

A FREE MUSIC/DRAMA EDUCATION RESOURCE FOR U.K. UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Based on the sell-out Edinburgh Fringe musical theatre production, a kids version of the show is now available for upper primary schools to put on themselves using a brand new web-based video resource platform.



Alexander Fleming's death-defying worldly-wonder antibiotic drugs have saved us for the last 90 years. But bacterial resistance is growing, doomsday approaches. What better way to fight back than with a musical of epic proportions?



CHARADES
Theatre



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Welcome to this exciting new project!

My name is Robin Hiley. I'm the Artistic Director of Charades Theatre Company, along with being the composer for *The Mould that Changed the World*. Charades has over 10 years of experience staging school musicals, working predominantly with 9-11 year-olds from primary schools across Scotland. We have directed and staged about 150 school performances to date.

It has long been our ambition to capture our songs and ideas in video format so that any school across the UK and beyond can perform our shows - our van can only take us so far, and big projects like we offer are not affordable to schools every year.

Our current collaboration with top UK antibiotics charity BSAC, the University of Edinburgh, along with a growing list of other stakeholders, has led to the creation of the *The Mould that Changed the World*, a musical with a very important public health message. This project has provided the perfect opportunity to create our video resource. The aim is simple: **provide an easy-to-use and comprehensive resource that will enable schools to prepare and perform *The Mould that Changed the World* without the need for visiting drama specialists.**

So, what is 'The Mould' about?

The first half of the show is all about the life of Scottish scientist, Sir Alexander Fleming: from his time in the World War 1 trenches, to his famous discovery of the life-saving drug penicillin, to the warning that he made to the world when he received his Nobel prize. The show goes on to show how humanity has increasingly ignored Fleming's warning over the past 70 years, over-using penicillin, along with other antibiotics. This has given rise to a crisis called antibiotic resistance - bacteria are fighting back against antibiotics and if we don't act quickly, this life-saving medicine will no longer work.



Working with Charades Theatre Company, Gullane Primary School premièred the schools version of the show at the National Museum of Scotland in June 2018. A month later, it was the turn of Hitherfield Primary School to perform the English première of the show at the Science Museum in London.

What is Antibiotic Resistance?

Antibiotic resistance - also known as antimicrobial resistance or simply 'AMR' - is a major global public health threat. As explained by Dr Meghan Perry (NHS Lothian/University of Edinburgh and scientific advisor to *The Mould*) an SOS about "the fragile future of antibiotics needs to rapidly reach all corners of society and we all need to help. Theatre was used to spread the urgent message of HIV, and we aim to do the very same with the AMR message through *The Mould*."

Who can perform the show?

The schools version of the show is perfect for children aged about 9-12 - best suited for upper primary schools.

How long does the project take?

The resources are designed to be used over a 6-8 week period, with the performance at the end of this time. Or if you don't have time to put on the whole show, there is an option to learn one of the scenes that could be performed in class or at an assembly.

How much work is it for the teacher?

We have provided a lot of tools to help you, including a course of lesson plans and in-depth directors notes to tell you how to stage the show once the children have learnt all their songs, words and actions from the videos. It's a case of steering the ship, rather than having to build it!

Do I need to be a performer?

We don't need you to be a born singer or performer to support this project - we will do that bit! But there are a few things that we can't do from your classroom smart board or projector screen, and that is what the teacher's tools like *Director's Notes* and *Lesson Plans* are all about.

We understand that not all schools have access to music and drama teachers, but we want as many schools as possible to benefit from the opportunity of performing The Mould that Changed the World. Our online resource is designed to not just guide the children through the rewarding experience of putting on a production, but also designed to help the teachers too!



