



335 Stretford Road,
Manchester, M15 5ZA

What's On Jan - April 2017

Manchester's venue for
children, families and friends

www.z-arts.org
0161 232 6089

See reverse for cut-out calendar



Welcome to Spring at Z-arts

Happy New Year from everyone at Z-arts! We're so excited for the year ahead, with three action-packed seasons, a children's theatre festival, two brand-new commissions and an even bigger programme of Bright Sparks activities.

We start the year with *Beasty Baby*, a brand-new show from the oh-so-talented Theatre-Rites, celebrating family and the joys of growing up. Dommy B is back in March with the award-winning director Kevin Dyer for a fun, family show adapted from the Aesop's fable *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*.

Haphazard, our uniquely bizarre, regular, free day out for the curious of all ages returns, this year with April Fools'-inspired theatrical and artistic happenings that you can stumble across as you wander around the Z-arts building.

We can't wait to welcome you to Z-arts for your next family adventure, so please explore the brochure and check out our website to inspire you!

Liz O'Neill, Chief Executive/Artistic Director

How to book

Visit Us: We're open: **Mon-Fri: 9am-9pm Sat: 9am-5pm**

Early Bird: Book up to two weeks in advance for £8/£6 tickets, ticket prices will rise to £9/£7 if you book later than 2 weeks before an event

By Phone: 0161 232 6089

Online: Open 24 hours at www.z-arts.org

Family Ticket: Get discounted tickets for any group of 4
All Bright Sparks members £6.

Age suitability for our theatre shows is a guidance, and we trust adults to judge how appropriate it is for their children, however for workshops and classes, age restrictions have to apply for the safety and enjoyment of all participants.

2 Z-arts.org
Tickets & info: 0161 232 6089

How to get here

Z-arts, 335 Stretford Road, Manchester, M15 5ZA

We're a 20 minute walk from Oxford Road & Deansgate Train stations. There are regular bus services to and from the city centre. The 250, 256 and 163 pass just outside. The 86 stops nearby. There is ample on-street parking in the area. Please call the Box Office or visit

z-arts.org/getting-here for more information.



Become a Member

Bright Sparks is Z-arts' flagship membership scheme for all families, no matter what shape or size. There are three membership levels; from £120 - £15 (free for registered unemployed, students and disabled) for the whole year your entire family can access all of our regular activities, get access to our Big Imaginations theatre programme and input into how we do things at Z-arts and keep in touch with all the fabulous things we have planned! Visit z-arts.org for more details, or why not upgrade your membership on your next visit – an extra £25 per year can help us to fund a membership fee for families who can't currently afford to join.

Z-arts is a Company limited by guarantee 4101324
and Registered charity number 1093556



Saturday 28 January
Beasty Baby

11am & 2.30pm
£6 - £12
Running Time: 50 mins

Presented by Theatre-Rites

Deep in the forest, in a wintry land, lives a gorgeously grizzly Beasty Baby. Mayhem and laughter await around every corner as three people embark on a wild adventure to bring up a very mischievous and totally lovable child.

Beasty Baby is a lively celebration of family, growing up and the rituals both children and adults go through in those extraordinary early years of life. Using an inspired mix of puppetry and live music, Theatre-Rites create a funny and magical shared experience.

"This production is a bundle of joy" - The Stage



Saturday 11 Feb
Ground Control

11am & 2.30pm
£6 - £12
Running Time: 65mins

Presented by None Zero One

Ground Control is a unique interactive performance for 7-12 year olds - No adults allowed! You are Ground Control, and Futuretron is asking for your help to decide the future of a new planet. Here's the situation: in 1974, a manned mission was sent into space to look for inhabitable planets. Now, in present day, the sensors aboard Shuttle X27-40 indicate that it may have found just such a planet. The three astronauts on board are about to be woken from their hypersleep... and they need your help. Using a giant projection screen and a live, highly intelligent computer (well, Futuretron), you will be part of a team deciding on an identity for the planet, its laws and values.

"It's awesome! It will really help your mind" - Audience Member

Audience Member



Saturday 4 March
The Boy Who Cried Wolf

2.30pm
£6 - £12
Running Time: 1hr 35 mins (including an interval)

Presented by Dommy B

Jamie has one job: look after the sheep. If the wolf sneaks out from the forest he must shout and scream WOLF! so that everyone from the village can come and chase the wolf away. Watching sheep is boring. Waiting for a wolf that never comes is boring. Very boring. Instead of watching the sheep, Jamie's head fills with made-up adventures. In his imagination, Jamie rides dragons and defeats deadly monsters with amazing magic spells. In his imagination, Jamie isn't looking after sheep - he's a hero with a sword and he's the one who saves the village when the wolf comes. Adapted from the Aesop's fable, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* is Dommy B's fifth nationally touring show for children and families.

