

# thee sustainable supplementary school evaluation 2023

An internal evaluation report

1 + 3 / june  
11am - 4pm



[www.blemme fatale.com](http://www.blemme fatale.com)

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## **BLEMME FATALE PRODUCTIONS**

Creative Director

**Lamesha Ruddock**

## **FREELANCERS**

Braiding Facilitator

**Portia Louis**

History Facilitator

**Young Historians Project**

Crochet Facilitator

**Tiana Esparon**

Graphic Designer

**Kiko Keighery**

Caterer

**Andrews Catering**

Live Portrait Artist

**Courtney Brown**

## **ROYAL DOCKS TEAM**

Producer

**Latoya Louis**

Events Consultant

**Sara Maxted**

Creative Production Assistant

**Uzma Gulbahar**

## **GREENHOUSE THEATRE TEAM**

Artistic Director

**Oli Savage**

Project Producer

**Rachel Routledge**

Head of Events

**Hendrik Elstein**

# **BLEMME FATALE PRODUCTIONS**

Blemme Fatale Productions is a production company with a focus on weaving Black British historical research throughout the creative process to create authentic and representative theatre and cultural events. We want to support the research and development process to inform the creative and production process.

Consequently, our mission is to:

- To offer inclusive, progressive alternative routes of education
- To demystify an elitist and hard to reach industry
- To create local and community focused mechanisms to serve those who aren't normally included
- To nurture and facilitate cross-generational and cross-disciplinary relationships

## **THEE SUSTAINABLE SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Thee Sustainable Supplementary School was a two day workshop experience where black people over 18 got the chance to learn about sustainable and self-sufficient living. The workshops included how to braid; how to crochet; sustainable living in Black British History; and time capsule making.

During the day there was a swap shop where we encouraged attendees and their families to bring in clothes, books etc to swap; there was also an item donation collection for barrels to send to Jamaica; and traditional Caribbean food on offer.

Thursday 1st June, 11 - 4pm at Thames Barrier Park (Greenhouse Theatre)  
How to Braid workshop with Nurture Academy  
Black British History workshop with the Young Historians Project

Saturday 3rd June, 11 - 4pm at Thames Barrier Park (Pavillion)  
How to Crochet workshop with Tiana Esparon  
Time Capsule making workshop with the Young Historians Project



# RECRUITMENT AND CRITERIA

Blemme Fatale Productions aimed to work with 30 young people of Black heritage. 24 tickets were sold. All with varying experience in braiding, crocheting and Black British history.

## To be eligible to apply for the programme participants had to:

- Be aged 18+ or accompanied by an adult
- Have an interest in crocheting, braiding or Black British History
- Live in London with Newham as a priority borough
- Complete the Eventbrite sign up



We advertised Thee Sustainable Supplementary School on the Blemme Fatale website, Eventbrite, Instagram, TikTok and Twitter. In addition, the Creative Director conducted targeted outreach to ensure this project reached those it would benefit most.

## The programme was shared with:

- Theatres such as the Old Vic, the Yard Theatre, Talawa Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East and Theatre Peckham
- Organisations that focus on Black creatives and education such as BLAM Charity, Black Pride, the Black Curriculum, Nourishment, 7 Black Women, Black History Studies, Babes on Waves Club, Black Girl Fest, the History Hotline and Prim Black
- Organisations that focuses on working with young people such as Poetic Unity, A New Direction and Kemi's house

**'THE SUN AND THE MUSIC REALLY HELPED TO BUILD THE AMBIENCE, AND IT TRULY FELT LIKE A BEAUTIFUL AND COMMEMORATIVE EVENT. I HAD LOTS OF FUN'** Participant

Candidates were asked to sign up via Eventbrite. Candidates were asked to fill out their details, where they are based in London and why they wanted to take part in the Supplementary School. Anyone who signed up automatically received a ticket.




# THE PROGRAMME

In total 24 signed up. Over the 2 days 15 attended. 4 attended the first day and 11 attended the second day. 100% of attendees on the first day returned for the second day.

