects which nurture a sense of curiosity, wonder and care for our natural world. She is interested in the potential of theatre to motivate social and environmental change, the place of the arts and creativity within the school curriculum, and sustainable theatre design. She trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland gaining a BA in Contemporary Theatre Practice and worked as a deviser, performer, science communicator, director and drama facilitator in nurseries, schools and community settings before founding Eco Drama in 2007.



Contact Email: emily@ecodrama.co.uk

Drama Artist Blogs

Ben, and the other Drama Artists involved write blogs on the progress of the Out to Play project, detailing the class or groups adventures, the participating teachers' ideas for Teacher Led Week, and reflecting on the residency, its progressions and sharing ideas and methodology.

You can read the blogs [HERE](#). And specific Early Years Blogs [HERE](#).



About Eco Drama

Eco Drama make inventive theatre and creative learning projects that strive to embed sustainability and ecology at the heart of the experience. Our vision is that the arts, in particular drama, storytelling and theatre, become increasingly recognized as powerful tools through which we can explore and re-imagine our relationship to the natural world.

We make work for children, young people, their families and wider communities and deliver work locally in Glasgow and across Scotland and the UK, working in schools, theatres, community venues and festivals.

Eco Drama have a green ethos at the heart of all we do, including touring in an [electric car and eco van](#) run on recycled waste cooking oil, reducing CO₂ emissions by 85%. To date Eco Drama have reached 86,000 children, young people, teachers and families across Scotland.

Further Information

Out to Play [project page](#)

Out to Play [Evaluation Reports](#)

Films

Out to Play [Short Documentary](#)

[Out to Play & The Living Stage](#) Short Documentary 2015

Out to Play [Early Years Resource Pack](#) 3 minute Documentary

Out to Play [Session Story](#) on You Tube: A 5 minute clip showing 'Forgetful Storyteller in action in a nursery, led by early years drama artist Sarah Rankin

Blogs & Resources

Drama Artist [Blogs](#) (Early Years Blogs [direct link](#))

Resource Packs



Please follow Eco Drama on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) @EcoDrama1 or join Eco Drama's [Mailing List](#) for quarterly newsletters.

Thank you for taking part and we wish you well on your creative outdoor learning adventures!

The Out to Play Project, Resource Pack & this Webinar has been gratefully supported by:



Amongst many other [supporters](#)

www.ecodrama.co.uk