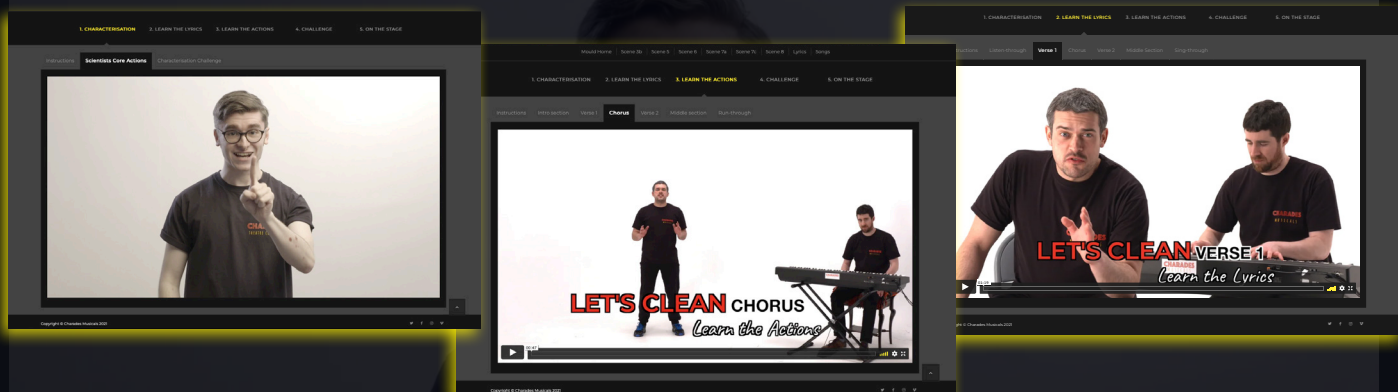
What exactly is in this resource?

The Charades team has developed a format comprising a step-by-step online **video tool kit** that will enable any school to put on the show all by themselves. There are over 200 videos!

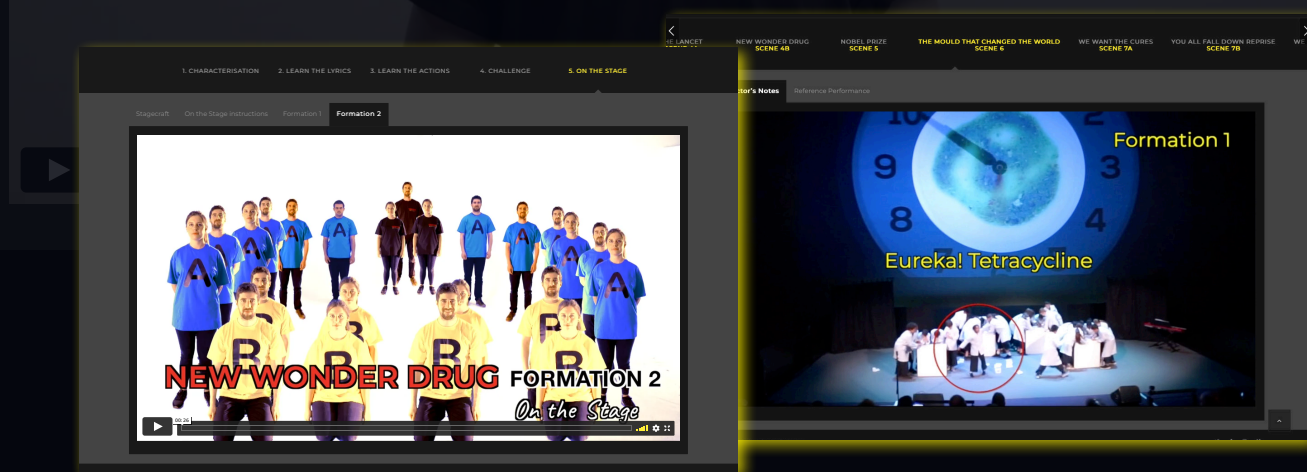
The show format:

- A cast of between 30 and 120 pupils - designed for up to three classes performing together.
- Divides the cast into 3 main 'character groups', suiting everyday school logistics for rehearsing most of the material in the classroom as individual classes.
- Each character group gets their turn in the limelight with individual chorus songs.
- Each character group is also part of bigger chorus scenes where 2 or 3 character groups perform together.
- A small selection of lead parts within each character group.
- Expertly devised choreography and actions.
- Physical theatre techniques to minimise props and scenery.

Through a series of engaging 'how-to' videos with Charades music/drama specialists leading classroom singing and drama workshops from the projection screen, the resource will take each character group on a **learning journey**, scene by scene.



First we focus on characterisation, learning the lyrics and melodies of their songs, and finally learning the actions that go with their songs.



Then, once the children know their lyrics, music and actions, we help put what has been learnt in the classroom onto to stage.

Along with the extensive set of video resources, other resources include:

- Professionally recorded full band backing tracks for the performance.
- 6 lesson plans to link the project to your weekly classroom work.

Follow the links to learn your words, music and actions for each of these scenes

How do schools get involved?

If you are a primary teacher or parent of a primary pupil, please register your interest by emailing info@charadestheatre.co.uk.



“ We need a step change in the public’s awareness and understanding of AMR. I cannot think of a more relevant or exciting initiative to fund than The Mould. Having supported this project from the beginning, I endorse this project unreservedly.

Professor Dame Sally Davies, UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance

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