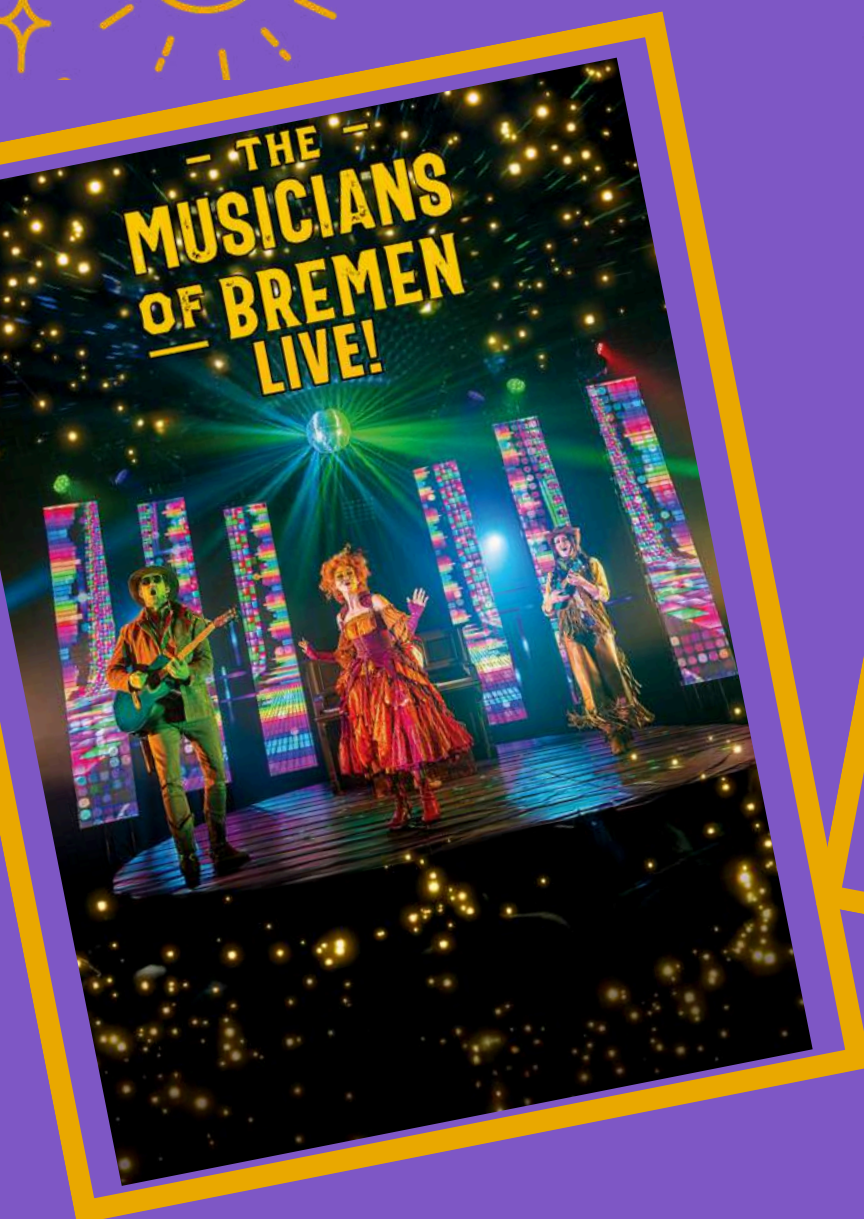


CAHOOTS

**BELFAST
INTERNATIONAL
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

Workshop Programme



Supported By:

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Introduction

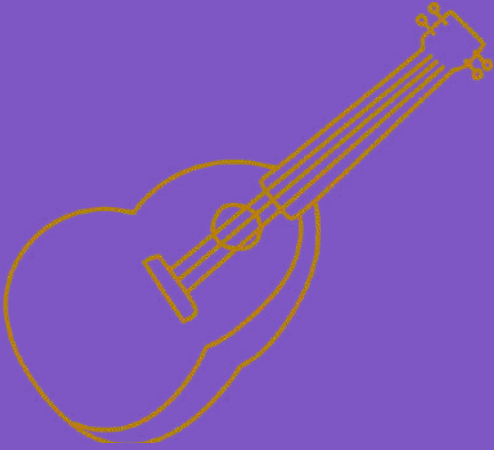
Cahoots NI in partnership with Belfast International Arts Festival are proud to present their 4 week workshop programme for the second year which has been made possible by funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Delivered free of charge from Cahoots' base, a shared community theatre space in North Belfast, participants from a range of backgrounds will share hands-on experiences, united under one roof as a team, engaging in creative workshops (magic, music, writing, post-show discussions) to instigate conversation, encourage collaboration and build new relationships.

The project will conclude with group members enjoying premiere performances of world-class theatre pieces designed specifically for young audiences.

