



The Olivier Award Winning Musical

HONK!

Music by George Stiles - Book and Lyrics by Anthony Drewe

HAMPTON HILL THEATRE

4th, 5th, 7th, 8th
& 9th May 2026



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are
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for John



JOHN PEARSON

TMT Founder, Producer, Musical Director
(1958 - 2026)



by Jeremy James Taylor

John was a choral scholar at Christ's College, Cambridge before embarking on a 40-year teaching career at Tiffin School, Bedales and Tonbridge School where he was Deputy Head.

John's first encounter with the National Youth Music Theatre was when as well as being a chemistry teacher at Tiffin School in Kingston he also ran the school swing band in which he played the double-bass. It was in 1976 when David Nield wrote the music for a new music theatre piece called The Ragged Child for which John played the double-bass in the orchestra, little realising that this was to mark the start of an extraordinarily rich and high-class 'second career' as a musical arranger and conductor with the NYMT.

It was in 1987 when, as a result of a sudden 'hiccup' affecting the current Musical Director on the NYMT's production on the Edinburgh Fringe of the musical Drake, that John received a call to get the next train and take over the baton – which he did with great skill.

What followed were some 35 years of work with many different youth groups on a wide selection of productions and galas including Annie, The Roman Invasion Of Ramsbottom, Oliver!, Tin Pan Ali, Pal Joey, The Wizard Of Oz, The Dreaming, The Ragged Child and most significant of all, in 1997 the arrangements and musical direction of reworked production of Bugsy Malone which took Edinburgh by storm, first on the Fringe and later by special invitation to the 1,950 seat Festival Theatre for a week of sell-out performances which in turn led to an equally sold-out West End run of six weeks in the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue! (The cast recording featuring amongst others Sheridan Smith, Michael Jibson, Jamie Bell is still available!)

In the last three years he had continued his theatre work by co-founding and co-running Thames Music Theatre and was working on this new production of Honk! until he was suddenly taken ill towards the end of March.

John was tireless, scrupulously thorough, charming and long-suffering as well as being a fine musician and highly efficient administrator.

He will be sorely missed.

- JJT -

THAMES MUSIC THEATRE

Thames Music Theatre is a youth Music Theatre company working within a charitable framework, established in 2023 by some of the most important and experienced leaders in youth Music Theatre in the UK. TMT offers opportunities to young people in SW London and surrounding districts aged between 10 and 18 who are interested in creating and performing all forms of high-quality musical theatre – be they onstage performers or musicians or those interested in backstage or technical work.

The board is currently comprised of Jeremy James Taylor OBE, Lara Parker and Rob Howe who between them have very extensive experience in the field of training young people and youth music theatre, having been responsible for many productions all over the UK and abroad. Indeed, Jeremy in particular is almost solely to be thanked for the flourishing state of youth Music Theatre in the country over the last 50 years, in his capacity as its tireless promoter, visionary, creator, and as the founder and director of the National Youth Music Theatre itself for many decades! We work with external technical staff, directors and musicians of the highest calibre and experience to bring out the very best in the young people who work with us.

Our staff have mentored many of the UK's top Musical Theatre performers, from their youth into their career, and have also worked with many of the country's leading performers of recent years in general: including such names as Idris Elba, Jamie Bell, Jonny Lee Miller, Ben Barnes, Jude Law, Sheridan Smith, Matt Lucas, Michael Jibson, Toby Jones, Hannah Spearritt, Roderick Williams, Ronnie Corbett, Ned Sherrin, Kit & the Widow, and many more. As well as our regular production work, TMT also works with local schools, delivering workshops and other creative sessions.

The board is currently open to applications for interested parties: following the untimely, sudden passing of one of our founders and trustees in early 2026, John Pearson, we are looking for anyone who would like to get involved with us at the organisational level. Anyone with experience or interest in running charities or accounting within charities; anyone with a flair for organisation; anyone with a desire to help make great music theatre and with a can-do attitude; you can be as hands-on (or off) as you like; although the role of a trustee is not in itself a creative role, there may be expected opportunities for creative work if they suit you and arise. Please get in touch!

