



335 Stretford Road,  
Manchester, M15 5ZA

## What's On May - Sept 2016



Manchester's venue for  
children, families and friends

[www.z-arts.org](http://www.z-arts.org)  
0161 232 6089

See reverse for cut-out calendar

 Get Creative  
Family Arts Festival  
Best Family Venue



 @Z\_MCR  
 ZARTSMCR



Lots of  
activities  
for School  
Holidays  
inside

## Welcome to Summer at Z-arts

Z-arts is Manchester's venue for children, families and friends and we're delighted to be recognised by our family audiences as the Best Venue at the Family Arts Festival awards! Young people and their families are at the heart of everything we do, resulting in a diverse and exciting programme for everyone, whatever your age!

This Summer season sees an exciting run of brand-new children and family theatre, beginning in May with *Boxy and Sticky* - a mischievous theatrical adventure to entrance and delight 3-5 year olds, followed by the adventurer, fearless inventor and connoisseur of carrots, *Walter Lemonface* in June. Heads up... We'll be going on a *Bear Hunt* from Sep-Dec with the much anticipated arrival of the interactive experience from ex-children's laureate Michael Rosen - booking now open!

We've got plenty of activities to keep you occupied, inside and outside of the school holidays with lots of brand-new classes for our Bright Sparks members, including the return of *Allsorts!*

**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](http://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.

## 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](http://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 and size. For just £15 (free for registered unemployed, students and disabled) your entire family can access all of our regular activities, get access to reduced price tickets for our Big Imaginations programme, 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](http://z-arts.org) for details. Why not upgrade your membership from just an extra £25 to the Bronze Leaf to help us to fund the fee for families who currently can't afford to join.



Ages 3-5

### Saturday 7 May Boxy and Sticky

Created and Directed by Sarah Argent  
11am & 2.30pm  
£6 - £12  
Running Time: 40 Minutes, with an opportunity to stay and play after the performance

A mischievous theatrical adventure to entrance and delight 3-5 year olds (and their families).

I've found a box. I've found a stick. This box can be whatever I want it to be. I can be - Inside it. Outside it. Under it. On top of it. This stick was the first toy in the world. I can tap with it, throw it and catch it. I can balance it on my head!

**"A charming and mischievous treat not to be missed out on!"**  
- Children's Theatre Reviews



Ages 3-9

### Sunday 12 June The Adventures of Walter Lemonface

Presented by 154 Collective  
2.30pm  
£6-£12  
Running Time: 55 mins

Ever wanted to control what happens in a cartoon? Now you can in this fun-filled experience for the whole family – there's no such thing as too much joining in! Join adventurer, fearless inventor and connoisseur of carrots, Walter Lemonface as he hunts for Rhubarb Ogres, battles ghosts and finds a new adventure around every corner. Oh... and he has a yellow head that looks like a lemon.

**"The children (and parents!) were entranced"**  
- Audience Member, Kirklees Library



Ages 7+

### Sunday 26 June Into The West

By Travelling Light  
2.30pm  
£6 - £12  
Part of Manchester Children's Book Festival

To celebrate the play's 20th anniversary, Travelling Light are bringing to a new generation of audiences their internationally-acclaimed story of grit and magic, love and loss, hope and discovery.

She's my horse, she is! What's her name Grandpa? She's called Tir na n'Og. Why's she called that?

Because she came from the land under the sea. A place where it is always summer, and no-one grows old. Imagine a glorious white horse comes out of a sea-mist and into your troubled life. Imagine trying to keep her on the 14th floor of a Dublin tower block. Now imagine the police are after you, and your only escape is to ride into the west...

**"This is some of the best theatre, children's or otherwise, that I've ever seen...it breaks your heart."** - The Times

ARTCART!  
Free arts activities before & after all shows

## COMING SOON TO Z-ARTS....

Ages 0-11

Sat 17 Sept – Sat 17 Dec 2016  
Bear Hunt, Chocolate  
Cake & Bad Things

Every Saturday and during  
October Half Term  
– 10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.15pm  
Big Kids & Little Kids all £7  
Running Time: 50 Minutes



**BOOKING NOW!**

Step inside a humongous chocolate cake and explore a secret larder, swishy swashy and splash splosh your way through a Bear Hunt. And dare you explore the Bad Things in the Dread Shed? Discover hidden rooms and brilliant clues that show what inspired Michael Rosen's writing including his Grandparents' sitting room and his classroom.

