

UK. This event in the Royal Botanic Gardens features bungee trampolines, bouncy castles, pottery painting, a hoopla, cookie decorating, breakdancing lessons, magicians, a climbing wall, electric scooter tours and a Champagne and Pimm's bar for the adults.

FREE Wallace Collection Family Tour Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1U 3BN. 020 7563 9551. **● Bond St. Sat 2pm.** This child-oriented tour will allow families to discover the collections of paintings, porcelain, furniture and armour through activities such as looking for pets, monsters and royal children represented in the pieces. Age 7+.

FREE Wildlife Gardening Day Gloucester Green, North-East Corner of Regent's Park, Opposite London Zoo, Outer Circle, Regent's Park, NW1 4RY. Info 07923 473 907/wildlondon.org.uk. **● Camden Town/Baker St/then 274 bus. Sat 10am-5pm.** Stallholders from wildlife gardening organisations will be giving tips on creating a garden that attracts birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Books, wild flowers, bird and bat boxes will be on sale and there will be children's activities to take part in. In the zoo, a wildlife gardening conference for adults takes place (£20, booking essential).

Workshops & courses

FREE Captain Slaughterboard Drops Anchor Blue Elephant Theatre, 59a Bethwin Rd, SE5 0XT. 020 7701 0100/info@blueelephanttheatre.co.uk. **● Oval. Sun 3-5pm.** Part of Camberwell Arts Festival, this reading and visual arts workshop is based on Mervyn Peake's pirate tale from 1939 which has recently been reissued. Age 5-11.

Music and Movement 20th Century Theatre, 291 Westbourne Grove, W11 2QA. Info 020 7613 1616. **● Notting Hill Gate. Sun 11am-12noon; £8.** In this session based on a 1960s and 1970s concept of helping children understand music and dance, participants will be encouraged to use their imaginations as they interpret and dance to vintage electronic, folk and kooky jazz music with Jonny Trunk and Flo. There may be some rolling around on the floor so children should wear old clothing. Age 3-7.

Through the Secret Garden Music House for Children, Bush Hall, 310 Uxbridge Road, W12 7LJ. 020 8932 2652/musichouseforchildren.co.uk. **● Shepherd's Bush (Hammersmith). Sat 11am-2pm; £5, children £3, under-ones free.** This event for under-fives features a performance by musicians followed by tea, cakes, arts, crafts and creative play in a magical garden where children can meet curious creatures and sing along.

Shows

Arcola Theatre

020 7503 1646. 27 Arcola St, E8 2DJ. Dalston Kingsland rail. **La-di-Dada Mon-Fri 10.30am, 1.30pm, Sat 2pm; £6.** A show by Quicksilver Theatre and Indefinite Articles, which weaves the audience's own stories into an interactive shadow theatre performance. Age 3+. **►Jun 21.**

artsdepot

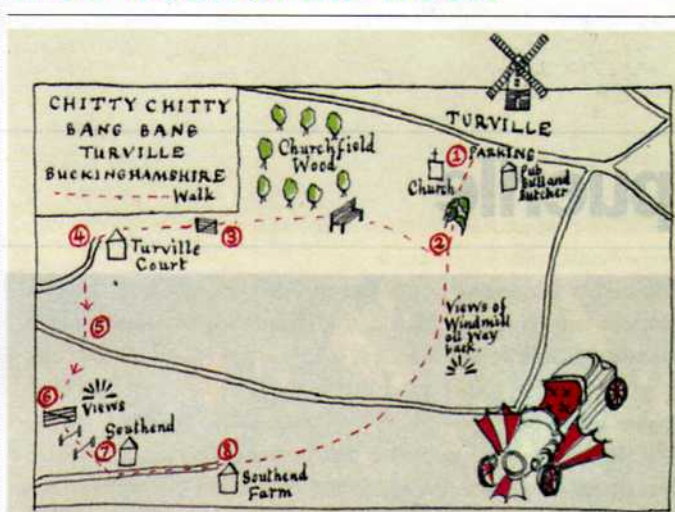
020 8369 5454/artsdepot.co.uk. 5 Nether St, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley, N12 0GA. **● Finchley Central.** **The Firebird Sun 12noon, 3pm; £8, children £6.** Two actors from Multistroy Theatre bring a Russian folk tale to life, using music, puppets and physical theatre. Age 5+.