Thames Music Theatre was pleased to become registered as a charity in early 2026, and our Registered Charity Number is 1216844. As well as all the permanent staff giving up their time for free, we rely on heavily on kind donations and generous sponsorship to be able to function. We are grateful especially to the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust for their ongoing support for the last few years, and to the parish of Our Lady Immaculate in Tolworth for their practical support. If you would like to help us with our work, please do reach out to us: we'd love to know about opportunities where we can bring performers to your events, or help you in any way, in return for some donations or sponsorship, or if you just want to donate something yourself.

www.thamesmt.org



**HAMPTON HILL
THEATRE**



A Note From the Director

I joined TMT towards the end of 2024 when I was asked to choreograph Joseph. When casting Joseph, we faced the usual challenge of finding enough boys and briefly considered other musicals. John was a passionate advocate for Honk! - a piece he knew and loved so it was no surprise when it became TMT's next project. I was surprised and delighted when I was asked to choreograph and direct it, with John as my producer and musical director.

What followed were months of planning, debating, collaborating, auditioning, and building something together.

Working with our young people is always an honour. My role is not simply to deliver a good production, but to support their development. We have elected to produce the full version of Honk! and not the youth version. Our cast have risen to that challenge and exceeded expectations. I often give them choreography beyond what most would assume possible for a young cast with limited rehearsal time. In this production you will see a blend of musical theatre, ballet, jazz, and contemporary styles.

I first encountered Honk! in the early 2000s, auditioning for Cat and being told there was no role for me. Twenty years later, it was brought back into my life by John, and now I find myself directing it. I've learned to love it again.

On the surface, this is a story about difference. But for me, it is about resilience. Ugly faces challenge from the outset—meeting hardship, finding unlikely allies, and ultimately discovering belonging. Ida's journey is one of unwavering love and determination in the face of doubt. Together, they remind us to keep going in difficult times, to hold onto hope, and to allow ourselves to be supported — and to support others in return.

I am very grateful to all of the creative team, crew, cast, parents and supporters. Without your support this simply would not be possible.

BEN BARNES

Ben Barnes is an English actor and singer from SW London. He is best known for his roles as Prince Caspian in The Chronicles of Narnia films, Logan Delos in Westworld, Billy Russo in the Marvel series The Punisher and The Darkling in the Netflix series Shadow and Bone.

Other film and tv roles include Stardust, Dorian Gray, Killing Bono, The Big Wedding, Seventh Son, Sons of Liberty, Gold Digger and The Institute. Ben's passion for musicals started with the NYMT in 1997 and he released his debut album, Where The Light Gets In, in January 2025



BRIAN DEACON

Brian Deacon is well known for portraying Jesus in the 1979 film of the same name and has been in numerous stage productions across the UK.

More recently he has given his voice to numerous characters in video games and continues to enjoy a varied and successful career in voice acting.



NAOMI FURIHATA

Naomi's international and diverse career as arts administrator and event producer spans 40 years. Born in Tokyo, she trained as a pianist and immersed herself in the arts industry through her love of music.

She has worked within charitable and cultural-exchange areas in Japan, the UK and the wider world, working with groups such as the UNICEF World Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna Boys' Choir, the Japanese Dance and Drum Troupe, Kikuno-kai in a wide array of different musical areas; as well as a producer, working with names such as Ravi Shankar and venues such as the Royal Albert Hall.

She also works within artist management for such as Cameron Mackintosh and Andrew Lloyd Webber's productions in London's West End; and within musical events, festival and general arts management worldwide, for groups such as the National Youth Music Theatre, of which she is a trustee.

Highlights in her career have included the Tokyo Olympics, the Royal Variety Shows, All the Queen's Horses at Windsor and the Golden Jubilee Celebrations for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Ian Fleming Centenary at the London Palladium for the British Heart Foundation UK, Elizabeth Taylor Celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall for the Red Hot AIDS Charitable Trust and Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, Richard Rogers Centenary at the London Palladium for Nerve Tumours UK, and the 1st Laureus World Sports Award Ceremony in Nice with its patron Nelson Mandela.



MICHAEL JIBSON

Michael Jibson was in Jeremy and John's West End NYMT production of Bugsy Malone at the Queen's Theatre in 1997.

