Alexander Fleming's death-defying worldly-wonder antibiotic drugs have saved us for the last 90 years. But bacterial resistance is growing, doomsday approaches. What better way to fight back than with a musical of epic proportions?

Based on the sell-out Edinburgh Fringe musical theatre production, a kids version of the show is now available for upper primary schools to put on themselves using a brand new web-based video resource platform.
Welcome to this exciting new project!

My name is Robin Hiley. I’m one of the founders of Charades, along with being the main writer for *The Mould that Changed the World*. We at Charades have 10 years of experience staging school musicals, working predominantly with 9-11 year olds from primary schools across Scotland. We have directed and staged about 150 school performances to date.

It has long been our ambition to capture our songs and ideas in video format so that any school across the UK and beyond can perform our shows - our van can only take us so far, and big projects like we offer are not affordable to schools every year.

Our current collaboration with top UK antibiotics charity BSAC and the University of Edinburgh has led to the creation of the *The Mould that Changed the World*, a musical with a very important public health message. This project has provided the perfect opportunity to create our video resource. The aim is simple: provide an easy-to-use and comprehensive resource that will enable schools to prepare and perform *The Mould that Changed the World* without the need for visiting drama specialists.

So, what is ‘The Mould’ about?

If you haven’t already watched our background video, this is probably the easiest way to get up to speed. Please head over to www.mouldthatchangedtheworld.com/schools-production and give it a watch - it takes about 5 minutes and will tell you all about the project.

The first half of the show is all about Alexander Fleming’s life - from his time in the World War 1 trenches, to his famous discovery of the life-saving drug penicillin, to the warning that he made to the world when he received his Nobel prize. The show goes on to show how humanity has increasingly ignored Fleming’s warning over the past 70 years, over-using penicillin, along with other antibiotics. This has given rise to a crisis called antibiotic resistance - bacteria are fighting back against antibiotics and if we don’t act quickly, this life-saving medicine will no longer work.

Working with Charades Theatre Company, Gullane Primary School premièred the schools version of the show at the National Museum of Scotland in June 2018. A month later, it was the turn of Hitherfield Primary School to perform the English première of the show at the Science Museum in London.
What is Antibiotic Resistance?
Antibiotic resistance - also known as antimicrobial resistance or simply ‘AMR’ - is a major global public health threat. As explained by Dr Meghan Perry (scientific advisor to The Mould) an SOS about “the fragile future of antibiotics needs to rapidly reach all corners of society and we all need to help. Theatre was used to spread the urgent message of HIV, and we aim to do the very same with the AMR message through The Mould.”

Who can perform the show and what does it cost?
The schools version of the show is perfect for children aged about 9-12 - best suited for upper primary schools.

There is no cost - access to the resource is currently free to all UK primary education institutions.

For the 2020 academic year we are offering local authorities or schools the opportunity to buy teacher training support which will explain to any P5-7 teacher in your county what is in the resource and how to use it. See page 5 for further details.

When do schools need to perform the show?
Whenever they want! The resources are designed to be used over a 6-8 week period, with the performance at the end of this time. Or if they don’t have time to put on the whole show, they can just learn one of the scenes for an assembly.

We understand that music and drama teachers are few and far between in this day and age, but we want as many schools as possible to benefit from the opportunity of performing The Mould that Changed the World. Our online resource is designed to not just guide the children through the rewarding experience of putting on a production, but also designed to help the teachers too!
What exactly is in this resource?

The Charades team has developed a format comprising a step-by-step online video tool kit that will enable any school to put on the show all by themselves. There are over 200 videos!

The show format:
- A cast of between 30 and 120 pupils - designed for up to three classes performing together.
- Divides the cast into 3 main ‘character groups’, suiting everyday school logistics for rehearsing most of the material in the classroom as individual classes.
- Each character group gets their turn in the limelight with individual chorus songs.
- Each character group is also part of bigger chorus scenes where 2 or 3 character groups perform together.
- A small selection of lead parts within each character group.
- Expertly devised choreography and actions.
- Physical theatre techniques to minimise props and scenery.

Through a series of engaging ‘how-to’ videos with Charades music/drama specialists leading classroom singing and drama workshops from the projection screen, the resource will take each character group on a **learning journey**. This learning journey is divided into two main sections - **In the Classroom** and **On the Stage**.