"From the moment he started to speak we were totally captivated" - City Life

Z-arts.org
Tickets & info: 0161 232 6089



Free
Art Cart
activities
before and
after all
shows



Ages
3-6

Saturday 25 March
5 More Minutes

11am & 2.30pm
£6 - £12
Running Time: 50 mins

Presented by **Travelled Companions**

When Moon and Stars are shining in your eyes
Then I will sing to you a lullaby.
The day is over now it's time for bed...
But with five more minutes we can play instead?

5 More Minutes is a funny and magical show about
bedtime for children and their grown ups, in which
we'll explore the fun, frustration and fantasy that can
be had in that magical time between awake & asleep.
Real world play will blur with the magic of dreams as
we all try to settle down and finally get ready to say
goodnight, and go to sleep... unless that is, we can
have 5 more minutes!?

"A relaxed yet imaginative approach to storytelling
and (a) gentle, welcoming environment" –
Children's Theatre Reviews

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Tickets & info: 0161 232 6089



Ages
4+

Sunday 9 April
Monday's Child

2.30pm
£6 - £12
Running Time: 50 mins

Presented by **Barnstorm Theatre Company**

Monday's Child tells a simple poetic story of the
unique bond between a little girl and an old woman.
Together, in a dream-like garden, they sing and dance
and dress up as they joyously explore a treasure trove
of memory boxes.

Sensitive, poignant, funny and exuberant Monday's
Child has wowed adults and children alike.

"Pure magic! The play is whimsical, fun and full
of adventure and allows children and adults to
rediscover the mystery in everyday things. I highly
recommend it!" – **Kilkenny People**

Coming Soon... **Pat A Cake Baby** | Sunday 21 May | Ages 2-8
Based on the book by Polly Dunbar



19 October – 5 November 2017
**Big Imaginations Children's
Theatre Festival**

The Big Imaginations Festival is back and in true Big
Imaginations style promises to be bigger, better and
even more brilliant than before.

Fun for everyone is guaranteed for two weeks in
the autumn when, at Z-arts and across the North
West, you will be able to enjoy shows for children of
all ages including fairy tales with a twist, historical
dramas, dance and music events.

Featuring a brand new Big Imaginations
commission from Urban Conceptz. Designed for
and informed by 8-13 year olds, this premier show
combines explosive theatre, dance and cutting-
edge technology. Using a set of headphones, each
audience member will take their own personal
journey through a large-scale steel structure,
inviting them to trace the parallels of three potent
stories exploring life as a young person in today's
fast paced and judgemental world.

For more information visit bigimagination.co.uk

Photographer: Pamela Roach,
courtesy of The Spark Arts for Child

Special Events

Saturday 28 January
Chinese New Year Family Fun Day

10am - 12.30pm
Free Event

A Chinese themed fun day with arts and crafts all inspired by the Year of the
Rooster.

All
Ages



Saturday 11 March
Musical Family Fun Day

12pm - 4pm
Free Event

Come down and have a go at beat boxing, singing, percussion, making your
own musical instrument and a whole lot more melodic fun.

All
Ages

Saturday 11 March
Allsorts Family Gig

4pm - 5pm
Free Event

Bring your family along to have a dance and listen to the Allsorts band live
on stage. Our talented young singers and professional musicians perform
original music and covers for all the family.

All
Ages

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Z-arts.org
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Saturday 18 March
Lets Glo Social

2pm - 4.30pm
£8

Our Kids Social is bringing dynamic dayglo delights to Z-arts for one afternoon only. Bring
your family to our neontastic community and enjoy a colourful creative mix with Make Do
and Mess, Groovy Baby, music, silent disco and more - including a bar! Join us for a knees up
with your nippers.

Ages
0-8



Saturday 1 April
Haphazard

12 - 4pm
Free Event

Word of Warning + Z-arts present

Intriguing images and offbeat oddities dotted around the historic Z-arts building - this year
coming to you with an April Fool's twist. Playful, quirky, engaging and sometimes plain
daft: an afternoon for kids and their adults, adults and their adults - in short, anyone looking
for a different day out. Turn up at any time; come and go as you please... and expect the
unexpected. www.haphazardmcr.org
"Madcap fun...Wacky and creative...Kids loving it." – **Audience Member**

All
Ages

Sunday 9 April

Grandparents Mix It Up

12pm-2pm
Free Event

A special extended version of Mix It Up families and we are encouraging grandparents, great
grand-parents, great aunts and uncles and anyone else to come and take part in some fun arts
and craft for young and old alike. Then stay and enjoy our show about the unique friendships
that can be formed across the generations, *Monday's Child* at 2.30pm. See Page 4 for details.