He was nominated for an Olivier Award for his role as Joe Casey in Our House and later won an Olivier Award for his performance as King George in Hamilton. Recently in Stranger Things, he is currently in This is my Family at The Southwark Playhouse.



RULA LENSKA

Rula Lenska is a celebrated English actress with 50 years in the business. She has appeared in many British stage and television productions, and is known for the films such as Aura. She portrayed Claudia Colby in the ITV soap opera, Coronation Street. Some of her greatest early accolades were work in Rock Follies in the late 1970s, a television musical drama. She has had a very varied and extensive career in television and stage, and including voice-work in audiobooks, commentaries and wildlife documentaries. She is a dedicated conservationist and has travelled far and wide. Her first love remains the theatre, and she is thrilled to be a patron of Thames Music Theatre.

MATT LUCAS OBE

Actor, author, comedian, presenter, and writer, Matt Lucas is one of the most recognisable personalities in British television. Matt first came to prominence as George Dawes in the seminal comedy panel show Shooting Stars. However, he is perhaps best known for his work alongside David Walliams, co-creating the three-time BAFTA winning BBC comedy Little Britain. Matt has starred in numerous critically acclaimed projects, with film credits including Alice in Wonderland, Paddington and Bridesmaids, TV credits including Doctor Who, and theatre projects including Les Misérables. Additionally, Matt has created a string of bestselling children's books, including Thank You, Baked Potato, plus his memoir Little Me. Matt has co-hosted the award-winning Great British Bake Off for Channel 4 and 2 series of Sky Max's Fantasy Football. Matt starred alongside Timothée Chalamet in Warner Bros' musical fantasy Wonka (2023), and most recently appeared in Ridley Scott's Gladiator 2 (2024) in the role of Master of Ceremonies.



RITA TUSHINGHAM

Rita Tushingham is an English actress. She is known for her starring roles in films including A Taste of Honey (1961), The Leather Boys (1964), The Knack ...and How to Get It (1965), Doctor Zhivago (1965), and Smashing Time (1967). For A Taste of Honey, she won the Cannes Film Festival Award for Best Actress, and Most Promising Newcomer at both the BAFTA Awards and Golden Globe Awards. Her other film appearances include An Awfully Big Adventure (1995), Under the Skin (1997), Being Julia (2004), and Last Night in Soho (2021).

Creative Team

TMT Creative Director: Jeremy James Taylor, OBE

Producers: John Pearson & Rob Howe

**Director: Kieran Walsh
Assistant Director: Lara Parker**

Musical Directors: John Pearson & Douggie Bradley

**Choreographer: Kieran Walsh
Assistant Choreographer: Milly Barratt**

Lighting Design: Richard House

Video Projection Design and Creation: Kieran Smith

Sound Design: Michael McCarthy

Costume Design: Ellie Bunce and Caroline Everson

Wardrobe: Caroline Everson and Ellie Bunce

Stage Manager: Thea Zambanini

Deputy Stage Manager: Ethan Sturtridge

Lighting Operator: James Glanville

Assistant Stage Managers: Isobel Lockett, Makayla Dudman

Backdrop Artist: Naomi Lyons

Safeguarding Lead: Lara Parker

Band

**Cello: Joshua Gray
Clarinet/Saxophone: Jen Flatman
Flute: Maia Rey Macia
Percussion: Chris Kimber
Piano: Rob Howe
Keyboard: Douggie Bradley
Trumpet: Dave Boa
Frech Horn: Tony Flatman
Guitar: Pete Relph**

CREATIVE TEAM and Thames Music Theatre Staff

Jeremy James Taylor OBE

TMT Creative Director

Whilst working as Associate Director at The Young Vic, Jeremy founded the National Youth Music Theatre in 1976 and was its Artistic Director for 28 years. Since stepping down from that role he has continued to direct extensively at schools and colleges all around the world.

As well as being an accomplished and experienced director, with over 200 productions to his name, Jeremy is also a writer and has written or co-written some 20 music theatre pieces for performance by young actors, most of which have been published.

His extensive experience with young performers, many of whom have gone on to become leading names in the world of the arts, has led to an ever-growing demand in the field of casting in the film industry; recent productions have included Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, Sweeney Todd and Son of Rambow.

