

## INFORMATION PACK - SWALLOWS AND ARMENIANS PROJECT

- **YOUNG PERFORMERS — TUESDAY JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> — TUESDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> , 2019**
- **OPEN TO ANYONE IN YEAR 6, YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8**

During the spring term of 2019, our Young Performers are embarking on a very exciting project led by Heidi Stafford & Sandra Gattward, incorporating the work of visual artist Karen Babayan and actor, musician and director Persia Babayan-Taylor. The block of work will involve 6 weeks of devising, a full weekend of rehearsal with a performance in the Studio, followed by four further weeks of follow-up work. The weekend work will be filmed and this will be shown as part of Karen's exhibition in our galleries (6 March-14 April), leading up to Words by the Water Festival, at which Karen is a speaker and will launch her book containing the stories which will inspire the Young Performers' work.

### DATES

Tues Jan 8 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 1 - with Karen Babayan + guest director Persia Babayan-Taylor	5.15-7.15pm
Tues Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 2	5.15-7.15pm
Tues Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Week 3	5.15-7.15pm
Tues Jan 29 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 4	5.15-7.15pm
Tues Feb 5 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 5	5.15-7.15pm
Tues Feb 12 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 6 – with Karen Babayan + guest director Persia Babayan-Taylor	5.15-7.15pm
Sat Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> :	Rehearsal day	11.00am-4.00pm
Sun Feb 17 <sup>th</sup> :	Technical Rehearsal + TBTL Studio Performance (4.00-4.45pm)	11.00am-5.00pm
Tues Feb 26 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 7 – follow-up work begins	5.15-7.15pm
Tues Mar 5 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 8	5.15-7.15pm
Tues Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 9	5.15-7.15pm
Tues Mar 19 <sup>th</sup> :	Week 10	5.15-7.15pm

Please note that the weekend of Feb 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> is a crucial part of the commitment for this term's work and that we will need permission for your child to be filmed as part of the project. The film will go on public display.

Tickets for the Studio performance on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> will be £5 each and will go on sale in January.

### COST

£70 for the full term, including all rehearsal and performance time. (20 places available)

### THE CREATIVES

Karen Babayan is Anglo Armenian from Iran and is based in Appleby. She was Cumbria Artist of the Year 2016. Karen was recently awarded a grant from Arts Council, England for her Swallows and Armenians project at Theatre by the Lake.

Persia Babayan-Taylor is an actor musician and graduate of Guildford School of Acting. She directed the Eden Valley Opera Company in a production of *Venus and Adonis* by John Blow in 2017 and played Sybil Burlington in and produced *Daisy Pulls it off* at the Charing Cross Theatre, London in 2018. She lives and works in London.

Karen Babayan's research reveals Arthur Ransome's fictional Walker family (Swallows and Amazons) as the Altounyans, a multilingual, multicultural family that lived contrasting lives in Aleppo, Syria and Coniston,

Cumbria. The real family are brought to the fore through her book of short stories to be launched at Words by the Water and multidisciplinary artworks to be exhibited in the TBTL galleries.

By joining Theatre by the Lake's Young Company, participants will:

- Develop performance skills and create imaginative theatre
- Devise original pieces of drama as well as rehearse and perform existing plays
- Develop confidence and self-esteem while learning key skills such as communication, concentration and empathy
- Make friends, work as part of a team and have fun

## **PAYMENT**

**You must block-book sessions in advance through Theatre by the Lake Box Office on 017687 74411.** The first session may be taken as a taster session with the full fee payable if you decide to continue with the block.

Information: For further information, please contact [dave.cryer@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:dave.cryer@theatrebythelake.com)

## **WHAT SHOULD YOUNG PEOPLE BRING TO THE SESSION?**

- Comfortable, loose-fitting clothing
- Clean, indoor shoes
- Water or a soft drink

We advise participants not to wear jewellery for health & safety reasons

## **I HAVE BOOKED A PLACE – WHAT NEXT?**

You will receive confirmation of place with a consent form which must be returned before the first session.

## **WHAT IF A YOUNG PERSON CANNOT ATTEND A SESSION?**

Please let us know in advance by phoning Dave on 017687-72282 ext 283 or emailing [dave.cryer@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:dave.cryer@theatrebythelake.com) .

## **IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY, WHO CAN I CONTACT DURING SESSIONS?**

In the case of an emergency you can contact Theatre by the Lake Box Office on 017687 74411 but please be aware that Box Office closes at 8.00pm.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A SESSION HAS TO BE CANCELLED UNEXPECTEDLY?**

Should the occasion arise where we need to cancel a session at short notice we will:

- We will attempt to contact you by phone or email.
- We will leave a message at TBTL Box Office.
- If the session cannot be rescheduled, credit notes will be issued where appropriate.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A YOUNG PERSON DROPS OUT PART WAY THROUGH A BLOCK?**

We encourage commitment and we hope that young people get a lot out of the sessions. We understand that circumstances change, however we **do not** automatically offer refunds for remaining pre-paid sessions.

For further information, email [participation@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:participation@theatrebythelake.com).

To book your place, telephone the box office on 017687 74411.