Colour House Theatre

020 8542 5511/colourhousetheatre.co.uk. Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, SW19 2RD. **● Colliers Wood/South Wimbledon/bus 57, 152, 155, 200, 293 & 352.**

FREE!
The Jazz Musician Donkey
Italian Cultural Institute, SW1
(020 7396 4402); Sat 4pm.
This participatory jazz jamming
performance for kids aged
3-12 is in Italian, with a
smattering of English.

Kids' book of the week



It's day tripping season – but where to go? A bit of advance planning always pays off and in **'Adventure Walks for Families in and Around London'** (Frances Lincoln £8.99) Becky Jones and Clare Lewis have done all the hard work for you, bar packing the picnic. Among their suggestions are a visit to the pretty Chilterns village of Turville, a popular filming location used for 'The Vicar of Dibley' as well as 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. Or you might consider a 'Watership Down' pilgrimage to Kingsclere on the Hampshire Downs, a beach ramble on Mersea Island in Essex, red kite spotting on Christmas Common in Oxfordshire or building a shelter in Roald Dahl country. This great pocket-size book doesn't just point you in the right direction; it's packed with ideas for pit stops, activities to enjoy while you're out and about and story tapes to take along for the journey.

The Three Little Pigs/The Three Billy Goats Gruff/Goldilocks and the Three Bears Sat & Sun 2pm & 4pm; £7. A trio of shows from John Peel Puppets and the Colour House Children's Theatre, which recently attained charity status. Age 2-7. **►Jun 29.**

Jacksons Lane

269a Archway Road, N6 5AA. **● Highgate.** **The War of the Buttons** Sun 3pm; £5.95. Compagnie Animation present an adaptation of the Louis Pergaud novel about squabbling gangs. Age 3+.

Little Angel Theatre

020 7226 1787. 14 Dagmar Passage, Cross St, N1 2DN. **● Angel/Highbury & Islington.** **The Elves and the Shoemaker** Wed-Fri 10.30am & 1.30pm (11am & 2pm in school hols). Sat & Sun 11am & 2pm; baby-friendly perf Sat 11am; £8, children & concs £6. The Little Angel's production of the Brothers Grimm fairytale features Lyndie Wright's distinctive glove puppets animated by one puppeteer only, Anthony Best. Age 3+. **►Jun 29.**

Millfield Theatre

020 8807 6680. Silver Street, N18 1PJ. Silver Street rail. **The Big Ugly Monster and the Little Stone Rabbit** Sun 3pm; £8, concs £6, family £25. A physical performance piece incorporating red-nose clown techniques, puppetry, masks and narration by Rik Mayall, adapted by These Colours from Chris Wormell's thought-provoking book exploring the concepts of beauty and enduring friendship. Age 3+.

National Theatre

Info desk 020 7452 3400. South Bank, SE1 9PX. **● Waterloo.** **World Alive Storytelling** Tue 10.45am, 1pm; £5. A double bill of stories featuring shapeshifting characters: 'The Buffalo Woman' is a tale of fierce motherly love from Jan Blake and musician Raymond Sereba; 'The Green Man' is a Welsh gypsy tale retold by Daniel Morden and Oliver Wilson-Dickson. Age 7-11. Jun 24 **►Jun 30.**

Pleasance Theatre

020 7609 1800. Carpenters Mews, North Road, N7 9EF. **● Caledonian Rd.** **Jack and the Beanstalk** Sat 3pm; £7.50, concs £5. Spectrum Theatre present their version of the classic fairytale. Age 5+. Jun 21 **►Jun 28.**