Ages
4+

4

Pre-school Activities

Baby Play

10.30am - 11.15am

The second Tuesday of each month

We understand that exploration is at the heart of play; we want to help your baby develop by providing an interactive play session each month for you to share together.

Polkadots

10.30am - 11.15am

The first Monday of each month

Polkadots are fun music and movement sessions for young children, giving them the opportunity to make and experience music with others including singing, playing percussion instruments, moving to music, puppets and playing as a group.

Paint Pots for Tots

10.30am - 11.15am

The fourth Monday of each month

Each week we read a new story and get creative. Parents can enjoy helping their little ones create masterpieces each week, whilst sampling special offers from our café.

Jitterbugs

10.30am - 11.15am

The third Monday of each month

Get moving! Bring your little ones down and boogie with Jitterbugs, our dance and movement class for toddlers.

Activities for Ages 6-10

Bright Stars

Mondays, 4pm - 4.45pm & 4.45pm - 5.30pm

Drama skills with resident thespian Jana!

Allsorts Essential

Tuesdays, 4pm-5pm

A new introduction to music-making, no experience needed just enthusiasm to learn, play, perform and create music from around the world.

Urban All-Stars

Tuesdays, 5pm-6pm

From beatboxing to breakdance, graffiti to grime, you'll be able to give anything a go in a fun environment with other young creatives.

Mix It Up

Wednesdays, 4pm - 5pm

This is a great activity for young people who enjoy making stuff! It's a fantastic way to make new friends too, so come along and get messy with us every Wednesday!

Activities for Ages 4 - 7

Children's Yoga

Saturdays, 9.15am - 10am

Yoga is a great way to boost children's health and wellbeing. These fun and creative sessions blend yoga and mindfulness practice with storytelling, games, singing and dancing.

Ballet Attitude Elemental

Saturdays, 10am & 11am

Ballet with a funky fusion attitude. Just starting out? Then join our mini ballerinas weekly class where we learn the basics for the bar.

Beat Street Elemental

Saturdays, 10.30am & 11.30am

Join the Beat Street crew. Just starting out? Children at any level of skill are welcome to join in the fun, keep fit and get dancing in our introductory street dance class.

Ballet Attitude Elevate

Saturdays, 12pm - 1pm

Ballet with a funky fusion attitude. A weekly class for dancers who have a bit more experience and concentration to learn some ballet techniques.

Activities for Ages 11+

ZYP - Unusual Theatre in Unusual Spaces

Mondays, 5.30pm-6.30pm

Hone your performance skills working on an indoor devised piece for a performance.

Allsorts Unplugged

Saturdays, 11am-1pm

Music-making at its best; learn new instruments in new genres and write music that represents your life.

Generation Z

Wednesdays, 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Workshop for young emerging artists interested in developing their portfolio, learning about contemporary artists and developing new art skills. Practical sessions will explore printmaking, drawing, painting and sculpture. Regulars have the opportunity to achieve Arts Award.

Beat Street Supreme

Thursdays, 5pm - 6pm

Beat Street Supreme develops young, more experienced street dancers who want to develop their skills and dance as much as they can.

Activities for All Ages

Mix It Up Families

Saturdays, 12pm-1pm

Our ever popular art class, this time in a family sized portion. Come down, muck in and make some art as a family. No skills required - just enthusiasm.

Film Club

Saturdays, 1.30pm

Film Club is back! Get the cinema experience without the price tag, new crowd-pleaser every fortnight. Check the website for weekly film details and times



Bright Sparks is our annual family membership scheme. Becoming a member is a great way to support your local arts centre and help provide arts and culture for everyone.

*Bright Sparks family membership is growing! So that we can continue to provide arts and culture for everyone, we are introducing a number of new activities from March 2017, those **highlighted in red** below will run alongside our existing activities, all of which will be funded through Children In Need.*

Pre-school Activities

Polkadots

10.30am - 11.15am

The first Monday of each month

Polkadots are fun music and movement sessions for young children, giving them the opportunity to make and experience music with others including singing, playing percussion instruments, moving to music, puppets and playing as a group.

Let's Imagine

10.30am - 11.15am

Second Monday of each month.

Brand New Class starting 13 Feb

Let's Imagine is a brand-new performance class for ages 2-4. Each session gives children the opportunity to try out new dance and drama styles.