The **In the Classroom** section guides each character group through learning about characterisation, learning the lyrics and melodies of their songs, and finally learning the actions that go with their songs.

Once all three character groups have simultaneously completed their **In the Classroom** journey over a period of 4-6 weeks they will now know all their words and actions. For the last 2-3 weeks before the big day, the **On the Stage** section will show how to put what has been learnt in the classroom onto to the school stage.

Along with the extensive set of video resources, other resources include:
- Professionally recorded full band backing tracks for the performance.
- Classroom exercises, providing background to each scene of the show and linking it to the curriculum.
How do schools get involved?
Schools can sign up directly at www.mouldthatchangedtheworld.com/schools-production by filling out the form. As long as a school email address is provided, we will send them a code that will allow free access.
Alternatively, we can grant multiple access codes to local authorities if they are purchasing either of the following support options.

Charades-led project support
Charades Theatre Company is offering the following products in support of the project for the 2020/21 academic term:

**TEACHER TRAINING LECTURE - £225***
(for all primary teachers in your local-authority)
A 1-hour lecture aimed at previewing the resource and training teachers how to use it and support the project.

**TEACHER TRAINING SEMINAR - £300***
(for up to 20 primary teachers in your local-authority)
A 2-hour seminar aimed at previewing the resource and training teachers how to use it and support the project. It will also include additional training in how to deliver and direct a school music/drama project, based on 10 years of practical experience.

* Based on location, a travel supplement will be added.

Can I listen to the show?
Yes - we are pleased to make one of the scenes involving the character group The Scientists available for you to preview.

We have combined this preview with one of the resource videos in The Scientists’ learning journey. This particular video comes at the end of the “Learn the Actions” section for this scene, showing a full run through of the choreography throughout this song.

Please visit: www.mouldthatchangedtheworld.com/schools-resource-preview/

Please use the excerpt of the lyrics below in conjunction with the video, and whilst you’re on the website, don’t forget to sign up!
Scene 3b - Let’s Clean!

We now meet Alexander Fleming’s colleagues in the next door lab. A stark contrast to the old Scotsman, the Scientists are clean-obsessed ‘modern’ practitioners who cannot help but sterilise everything in sight.

The Scientists

For modern discoveries
sterilisation is our occupation
cleanliness guaranteed
wash up our equipment, clean as can be

Eliminate fungi,
turn the autoclave up high.
Inactivate those spores,
It’s clean and tidy science we adore

So sterilize those beakers
disinfect the glass pipette
purify and turn the heat up high
wear goggles; protect your eyes
Un-block the bunsen burner
decontaminate the tongs
sanitise the test tubes ‘til they gleam
our laboratory regime; let’s clean!

As Archimedes said
the Ah-ha moment from the proponent
First person to detect
A brand new solution, the eureka effect
But no discovery
is made unless the lab is germ-free
Disinfect the the floor
It’s clean and tidy science we adore

So sterilize those beakers
disinfect that glass pipette
purify and turn the heat up high
wear goggles; protect your eyes
Un-block the bunsen burner
decontaminate the tongs
sanitise the test tubes ‘til they gleam
our laboratory regime; let’s clean!
Fleming enters to tell scientists about the intriguing mould he has found growing in the little petri dish. A scientist makes Fleming wash his hands on his way into lab.

**Fleming**

Colleagues, I have stumbled upon an exciting find
From many tests I do believe this is one of a kind
This mould upon this dish could be a life-preserving cure
but without your learned help I cannot make the substance pure

**Scientist 1**

Intriguing find
A bold and clearly interesting theory

**Scientist 2**

our expertise combined
that could be a mighty meeting of minds

**Scientist 3**

But we don’t work with mould
A dirty fungus truth be told
a hazard we abhor

**Scientist 1, 2 & 3**

it’s clean and tidy science we adore!

So sterilize those beakers
disinfect that glass pipette
purify and turn the heat up high
wear goggles; protect your eyes
Un-block the bunsen burner
decontaminate the tongs
sanitise the test tubes ’til they gleam
our laboratory regime; let’s clean

*The Scientists exit, leaving the rebuked Fleming looking dejected.*