

'A Very Happy Birthday'

My first experience of Big Brum was in 1995. I had just started as a head teacher and was keen to ensure that the pupils in the school were exposed to a rich exciting curriculum. We had just finished 'de-junking' the school as many heads do when they first start. The school hall was looking particularly good with interesting displays and a new layout. Imagine my horror when entering the hall to welcome Big Brum only to find an enormous pile of rubbish in the centre of the room! It was of course the set of a piece of work which focused on a young child living in the rubbish. Our pupils were absolutely captivated.

More recently I encountered Big Brum as a parent. My daughter remodelled her bedroom to design her own 'thinking space'. I of course challenged the mess that I thought she had created until she explained to me that it had come from the Big Brum theatre work she was involved in and she talked me through the Sea Child.

In my current role of Primary Adviser I have seen the remarkable impact of the group's work with pupils at Pegasus.

I think it fair to say that Big Brum has been breaking new ground with theatre in education for the last 25 years - long may it continue.

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