As attendees arrived at the Greenhouse Theatre which was hosting Thee Sustainable Supplementary School they received a programme pack explaining what the itinerary was for the 2 days.

REMEMEZTIME PRODUCTIONS



## THEE SUSTAINABLE SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOL

## ORDER OF THE DAYS

- 01 Braiding for Beginners
- 02 Black British History Lesson
- 03 Crocheting for Beginners
- 04 Time Capsule Making

## BRAIDING FOR BEGINNERS

BY NURTURE ACADEMY



Students will learn:

- Health and Safety and the best practices whilst in a salon setting, using mobile hairdressing or doing their own hair.
- Appropriate tools and equipment when using clients or their own hair.
- Correct hair preparation to achieve desired hair style.
- A selection of techniques of 3 different braiding and cornrow techniques.
- Simple plastic Bantu's cornrow designs.
- How to gain confidence in themselves to do and achieve the desired hairstyle.

Overall aim:


We hope that students will gain the skills, understanding and confidence in themselves to take on what has been taught to them to then go away and practice to improve and expand their braiding skills.

## BLACK BRITISH HISTORY LESSON

BY YOUNG HISTORIANS PROJECT

Participants will get the opportunity to take part in four small activities that are part of our project. Each one Teach one: The History of Black British History. To keep to time the group will be split into smaller groups and each will rotate to the next station after approximately 7 minutes.

Community Education - Supplementary school and  
Historic Black bookshop discussion  
Academics - Primary Source Analysis  
Public History - Black British Statues History Lesson +  
Statue design discussion  
Arts - Zine group and discussion



## CROCHETING FOR BEGINNERS

BY TIANA ESPARON

In this workshop you'll learn how to make a crochet staple: the granny square! This technique can be used to create everything from clothing and accessories to blankets and home accessories, making it the perfect way to start your crochet journey. We'll begin the workshop by learning how to hold a crochet hook, cast on, make a chain and some basic crochet stitches before moving on to how to make a granny square. By the end of the workshop you'll be able to confidently crochet a granny square and will hopefully come away with lots of inspiration for all the things you can create with this one technique.



## TIME CAPSULE MAKING

BY DR. ANNE PERLITT  
HISTORIC BRITAIN



Questions to think about:

Having a time capsule may be a daunting process. What do I want to remember in 50 years? What will I be 50 years old?

In a world filled with climate anxiety and a rapidly changing London, were taking a moment to reflect.

Who are I?  
Where do I want to go?  
What's leading me there?  
What do I need to do to get there?  
Why do I need to say it now?  
What do I hope for?

Suggested items:

- Newspaper clippings
- Photos
- Book pages
- Postcards
- Anything sentimental/personal
- Clippings
- Old letters
- Clippings about when to go (as in your local area can be picked up from a local library)

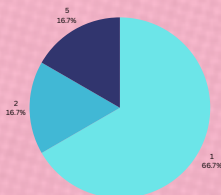
The programme ended with a time capsule making workshop where we took on board the knowledge we gained over the 2 days to reflect on where we want to be in 10 years and where the world will be in regards to recognising Black British history and culture.

**'IT WAS AN AMAZING EVENT, GREAT VIBE CREATING A TIME CAPSULE TODAY'**

Participant

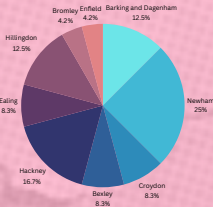


**66% OF ATTENDEES WERE COMPLETE BEGINNERS TO TIME CAPSULE MAKING**



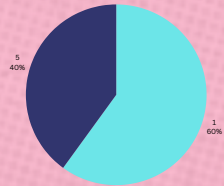
# PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES

**100% of attendees had never been to Thames Barrier Park or had engaged with the Royal Docks before**



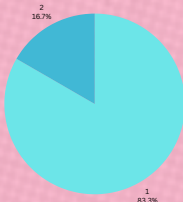
**25% OF TICKETS SOLD WERE FROM NEWHAM**