He is frequently invited to adjudicate at schools and colleges where he also runs drama and music theatre workshops and masterclasses. He is also regularly consulted by institutions building new theatre and performance spaces. His latest two shows, for which he also wrote book and lyrics, have been produced in close association with local schools: Cinderella which was written in 2022 for St John's Primary School in Kingston and Just William's War which enjoyed its world premier in autumn 2023 at the City of London Freeman's School in Ashted.

Rob Howe

Acting Producer

Rob studied piano and general music at the Royal College of Music. He studied Music and Musicology the University of Durham, followed by Law there.

He was well-involved with the National Youth Music Theatre, working as assistant MD for their production of Bugsy Malone, providing arrangements, musical reworkings and additional lyrics for that production, and assisting with several other of their shows and playing at charitable and gala events over a number of years.

He has sung and played with many of the UK's most eminent choirs and performed with various ensembles. He works as choral conductor and parish musical director, as well as having directed music for several theatrical productions, and worked as a piano teacher, events-organiser, composer and arranger (performances of various works within the UK, Europe and the USA); but his day-job, for his sins, is as an IT Finance systems developer.

MUSIKAL

ACT I

A POULTRY TALE

Drake, Cat, Grace, Ensemble

THE JOY OF MOTHERHOOD

Ida, Maureen, Henrietta

DIFFERENT

Ida

HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH

Ida, Ugly, Ensemble

LOOK AT HIM

Beaky, Fluff, Billy, Downy, Ida, Drake, Ugly, Maureen, Henrietta,
Turkey, Cat, Grace, Ensemble

DIFFERENT

Ugly

PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD

Cat, Ugly

ELEGY

Maureen, Ensemble

EVERY TEAR A MOTHER CRIES

Ida

WILD GOOSE CHASE

Greytag, Dot, Barnacles, Cat, Ugly, Ensemble

HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH (Reprise)

Ida, Ugly

NUMBERS!

ACT II

IT TAKES ALL SORTS

Garce, Henrietta, Maureen, Jackie Daw

THE COLLAGE

Drake, Fluff, Beaky, Downy, Billy, Ida, Ensemble

NOW I'VE SEEN YOU

Ugly

WARTS AND ALL

Bullfrog, Ugly, Frogettes, Frogettes, Frogs

THE BLIZZARD

Maureen, Henrietta, Ensemble

THE TRANSFORMATION

Ida, Ugly, Penny, Ensemble

FINALE

Company

CAST & CREW

This production of Honk! features a cast and crew of young people from:

City of London Freeman's School

Therfield School

The Chiswick School

Fashion Retail Academy

St Boniface RC School

Tiffin Girls School

Coombe Girls School

Surbiton High School

Nonsuch School

Sutton Grammar School

Tiffin Girls School

Esher High School

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School

Ursuline High School

ACS Cobham

Goldsworth Primary

The Kingston Academy

Halliford School

St Andrew's

St Philomena's

Whitgift School

Ewell Castle School

Kingston Grammar School

Chertsey High School

Kingston College

CAST



ALICE RIORDAN
Penny



ALLEGRA PURRINGTON
Ida



AMARA JOHNSON
Ensemble



BEA COUSINS-TAGGART
Dot,
Maureen (Understudy)



CIARA PERRY
Ensemble,
Penny (Understudy)



DYLAN BICKNELL FENN
Bullfrog
Pinkfoot (Understudy)



ELLA FOXLEY
Ensemble



EMMA RIORDAN
Ensemble



ETHAN PARKER
Greylag



EVA DAWSON
Maureen,
Ida (Understudy)



FRANCESCA CONSONINI
Ensemble



FRANCESCA RAYNER
Ensemble,
Grace (Understudy)



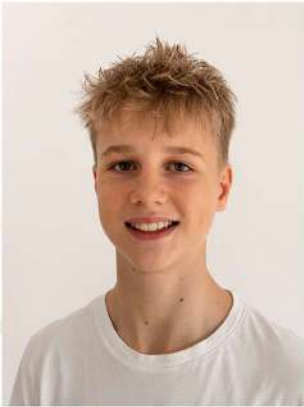
GRACE OFFORD
Grace
Henrietta (Understudy)