Jitterbugs

10.30am - 11.15am

The third Monday of each month

Get moving! Bring your little ones down and boogie with Jitterbugs, our dance and movement class for toddlers.

Paint Pots for Tots

10.30am - 11.15am

The fourth Monday of each month

Each week we read a new story and get creative. Parents can enjoy helping their little ones create masterpieces each week, whilst sampling special offers from our café.

Activities for Ages 6-10

Bright Stars

Mondays, 4pm - 4.45pm & 4.45pm - 5.30pm

Bright Stars is Z-arts' free drama club for young people!

Allsorts Essential

Tuesdays, 4pm-5pm

A new introduction to music-making, no experience needed just enthusiasm to learn, play, perform and create music.

Tongue Tied

Brand New Class! Tuesdays, 5pm - 6pm

Learn languages from around the world through play, puppetry and song at Z-arts new exciting interactive session.

Mix It Up

Wednesdays, 4pm - 5pm

This is a great activity for young people who enjoy making stuff!

Activities for Ages 4 - 7

Children's Yoga

Saturdays, 9.15am - 10am

Yoga is a great way to boost children's health and wellbeing. These fun and creative sessions blend yoga and mindfulness practice with storytelling, games, singing and dancing.

Ballet Attitude Elemental

Saturdays, 10am, 11am & 12pm

Ballet with a funky fusion attitude. Just starting out? Then join our mini ballerinas weekly class where we learn the basics for the bar.

Beat Street Elemental

Saturdays, 10.30am, 11.30am & 12.30pm

Join the Beat Street crew. Just starting out? Children at any level of skill are welcome to join in the fun, keep fit and get dancing in our introductory street dance class.

Activities for All Ages

Friday Night Film Club PG

Brand New! Fridays 6pm (PG Film)

Saturdays, 1pm (U+ Film)

Get the cinema experience without the price tag! Pick up some popcorn and come along, new weekly crowd-pleasers, check the website for weekly film details.

Mix It Up Families

Saturdays, 12pm-1pm

Our ever popular art class, this time in a family sized portion. Come down, muck in and make some art as a family. No skills required - just enthusiasm.

Activities for Ages 11+

ZYP - Unusual Theatre in Unusual Spaces

Mondays, 5.30pm - 7pm

Hone your performance skills working on an indoor devised piece for a performance.

Film Studio

Brand New Class! Tuesdays 6pm - 7pm

Z-arts are going digital, learn film making techniques including animation, green screen, editing and much more and see your films screened at Z-arts in-house cinema space.

Generation Z

Wednesdays, 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Workshop for young emerging artists interested in developing their portfolio, learning about contemporary artists and developing new art skills. Practical sessions will explore printmaking, drawing, painting and sculpture. Regulars have the opportunity to achieve Arts Award.

Beat Street Supreme

Thursdays, 5pm - 6pm

Beat Street Supreme develops young, more experienced street dancers who want to develop their skills.

Allsorts Unplugged

Saturdays, 11am-1pm

Music-making at its best; learn new instruments in new genres and write music that represents your life.

Ballet & Tap Attitude Elevate

Saturdays, 1.15pm - 2pm

Ballet with a funky fusion attitude. A weekly class for dancers who have a bit more experience and concentration to learn some ballet techniques.

Film Studio

Brand New Class! Fridays, 5pm - 6pm

Z-arts are going digital, learn film making techniques including animation, green screen, editing and much more and see your films screened at Z-arts in-house cinema space.

Lego Café

Brand New Class! Fridays, 3pm - 5pm

Come down to Z-arts and relax in the café whilst attempting our weekly Lego challenges. We provide the Lego and you provide the building power!

February Half Term Activities



Ages 6-10

Monday 20 – Friday 24 February
My Life

10am – 12pm or
1pm – 3pm
Free for Bright Sparks Members

Join the Z-arts musicians for a week of song writing, music making and performance exploring what's important to you through music and sound.



Party packages available!
We love a party and what better place to hold one than at Z-arts!

Visit z-arts.org/hire-spaces/birthday-parties for details of the parties available from Jan 2017.

8 Z-arts.org
Tickets & info: 0161 232 6089

Easter Holiday Activities



Ages 6-10

Monday 3 – Friday 7 April
Up, Up and Away

10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm
Free for Bright Sparks Members

For our Easter adventure, we will be thinking about the themes of the film 'Up' and our Easter show, 'Monday's Child'. Create your own films & animations about relationships, dreams and where in the world your imagination might take you.



