

A theatrical dive to the deep sea

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'A theatrical dive into the deep... or how we tickled the imagination of 8 and 9 years old children with the yeti crab and his fellow inhabitants, and discovered a dark green deep sea monster (the 'Gronker') with the Moonhorn.'

The experiences with a science theatre and music project, conducted in 3 schools in an underprivileged area in the city of Ghent (Belgium), will be presented. In each school a theatre maker and musician plunged 4th-graders (8-10 years old) during one week into the world of the deep sea and the science behind it, taking them on a poetic and frightening journey through this alien world and turn on their imagination as an approach to transform it into theatre and sound. The week resulted in a short performance for peers and parents.

In this workshop, several participants of this project will bear witness on their experiences and give their point of view on the different impacts of this initiative. Additionally the workshop leaders will go into dialogue with the audience to examine the conditions that are specifically needed for other marine science messages to be incorporated into performing arts (like theater, music and soundscapes, opera, musical, dance...). What works and what does not? What skills, other than increasing ocean literacy, are encouraged by working with this format?