ISABEL WIDDESS
Ensemble



ISLA BISPINGTON
Mother Swan,
(Dance Captain)



JAKOB SAND
Ugly



JASPER GUTTERIDGE
Barnacles



JENICA GORRELA
Fluff



JESSIE TODD
Ensemble



JJ LAMBERT
Pinkfoot,
Ugly (Understudy)



JULIA JOHNSON
Jackie Daw



LEXI COX
Henrietta



LUKE FOXLEY
Drake



LYLA ROWE
Ensemble



**MARKOS
KILANIOTIS-CROCKFORD**
Cat



**MATILDA
COUSINS-TAGGART**
Ensemble



MORENA SEGU
Downy



OSCAR STOCKDALE
Turkey, Snowy
Greylag (US)



**TEAGAN
YORKE-EDGELL**
Beaky



TEDDY LAMBERT
Billy



WILLOW BICKNELL FENN
Ensemble

CREW



THEA ZAMBANINI
Stage Manager



JAMES GLANVILLE
Lighting Operator



ISOBEL LUCKETT
Assistant Stage Manager



MAKAYLA DUDMAN
Assistant Stage Manager

KIERAN WALSH

Director & Choreographer

Kieran trained as an actor with the London Academy of Music and Drama and received his dance training with the British Ballet Organisation where he also received his teaching qualification. His professional credits over almost 20 years include Chicago (London) Fosse (Tour) and most recently playing the role of Gordon Shakespeare in Nativity! The Musical (London, 2025).



He has performed lead acting roles including Guy Bennett in Another County by Julian Mitchell (Old Fire Station, Oxford) and recently as Wyndham Brandon in Rope by Patrick Hamilton (London) for which he won the NODA district award for Best Actor and is nominated for the regional Best Actor award. He has appeared in Desire Under The Elms (Oxford), Cyrano de Bergerac (Oxford) Equus (Oxford), as O'Brien in 1984 (Cardiff), in Dangerous Women Of The Mabinogion (Cardiff), One In The Street (London). Shakespeare roles include Ariel in The Tempest (London), Stephano in The Tempest (Oxford), Fabian in Twelfth Night (Oxford), Sebastian in Twelfth Night (London).

He has danced with the National Dance Company Wales (formerly Diversions) and Swimming in Steel (New Theatre, Wales). He has performed in Shades of Brown (Riverside Studios, London). He is a teacher and principal choreographer with The England School Of Dancing. He has played the musical roles of Woof in Hair (Edinburgh, Oxford), and originated the role of Drudwyn in the award-winning musical, Dance Of The Dragon (Edinburgh, Cardiff, Monaco, London) appearing on the original cast album. He has taken on lead roles in Gypsy, Godspell, Fame, The Boyfriend, The Biograph Girl, Pippin, Dazzle and many more.

Kieran has directed The Importance of Being Earnest (Oxford, London, Motisfont Abbey), Alice in Wonderland (Oxford), Agnes of God (Oxford). I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. He was the choreographer for TMT's 2025 production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Also appearing as Joseph's father, Jacob, in the July 2025 run at the Rose Theatre, Kingston. Follow Kieran on Instagram: @KieranWalshCreativeT



LARA PARKER

Assistant Director

Lara is a qualified paediatric nurse of over 20 years, a mother to teenage boy and wife to a board game obsessed husband.

After being told during GCSE drama that she would 'never be right for the stage' she bowed out of the theatrical world for some time before tentatively taking her first steps back into it as a member of the ensemble in a local production of a Christmas Carol.

The bug bit again....hard....and this time she believed she could and she did! She has since been in multiple shows per year, won a Swan award for her portrayal of Trixie in Daisy Pulls it Off for Teddington Theatre Club (no, it's not rude!) and was nominated for another Swan for stealing the show as a German psychic called Helga Von Dorff in Deathtrap, also for Teddington Theatre Club. This is her first foray into directing which she has thoroughly enjoyed (and is not at all jealous at not being able to take part....not at all!) Lara is a massive animal lover, is obsessed with otters and has endearing nicknames for everyone.

Douggie Bradley

Musical Director

Douggie is a recent graduate of the University of York.

