

Engross Theatre – an actor writes:

I have been working with Engross Theatre Group since September 2011, though I have been aware of them for a couple of years before that.

To my mind, they provide a service like no other that exists in Scotland, perhaps in the UK. Their unique approach takes in consultations with the schools that are to receive the performances, so they know what educational targets to hit; they commission bona fide playwrights to craft stories around these educational needs so that the shows are not just relevant but entertainingly and memorably so; they commission artists and musicians to magic the children's minds away from the classroom and into the world of the play; and they employ professional actors to present the stories in a way which engages their audience. The founders, Yvonne & Bobby Moore are personally involved with this process from start to finish, ensuring that every aspect of the work is focused on one end result: the child.

There is nothing spare about this company, nothing goes to waste – although with more funding they could take this model so much further. Engross Theatre Group exists for one thing only: to help children with special needs belong to the world. They do this through entertaining, educational storytelling specifically crafted for their audience.

The children remember the shows, characters and stories even after 6 months +. The children learn from the plays and demonstrate their learning. The children love the presentations and their teachers are able to refer back to Engross' work in their classroom work.

As an actor I am very proud to work with ETG, they are an inspiring organisation who demonstrate the power of the arts to change lives and enrich us all. The audiences are so enthusiastic it reminds me why I do the job I do. Working alongside such talented and committed individuals is an adrenaline boost to the soul.

Pab Roberts, (Gongo the Alien)

- Gongo Visits Planet Earth
- Gongo Says, 'Be Nice'.
- Happy Birthday, Gongo!