

# The Rose Amphitheatre

Commissioned by Ravenstone Primary School, Balham, London. 2003



This Amphitheatre is an exciting new performance space and an every day seating area for Ravenstone Primary School. With two tiers of seating and a sweeping ramped walkway, it can accommodate a considerable audience.

Unique to this structure is its remarkable 'silent audience' the hundreds of ceramic 'characters' which encircle the amphitheatre, housed in special 'cages' around the perimeter. Every pupil in the school made a model, on the theme of 'stories from around the world'. The little colourful sculptures really animate the space.

It took over 10 tonnes of 'green oak' to construct the amphitheatre, which was built on site by Tobie Arnott. During the excavation, the fascinating ruins of an old building were unearthed. These architectural remains have been transformed into a distinctive landscape which uses the old cobbles and attractive brickwork as a framework for the planting. 5 Eucalyptus trees to provide shade are incorporated into the landscape, adding to its sense of mystery.

This has been a wonderful project, encompassing the whole school. We are sure that the Rose Amphitheatre will be the happy site for many excellent performances for years to come.



**Cookson & McNally**