

BIRMINGHAM MAIL

Play which speaks the language of friendship

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LOOKING For Yoghurt, the play upon which the game was based, is an international project bringing together actors and teams from the UK, Korea and Japan.

It centres on three characters, English-speaking Blue, Japanese-speaking Aka and Korean-speaking Norang, as they meet in a construction site and build a friendship.

The play, which was premiered at Birmingham Repertory Theatre's The Door last month, will now be performed in Korea and Japan and children in those countries will also discover the game created by children at Reaside.

In their World of Yoghurt game, the three children have their own adventures and look for

Yoghurt, a cat lost by Norang.

The children at Reaside watched various excerpts of the play during their workshops but they only saw the finished production when they had completed the creation of their game. And they admit that posed a few problems.

Ten-year-old Demi Keville says: “We saw the first bit just after Christmas and we saw the dress rehearsal two weeks before the play started. When we saw the whole play I was surprised as it didn’t have the ending I thought. When we did our game we wanted them to be able to find the cat but in the play they don’t.

“We were each given a piece of paper and told to think about levels and pictures and what we would want to see in the game. Then each week Steve would go away with what we had said and he would come back a week later with some improvements.

“He showed us about how we could use a game to tell a story and to create people so we created people like Blue and Aka.”

And Demi may have created the game but that does not make it any easier for her to play it.

“The problem is that I am just rubbish at computer games,” she adds.

Gary Biles, aged 11, says a good many children wanted to be involved in the project and he was part of a select few.

“We all wrote down if we wanted to do it and then the teachers chose about 15 of us,” he says. “Then we had to come up with all of these ideas which Steve could make into a game.

“One of the best things about it was working as a team. We all had to agree on things.

“When we saw it I felt very proud of it. It is really good and I think people will have a great experience playing it.”

Eleven-year-old Oliver Hambidge admits it was challenging at times.

“We would draw bits and make up levels and then Steve would look at them,” he says. “Bits were being added all the time. Some of it was easy but it was hard to do other bits because we hadn’t done a game before.”

Classmate Brandon Fitzgerald, also 11, was so keen to play World of Yoghurt he had to make an investment as it is a PlayStation 3 game.

“I liked it so much that I had to save up to buy a PS3,” he says. “Now I can play it and play it with other people as well.”

Brandon was also so keen to see the play that he took his family a few days before the

school trip to The Rep.



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