



National Association of Youth Theatres

## **Things to consider when starting a youth theatre**

Running a youth theatre involves considerable responsibilities, so before you embark on what will be an exciting and demanding project, it's worthwhile taking a little time to think through some of the following:

### **Why start a youth theatre?**

- Is this something you really want to do?
- Has someone else asked you to do it?
- Are you responding to a lack of youth activities where you live?

### **Who is your youth theatre aimed at?**

- What age group will you working with?
- Will you operate an open access policy?
- Can you make provision for all young people?
- What numbers can you cater for?

### **Where will you run your youth theatre?**

- Have you got a venue you can use?
- How often will you have access to it?
- Is it accessible to everyone who may want to join?
- Does it have adequate facilities?
- How much will it cost?

### **When will you run your youth theatre?**

- How often will you meet?
- What times and days will be most convenient for you and the members?
- Have you checked when other local youth groups meet to avoid clashes?

### **What kind of youth theatre will you run?**

- What kind of work will it do?
- Do your interests match those of the potential members?

## How will you run your youth theatre?

- Have you got sufficient funding, or promises of funding to get started?
- Have you got the contacts to publicise the youth theatre and attract members?
- Have you got the basic skills to run sessions, or can you call on people who have?

## Good practice

We would certainly advise that you comply with things that we would consider good practice:

- All workers should be CRB checked.
- Comply with health and safety legislation and completing risk assessments (for more information visit the Health and Safety Executive website [hse.org.uk](http://hse.org.uk)).
- Have adequate insurance including public liability (please see details of insurance companies below).
- Have the following policies/statements in place: artistic, confidentiality/data protection, equal opportunities, governance, health and safety, human resources, marketing/communications and safeguarding/child protection. You can find some sample policies & procedures in the registered groups section of our website at [nayt.org.uk](http://nayt.org.uk).
- Have a mission statement/constitution and a steering group.
- Adequate supervision ratios (please see attached document)
- Have a qualified first aider.
- You can get advice on how to set your organisation up if you visit the [Business Link](#), [Companies House](#) and [Charity Commission](#) websites.

This is not an exhaustive list, but hopefully it will help. You can find out more information if you visit the registered groups section of our website at [nayt.org.uk](http://nayt.org.uk)

We also have a publication called the [Big Youth Theatre Manual](#) which contains advice on all aspects of youth theatre and our [Excellence and Inclusion](#) scheme which sets standards for youth theatres to work towards. You can find out more information on our website at [nayt.org.uk](http://nayt.org.uk).