Younger children can enjoy a Bear Hunt trail, whilst older children can go on a fun fact finding mission on Michael Rosen and create poems of their own to take away.

This exhibition is one of the most exciting things to have happened in my writing career... I am so looking forward to it.' - Michael Rosen



Tickets & info: 0161 232 6089

Z-arts.org

# MAY HALF TERM



**Ages  
6-10**

## Tuesday 31 May – Friday 3 June Robot Orchestra

10am-12pm

Free for Bright Sparks Members

This is a week-long activity, booking on the 31st secures your place for the full week.

Come along and join the quest to create the first ever Manchester Robot Orchestra. We'll be putting recycled technology to good use and playing our part in creating a brand new orchestra for the city.

No experience necessary, just bring your enthusiasm! A robot orchestra made from reclaimed retro technology will give its debut performance in the city in summer 2016.

Part of



## Saturday 28 May Bright Sparks Spring Showcase

3 – 4pm, £3 adults/ £2 children

**All  
Ages**

Join us in the Z-arts theatre for an afternoon of performances from Z-arts rising stars, including Ballet Attitude, Beat Street, Bright Stars & ZYP! If you want to support Z-arts and all our brilliant young people come down and see what they have been working on. All proceeds go towards Z-arts fundraising target which means we can carry on delivering amazing free art activities for all.

## Friday 3 June – September Hulme is Where The Art Is: Art in The Park

Various Times, Free

**All  
Ages**

Back for its 7th year! Z-arts, Hulme community garden centre, Venture Arts and MMU are bringing you a full programme of artistic goings-on across Hulme. On Friday the 3rd June Z-arts are launching the programme with our fab show *The Last Post* and a whole postbag full of activities taking place in Hulme Park. If it rains we will still be going ahead – just inside! For details of the rest of our events throughout the summer visit [facebook.com/HulmeIsWhereTheArts](https://www.facebook.com/HulmeIsWhereTheArts)

## Friday 3 June The Last Post

11am & 2.30pm, £10 / £6



**Ages  
7+**

Step on board our pillar-box red van-atorium known as Mobile Sorting Office 451 and be transported to a world where snail mail reigns supreme. Surrounded by postage paraphernalia from a much-travelled life you'll meet Verity, the irrepressible heiress of an international pen-pal agency, and Red, a redundant Post-Master. Witness the unwrapping of their curious love story, accompanied by "harmony-drenched, melancholy-tinged" live music, provided by Tomaz (who arrived one day in a jiffy bag).

## Saturday 9 July Fun Day: Bear Hunt, Chocolate Cake & Bad Things

12 – 4pm, Free

**All  
Ages**

Michael Rosen is a hugely bestselling author of picture books and poetry and Z-arts are very excited to announce we have a fantastic interactive experience coming to our centre in September. To get everyone as excited as we are and to give you a sneak preview come down and learn all about his fabulous stories and poems through creative arts activities for all the family.



**Monday 25, Wednesday 27 & Friday 29 July**  
**We're Going on a Bear Hunt Picnics**

10.30 – 12.30pm  
 Ages 2 – 5 years (Parents to accompany children)  
 Free for Bright Sparks Members

**Ages  
 2-5**

Celebrate Z-arts' upcoming Michael Rosen interactive experience and go on your own adventure with a professional storyteller. Dress up as a bear or bring your own to join in the action. Guaranteed to be loads of fun, with interactive reading and make your own bear ears to take home. A brilliant opportunity to join-in and 'stumble-trip' through one of the nation's favourite books. Limited places, book yours now.

**Monday 25 July - Friday 5 August**  
**'Alice's Wonderland' by ZYP**

10am – 4.30pm  
 Free for Bright Sparks Members

**All  
 Ages**

**Performances Saturday 6 August 1pm and 4pm**  
 ZYP produce unusual theatre in unusual spaces and this summer is no exception! Working with Artistic Director Jana Kennedy, Z-arts young performers will be creating a promenade production incorporating music, movement and Lewis Carroll's storytelling magic to be performed in a suitably 'down the rabbit hole' location. Interested in drama, music, dance or backstage then contact [gill@z-arts.org](mailto:gill@z-arts.org) to sign up. Limited places, book yours now.

