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**Media Release**

3 Novemebr 2014

**Theatre Royal buzzing with half term activity!**

The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds was a hive activity during half term with workshops and shows to keep youngsters entertained.

The Theatre was taking part in the second national Family Arts Festival, offering free activities for families, for the first time.

These have included storytelling workshops with Lynn Whitehead who told traditional folk stories to her young audience, who had brought along grown-ups too, before encouraging them to make up their own fantastic tales.

Rojo Art welcomed the some creative types who got stuck into some arts and crafts at the family art workshops.

They worked with a woodland theme and looked for possible faces in old pieces of tree bark and used autumn materials to create some magical characters they might meet in the woods.

Director of the Theatre, Karen Simpson also joined in, spending some time with the children at the arts and crafts workshop.

She said: “We really want families in the region to use the Theatre fully.

“I am committed to introducing children to live theatre and know that it is their mums, dads, nans and granddads that are often the ones who bring them along.

“Family activities are just one way we try to make the visit special for everyone.

“The national Family Friendly week is a way of highlighting this so it’s really important Theatre Royal plays its part.

“It’s so important seeing a room full of families all enjoying activities together then experiencing a wonderful piece of theatre.

“I love programing the work for children because if it’s really good, then it can connect to us all.  In a few weeks we start Cinderella.

“I know for many families it is the highlight of the year.  We want them to have the same fun lots of times throughout the year.”

Half term on stage at the Theatre included *Around The World in 80 Days* and *The Princess and the Pea*.

Last Year’s Family Arts Festival was the first and it saw 2,000 events held across the UK.

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**For press enquiries, images, or review tickets, please contact Nicki Dixon, Press and Communications Officer via** **nicki@theatreroyal.org** **or 01284 829947.**

**Notes to Editors:**

**1.The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds** is the UK’s last surviving working Regency playhouse. Under the care of the National Trust, it is a Grade 1 Listed building, which underwent a £5.3 million restoration in 2005 to return it to its original 1819 layout and design. The Theatre Royal is owned by the Greene King Brewery, leased by the Brewery to the National Trust, which in turn has leased the Theatre to Bury St Edmunds Theatre Management Ltd to run it as a working theatre.

**For tickets and further details please call the Box Office on 01284 769505 or visit** [**www.theatreroyal.org**](http://www.theatreroyal.org)

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