How to Book
Activities are free for Bright Sparks members. Becoming a member is easy and can enable you and your family to access our wide range of activities all year round. To find out more visit z-arts.org/families. Spaces are limited and advanced booking is highly recommended. You can book online via z-arts.org, in person at the **Box Office** or over the phone on 0161 232 6089.

Thursday 5 & Friday 6 January
Twelfth Night

Presented by Cream-Faced Loons Theatre Company

7pm
£8
Running Time: 90 mins

Duke Orsino invites you to his annual Twelfth Night Party, celebrating the end of Christmas and the start of the New Year ahead. But all is not well - Orsino is in love with Olivia, Olivia hungers after Orsino's new servant Cesario, and Cesario loves Orsino, as well as harbouring a pretty big secret. Throw in a tyrannical Butler, a shipwrecked brother and a meddling Jazz Singer and you have a party! Join the Loons in their immersive performance of Twelfth Night, featuring live music from Feste and the Fools, as well as a free drink for every guest.



Saturday 18 February
Youth Ballet Theatre

Presented by Professional Dance Experience

4pm
£12/£6
Running Time: 90 mins

The Youth Ballet Theatre is a new opportunity for ballet students aged between 11 and 18 to come together from across the North of England. This exciting new company of young dancers work together to train and rehearse with our team of ex professional ballet dancers and professional choreographer, culminating in this performance of new dance choreography. The Youth Ballet Theatre performance can be enjoyed by dance lovers of all ages.

Wednesday 22 – Fri 25 February
Legally Blonde

Presented By Manchester Musical Youth

7.30pm
£15/£10
Running Time: 2.5 hrs

Manchester Musical Youth presents
LEGALLY BLONDE
The Musical

Following their sell out run of Les Misérables School Edition and receiving 5 Star reviews, the award winning Manchester Musical Youth are back with a fabulously fun international award-winning musical based on the adored movie, Legally Blonde. The Musical follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery, and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Hilarious and Heart-warming in equal parts, this musical is so much fun it should be illegal!



Wednesday 5 April – Friday 8 April
Priscilla Queen of the Desert

Presented by South Manchester AOS

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 7.30pm
Saturday – 2.30pm & 7.30pm
£14
Running Time: 2.5hrs

Follow the fabulous journey of three performers who hop on a battered old bus named 'Priscilla' as they take their drag show to the Australian outback. Amidst dazzling costumes and a non-stop hit parade of disco hits from the 70s and 80s, this triumphant trio find love, friendship and more than they ever hoped for along the way.

Z-arts.org
Tickets & info: 0161 232 6089


















Ages 10+

Ages 10+

All Ages

Ages 15+

Season at a Glance

| January | Event | Age | Time | Page |
|------------------|---|----------|-----------------|------|
| Thu 5 & Fri 6 |  Twelfth Night | 10+ | 7pm | 9 |
| Sat 28 |  Beasty Baby | 3-6 | 11am & 2.30pm | 3 |
| Sat 28 |  Chinese New Year Family Day | All Ages | 12pm - 4pm | 5 |
| February | Event | Age | Time | Page |
| Sat 11 |  Ground Control | 7-12 | 11am & 2.30pm | 3 |
| Sat 18 |  Youth Ballet Theatre | All Ages | 4pm | 9 |
| Mon 20 - Fri 24 |  My Life | 6-10 | 10am & 1pm | 8 |
| Weds 22 - Fri 25 |  Legally Blonde | 10+ | 7.30pm | 9 |
| March | Event | Age | Time | Page |
| Sat 4 |  The Boy Who Cried Wolf | 5+ | 2.30pm | 3 |
| Sat 11 |  Musical Family Fun Day | All Ages | 12pm - 4pm | 5 |
| Sat 11 |  Allsorts Family Gig | All Ages | 4pm | 5 |
| Sat 18 |  Our Glo Social | 0-8 | 2pm - 4.30pm | 5 |
| Sat 25 |  5 More Minutes | 3-6 | 11am & 2.30pm | 4 |
| April | Event | Age | Time | Page |
| Sat 1 |  Haphazard | All Ages | 12pm - 4pm | 5 |
| Mon 3 - Fri 7 |  Up, Up and Away | 6-10 | 10am & 1pm | 8 |
| Wed 5 - Fri 8 |  Priscilla Queen of The Desert | 15+ | 2.30pm & 7.30pm | 9 |
| Sun 9 |  Monday's Child | 4+ | 2.30pm | 4 |
| Sun 9 |  Grandparents Mix It Up | All Ages | 12pm - 2pm | 5 |

Key

 = Programmed by Z-arts

 = Visiting Z-arts



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