**Saturday 30 July**  
**Tech Theatre Open Day**

10am – 4.30pm  
 Free Event

**Ages  
 11+**

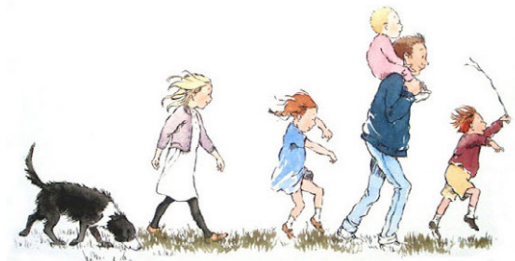
Come down to Z-arts if you are interested in a career backstage. Our open day will open your eyes to the technical skills and careers in theatre. Have a go setting up and running a gig, cover everything needed for the event including understanding lighting and sound projection and H&S. Limited places, book yours now.

**Monday 1 - Friday 5 August**  
**Summer Fun: Bear Hunt, Chocolate Cake and Bad Things**

10 – 4.30pm  
 Free for Bright Sparks Members

**Ages  
 6-10**

Spend the week with Z-arts and Michael Rosen's work exploring the fabulous books he has created including stories and poetry. Each day will look at one of his ever popular books; every morning will be a different visual art and every afternoon will involve drama and movement. Each day ends with a film screening linked to the stories we have been enjoying. Limited places, book yours now.



## Monday 16 - Saturday 21 May What, Is She Black Now?

by Seleena Laverne Daye  
5pm-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat  
All ages, FREE exhibition

A range of textile art from cross stitch to embroidery taking a playful look at the representation of women of colour within popular culture, black hair, being mixed race, community and sisterhood.



All Ages



## Friday 27 May The Circus House presents: Spinning Yarns

Running Time: 80 mins  
7pm, £8/£5

Spinning Yarns is a retelling of the classic fairy tale Rumpelstiltskin.

Bought to life by a host of performers from The Circus House community cast this production will capture the magic of the tale whilst providing a new and exciting twist on a classic story.

All Ages

## Wednesday 18 - Friday 21 May (Matinees on 20 and 21) Market Boy

Written by David Eldridge, Directed by Paul Jaynes  
Running Time: 2 hours with interval  
2pm & 7pm, £6

Market Boy is a gloriously raucous rite-of-passage drama set in the Thatcherite heartland of Romford Market in the eighties. Market Boy is a spectacular, savage yarn which brings a market jungle to the stage; a tale about the time Mrs Thatcher said we should embrace the marketplace; a story about losing your innocence and learning to sell.

Ages 16+

## Wednesday 20 - Saturday 23 July Les Miserables

Manchester Musical Youth Presents  
Running Time: 2 hours 30 mins with interval  
7.15pm, £15/£10

Manchester Musical Youth is proud to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the world's longest running musical with their own production of Les Misérables.

Telling a timeless tale of redemption the story takes the audience through love, loss, hope, despair as it triumphantly brings to life the French spirit of Liberté, égalité, fraternité.



All Ages

## Les Misérables School Edition

## In partnership but elsewhere!

### Saturday 21 May #mcrfamilyfun by Manchester Family Arts

12pm  
Central Library, Manchester

A fun and information packed event about everything cultural for Manchester families from leading organisations across the city including Z-arts.

All Ages

### Saturday 25 June Manchester Children's Book Festival Family Fun Day

10am  
Geoffrey Manton Building, Manchester Metropolitan University

Come along and join the fun – there'll be something for everyone, from pre-readers and nursery age-children to teens and families. And, as well as story-telling, arts, crafts and workshops, there'll be a bustling market-place of stalls including Z-arts.



All Ages

## 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.

0-18 mths

### 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.

2-4

### Paint Pots for Tots

10.30am - 11.15am

The second and 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.

2-4

### 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.

2-4

## Activities for Ages 6-10

### Bright Stars

Mondays, 4pm - 5pm

Drama skills with resident thespian Jana!

6-10

### Allsorts Essential

Tuesdays, 4pm-5pm

Learn play, perform, improvise and create music from around the world.