The workshops will all be based around two Cahoots productions which are running this year in the festival's extensive 2025 programme; The Musicians of Bremen Live! and Unlocking Sherlock.

The Musicians of Bremen Live!



Meet Ruffles - a hen with a voice that can stop a freight train. Lost at a crossroads, she meets Mule, Bobcat, and Coyote. Together they undertake an epic journey across the desert to the big city, following a big dream of becoming a famous musical band - but can they make it?

Featuring live music, story, song, and plenty of surprises, The Musicians of Bremen LIVE! returns home to Belfast following a successful U.S. tour.

Unlocking Sherlock

Step into the mind of Sherlock Holmes and the hands of a master magician as Caolan McBride reveals the striking connections between deduction and deception. Through sleight of hand, mind reading, and psychological illusion, Holmes' legendary methods unfold before your eyes — but you hold the key to how the mystery evolves. As the lines blur between magician and detective, one question lingers:

What is the cost of such extraordinary skill? Unlock the mystery. Witness the impossible. Experience Sherlock Holmes like never before.



1

MUSIC



WITH

HUGH W. BROWN

Create your sound, tell your story.

A magical series of free creative music workshops where young people (aged 8+) come together to explore harmony and difference through rhythm and sound.

Led by acclaimed writer Hugh W. Brown, these fun, inclusive sessions invite participants to:

- Explore music and samba drumming
- Celebrate diversity and individuality through rhythm
- Record a professionally captured music piece
- Perform live or share your soundscape on the big screen at Cityside Retail Park



**WEDNESDAY 1ST, THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER
AND
FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER**



CONTACT US
INFO@CAHOOTSNI.COM

2

MAGIC



WITH CAOLAN MCBRIDE

Unlock the Magic of Confidence & Communication!

Step into a world of illusion, creativity, and self-expression in this Magic Workshop designed for young people aged 16+.

Led by professional magician and performer Caolan McBride, these fun, hands-on sessions will explore:

- Sleight of hand & stage magic
- Mind reading & observation skills
- Performance techniques & public speaking
- Building confidence through communication

Participants will not only learn incredible tricks they'll also gain powerful tools to focus, problem-solve, and express themselves in everyday life.



TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER



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3 THEATRE



WITH CHRISTINA NELSON

Building Trust Through Theatre

Join us for a dynamic interactive theatre workshop led by acclaimed actress and Cahoots NI collaborator Christina Nelson—designed to inspire connection, confidence, and collaboration. Aimed at ages 8+, these sessions use drama-based games and activities to explore key themes from *The Musicians of Bremen Live!* including:

- Characterisation & storytelling
- Trust and communication
- Teamwork and empathy
- Celebrating our differences and finding common ground

Participants will step into the roles of a hen, bobcat, coyote, and mule—discovering what makes each character unique, and how they work together to achieve harmony from disharmony.



THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER
FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER



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4 STORY TIME



WITH CHARLES WAY

From Fairytale to Footlights: A Story time Session Like No Other

Join playwright Charles Way for a magical one-off story time workshop inspired by The Musicians of Bremen Live!

Designed for ages 8+, this engaging session explores how a classic Grimm's fairytale set in 1819 Germany was reimagined as a vibrant family musical set in the American Southwest. With live readings, music, and behind-the-scenes insights from the show's cast and creative team, children will:

- Hear extracts from the script and score
- Discover how stories evolve through creativity
- Explore big ideas like respect, reconciliation, and harmony from disharmony



FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER



CONTACT US

INFO@CAHOOTSNI.COM

INFORMATION AND ACCESS

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE FREE OF CHARGE HOWEVER PRIOR
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR ACCESS

OUR APPROACH TO ACCESS IS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EVERYONE IN AN
INDIVIDUALLY FOCUSED AND RECEPTIVE WAY.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT KNOWING YOUR NEEDS WILL BE MET IS VERY
IMPORTANT.

WE KNOW THAT EVERYONES NEEDS ARE DIFFERENT BUT HERE ARE SOME
EXAMPLES OF HOW WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS IN OUR AUDIENCES:

- QUIET SPACE – THE FREEDOM TO LEAVE A PERFORMANCE AT ANYTIME.
- WHEEL-CHAIR FRIENDLY – STEP FREE ACCESS IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT
OUR VENUE.

MORE INFORMATION ON ACCESSIBILITY CAN BE FOUND HERE:
[HTTPS://CAHOOTSNI.COM/OUR-VENUE-2/](https://cahootsni.com/our-venue-2/)

IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO MAKE THIS PROGRAMME MORE
ACCESSIBLE PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR NEEDS BY CONTACTING
HANNAH@CAHOOTSNI.COM

PLEASE NOTE: AS PART OF OUR CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY, ADULT LEADERS
FROM YOUR GROUP MUST BE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE SESSION TO
SUPERVISE.

**FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
PLEASE CONTACT HANNAH@CAHOOTSNI.COM**