Through being heavily involved with the university's amateur musical theatre (CHMS), he discovered a passion for musical direction and was Musical Director for *Into The Woods* (2024) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2025).

Since moving back home, he has been exploring opportunities to develop his experience. In doing so, he has had the fantastic opportunity to join TMT for *Honk*!



Youth Creative Team

At Thames Music Theatre we are committed to developing the skills of our young people both on stage and off. This year two of our previous cast members were unavailable to perform due to commitments in college or exams.

To encourage the continued interest in performing arts, but adapting to the availability and need of our young people to prioritise education, we have seen two cast members move from cast to be part of the production team.



MILLY BARRATT Assistant Choreographer

Milly is delighted to be back with Thames Music Theatre this year and, although unable to perform, is excited to unleash her creativity as Assistant Choreographer for *Honk*!

Milly rarely stops singing and dancing. She trains at Laine Theatre Arts and has performed in many productions. She spent December dancing in the Leatherhead panto and recently won first place in a dance competition with a trio she choreographed herself.

Milly is very grateful for the opportunity to work with this amazing production team and talented cast and is thrilled to help bring this fun-filled show to life!



ELLIE BUNCE Costume Designer

I was very excited to be working with Keiran and Caro to costume this production of 'HONK!'. I am a further education fashion design student at FRA and have loved theatre for about 12 years. I originally auditioned for TMT 2 years ago as an actor, thinking it would just be a good opportunity to learn what a professional audition would be like. I then ended up being chosen for both that show and the one after it and it has given me lots of confidence, and tons of lifelong friendships. I was so pleased to have been given creative freedom when it comes to styling the costumes for 'HONK!' and the journey has been an incredible learning experience. I am so glad that even though I was unable to act in the show this year, I was still able to be included. It has been incredibly fun to join the team for visits to costume shops, and to work alongside Caro with various meetings, shopping trips, messages and lots of fun along the way.

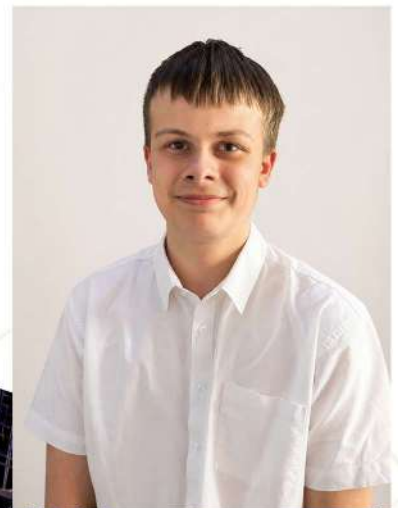
Instagram: @ellie.b_designs



ETHAN STURTRIDGE Deputy Stage Manager

Ethan has worked with TMT on their two previous major productions, The Roman Invasion of Ramsbottom and Joseph. For those he fulfilled the role of Assistant Stage Manager and even Stage Manager for Joseph. For HONK!, he is now Deputy Stage Manager and is coordinating all things audio, video and lighting. He thoroughly enjoys his job, and is looking forward to "calling the show" for the duration of the run.

One of his passion projects has been the live video feed effect, which he has spent a while fine-tuning. It is fantastic to be able to have access to these opportunities at age fifteen, and especially for such a professional theatre company as TMT.



Naomi Lyons

Artist

Naomi designed and painted the watercolours that set the scene throughout our story.



Naomi Lyons is a professional artist, specialising in landscape painting. Most recently, she had a solo exhibition at the Walton Riverside Arts Centre in November 2025. For Honk! she has adapted her method, painting predominantly in acrylic, to produce eleven scenes for the play, reflecting changes in the narrative, settings and weather conditions. Her paintings were scanned in order to be projected, creating the backgrounds for the action of the musical.

Lyons trained at Hammersmith College and at the Ealing School of Art. Designing for a stage production is one reflection of her eclectic approach: following a fledgling career in advertising she began drawing house portraits which are still in demand, usually in pen and ink; she has also designed greetings cards; she has written and illustrated two children's books, and compiled a detailed and comprehensive book on the practice of drawing for an Anglo-German publishing project.

She has also worked on set construction and painting for a number of projects at the Cornerhouse Community Arts Centre, Tolworth.

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