Polka Theatre

020 8543 4888. 240 The Broadway, SW19 1SB. **● South Wimbledon.** **Charlie and Lola's Bestestest Play** Sat 11am & 2.30pm; weekdays £9.50, weekends £11.50, concs £7.50. Jonathan Lloyd's adaptation of Lauren Child's books brings the characters' most memorable moments to life with a mixture of puppets and animation. The play starts with the instantly recognisable music from the TV show and the familiar voices of the eponymous characters from the series provide the dialogue for the puppets. Initially this familiarity is slightly jarred by the presence of the four puppeteers on stage but the puppeteers' slightly larger-than-life presence softens as the play progresses and some of the more delightful scenes, especially the beautifully realised flights of imagination so familiar to fans of the books, owe much to the playfulness of the actors. With

clever choreography and great music, this is a creative yet faithful translation of the books for the stage. Age 4-7. **►Jul 26.** **Monkey! A Tale from China** Thur, Fri, Tue, Wed 10.35am, 1.35pm, Sat 11.05am, 2.35pm; £9, concs £6. Director Jonathan Man's version of the classic Chinese story, 'Journey to the West' about the Monkey King and his journey to heaven, is a promenade-style performance during which the audience is expected to follow the show through the building and outside. Age 7+. **►Jun 28.**

Puppet Theatre Barge

020 7249 6876. Little Venice, Blomfield Road, W9 2PF. **● Warwick Ave.** **The Flight of Babuschka Baboon** Sat, Sun 3pm; £8.50, children & concs £8. The latest offering from this floating puppet theatre tells the story of a baboon who wants to fly to the moon in a hot-air balloon, and has the chance to save an elephant from ivory hunters on the way. Age 3+. **►Jun 29.**

Richmond Theatre

0870 060 6651 (bkg fee). The Green, Surrey, TW9 1JF. **● /rail Richmond.** **The Emperor's New Kilt** Wed 10am, 7pm; £15, children £11, family £42 (Wed-Fri only). The National Theatre of Scotland and Wee Stories present a comic retelling of 'The Emperor's New Clothes'. Age 6+. Jun 25 **►Jun 28.**

Unicorn Theatre

020 7645 0560/unicorntheatre.com. Tooley St, SE1 2HZ. **● London Bridge.** **Debut** Thur, Fri 7pm, Sat 4pm, 7pm; £6, concs £3 (Sat £5/£2.50, combined tht £7/£3.50). A mixed bill of 'scratch' performances by the East 15 Acting School. Age 14+. **►Jun 21.** **Shadow Play** Wed-Fri 10.30am, 1.30pm, Sat & Sun 11.30am, 2pm; £9.50, children & concs £6.50. In an ebullient and word-free 50 minutes Travelling Light's four performers communicate through the universal language of play and music. To the strains of Pete Judge's expressive music, multi-instrumentalist Ben Harrison, with big brotherly charisma, acts the straight man to the increasingly boisterous antics of the other three actors, who are helped along by impish visual tricks using shadows and lights. This imaginative play about play pans out as a series of brief, bouncy episodes of great significance to children. Age 2-6. **►Jun 22.**

Warehouse Theatre

020 8680 4060. 62 Dingwall Rd, Croydon, CR0 2NF. East Croydon rail. **African Tales** Sat 11am; £6, children £4.50. Iroko Theatre Company present traditional African storytelling with songs and music. Age 4+.

Watermans

020 8232 1010. 40 High St, Brentford, TW8 0DS. Kew Bridge rail. **Little Howard and the Magic Pencil of Life and Death** Sun 3pm; £6, concs £4.50. A human/cartoon stand-up double act. Little Howard's an animated, interactive six-year-old who performs sketches and live stand-up comedy. Big Howard is comedian and animator Howard Read. Presented by Good Sense of Humour. Age 5+.

Wilton's Music Hall

020 7702 2789. Graces Alley, off Ensign St, E1 8JB. **● Tower Hill/Aldgate East.** **Hunt** Thur 5.30pm; £5. Kazzum's site-specific promenade show exploits the atmospheric environs of the Victorian music hall to tackle the delicate subject of the exploitation of young people in situations of extreme violence and war. The play, by Sladjana Vuojovic, is presented in Refugee Week. Age 10-16.

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