**60% OF ATTENDEES WERE COMPLETE BEGINNERS TO CROCHETING**



**'WAS REALLY FUN AND LUCY LEARNED TO CROCHET.'** Participant

Having a mixture of complete beginners and experts provided a condusive learning experience that encouraged peer teaching and conversation

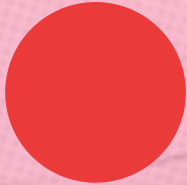


**83% OF ATTENDEES WERE COMPLETE BEGINNERS TO BRAIDING**

**'I'M A BLACK BABE WHO CAN'T BRAID AND IT'S ONE OF MY GREATEST SHAMES LMAO! SO IT WOULD BE NICE TO LEARN A BIT MORE ABOUT HOW TO DO IT.'** Participant signup

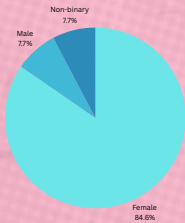
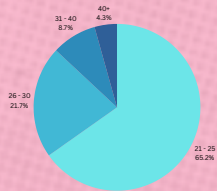


# PARTICIPANT INFORMATION



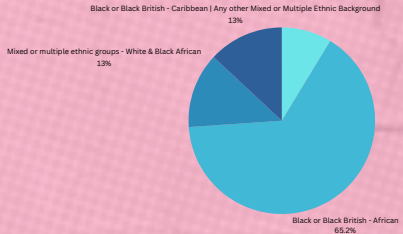
**100% OF ATTENDEES ENJOYED THE EVENT**

**65% WERE 21 - 25**



**84% WERE FEMALE**

**65% WERE BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH - AFRICAN**





# IMPACT

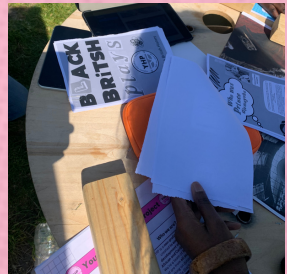


All participants learnt basic braiding skills. All braided a cornrow on the doll's head and took part in peer learning.

**'[I WILL TAKE AWAY]  
HOW TO BRAID'**

Participant

All participants took part in a Black British History lesson and took knowledge from the session. Before the lesson, 60% of participants said the only thing they knew of Black British history was Windrush. Most participants at the end were most interested in the history of Black history especially the work of John La Rose and George Padmore.



All participants received 1 on 1 guidance from the facilitator (Tiana Esparon) which gave them the attention and confidence to gain basic crocheting skills. Throughout the day as passerbys stumbled upon the school, attendees passed along the information they learnt. We ended up teaching a 12 year old who was accompanied by her father how to crochet and they stayed for the time capsule making workshop.



All participants went home with a personalised time capsule (in the form of a dictionary lock box). Blemme Fatale Productions led the session and time capsule boxes included a timeline of one's life and cultural turnings points and hopes for the future; a personalised portrait drawn by Courtney Brown (artist); and a personalised letter for their future self. All participant will receive the code to their time capsule on 3rd June 2033 via email.

# IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

## PUBLICITY

Whilst there was sufficient publicity leading to the first day being sold out, there could have been more publicity to reach more people. We made a successful TikTok detailing what items will be in the tote bag every participants was going to receive that got 2000 views and over 200 likes. In the future, we would utilise TikTok more with a regular posting schedule to maximise on engagement. We boosted a post on Instagram that reach 17,718 accounts and resulted in 77 Eventbrite link taps.

**'THE EVENT COULD HAVE BEEN MORE WIDELY PUBLICISED BUT GLAD WE FOUND IT'** Participant

## COLLECTIONS



There was a solid amount of engagement with the swap shop with 15 items being swapped. However, we found many forgot the items they intended to swap so it limited engagement. There was not a lot of engagement towards the Barrel Collection. In the future, I'd partner with a charity to match donations to encourage individuals donating items or money.

## 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

A natural time to revisit the programme is after 3rd June 2033. In the future, I aim to put on an anniversary Supplementary School and invite our previous attendees and go through our time capsules together. Relearn the skills we've picked up, teach new skills and see the state of Black British history in this country.