6-10

### Urban All-Stars

Tuesdays, 5pm-6pm

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

6-10

### 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!

6-10

## Activities for Ages 4 - 7

### Children's Yoga

Saturdays, 9.15am - 10.15am

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.

4-7

### Ballet Attitude Elemental

Saturdays, 10am & 11am

New times and new format!

Ballet with a funky fusion attitude. Elemental is our introduction class for our youngest dancers. Dancers can progress to the next level, Elevate, when instructed by the choreographer.

4-6

### Beat Street Elemental

Saturdays, 10.30am & 11.30am

New times and new format!

Join the Beat Street crew. Elemental is our introduction class for our youngest dancers. Dancers can progress to the next level, Elevate, when instructed by the choreographer.

4-6

### Ballet Attitude Elevate

Saturdays, 12pm - 1pm

**Brand new for 2016!**

Ballet with a funky fusion attitude. New class for dancers who have a bit more experience and concentration to learn some more advanced ballet technique.

7+

## 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. Our first major immersive performance is planned for summer 2016 and will be based on Alice in Wonderland.

11+

### Allsorts

Saturdays, 11am-1pm

Back for 2016! Z-arts are very excited to announce the new phase of Allsorts. For 2016 we are going to be live and Unplugged. Music-making at its best; learn new instruments in new genres and write music that represents your life.

11+

### Generation Z

Wednesdays, 5.45pm - 7pm

**Brand new for 2016!**

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.

11+

### Beat Street Supreme

Thursdays, 5.15pm - 6.15pm

**Brand new for 2016!** In response to popular demand we now have two levels of streetdance class and a brand new crew name, 'Beat Street'. For those that are just getting started then Elevate is the class for you and those that are improving then try Supreme. If unsure head to Elevate and the choreographer will help assess your current ability.

10+

## 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.

All Ages

### Film Club

Saturdays, 1.30pm - 3pm

Get the cinema experience without the price tag. New crowd pleaser every fortnight, just check

All Ages

the website for details of dates and films.

### Film Club Sing-a-long

Saturdays, once a month,




















3.30pm-5pm

Singalong films screened every month. Check the website's Film section for details.

All Ages

All activities are free for Bright Sparks members

# Season at a Glance

Month	Event	Age	Time	Page
May				
Sat 7	 Boxy and Sticky	3 – 6	11am & 2.30pm	3
Mon 16 – Fri 21	 What, Is She Black Now?	All Ages	5pm-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm Sat	6
Wed 18 – Fri 21	 Market Boy	16 +	2pm & 7pm	6
Sat 21	 #mcrfamilyfun by Manchester Family Arts	All Ages	12pm	6
Fri 27	 The Circus House presents: Spinning Yarns	All Ages	7pm	6
Sat 28	 Bright Sparks Spring Showcase	All Ages	3 – 4pm	4
Tues 31 May - Fri 3 June	 Robot Orchestra	6 –10	10am – 12pm	4
June				
Fri 3 June - September				
Sat 4	 Hulme is Where The Art Is	All Ages	11am-3pm	4
Sun 12	 The Last Post	7+	11am-2.30pm	4
Sat 25	 The Adventures of Walter Lemonface	3 – 9	2.30pm	3
Sun 26	 Manchester Children's Book Festival Family Fun Day	All Ages	10am	6
July				
Sat 9	 Into The West	7+	2.30pm	3
Wed 20 – Sat 23	 Fun Day: Bear Hunt, Chocolate Cake & Bad Things	All Ages	12 – 4pm	4
Mon 25, Wed 27 & Fri 29	 Les Miserables	All Ages	7.15pm	6
Mon 25 July - Fri 5 August	 We're Going on a Bear Hunt Picnics	2 – 5	10.30 – 12.30pm	5
Sat 30	 'Alice's Wonderland' by ZYP	All Ages	10am – 4.30pm	5
August				
Mon 1 - Fri 5	 Tech Theatre Open Day	11+	10am – 4.30pm	5
September				
17 Sept – 17 Dec	 Summer Fun: Bear Hunt, Chocolate Cake & Bad Things	6 –10	10am – 4.30pm	5
	 Event	Age	Time	Page
	Bear Hunt, Chocolate Cake & Bad Things	0 – 11	10am, 11.15am, 1pm & 2.30pm	3



## Key

 = Programmed by Z-arts

 = Visiting Z-arts



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