

NATIONAL CONVENTION *of* YOUTH DRAMA

Friday 20 March | #DramaCon2020



Youth Theatre
Arts Scotland
Events



SCOTTISH
YOUTH
THEATRE



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



National Convention *of* Youth Drama

Event Information | #DramaCon2020

In partnership with our host venue Scottish Youth Theatre, Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS) is proud to present the National Convention of Youth Drama 2020. The Convention welcomes everyone who uses drama and theatre in their work with young people and promises an inspiring day of workshops, panel discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities. The Convention will cater for...

- Drama workshop leaders and assistants (voluntary and professional)
- Primary and secondary drama teachers
- Youth workers and community learning professionals
- Theatre practitioners
- Further and higher education students of drama, teaching or the performing arts
- Emerging young leaders (aged 16+)

When you purchase your event ticket on [Eventbrite](#), we'll ask you to select three breakout sessions. It goes without saying, but you can only be in one place at a time, so please only select one session for each of the three time slots. Speeches for all delegates will book-end the day. The sessions on offer throughout the day will explore the following three key topics:

- **Creating the Conditions for Social Change**
How youth and arts workers can support young people to affect political and social change.
- **Creating the Conditions for Leaders to Grow**
How youth and arts workers can ensure their own professional development, sustainability and wellbeing.
- **Creating the Conditions for Young People to Thrive**
How youth and arts workers can provide the optimal environment

Here's a bit of information on what to expect in each session to help you make the best choice for what you want to get out of the day. We've colour-coded the sessions so that you can follow one topic thread, or mix it up if you prefer. There will also be additional sessions focussed on **early career development**.

Day at a Glance...

9.30am	Registration and Refreshments
10am	Welcome
10.30am	Session One
11.45am	Tea Break
12.15pm	Session Two
1.30pm	Lunch Break
2.15pm	The Great Debate
3pm	Session Three
4.15pm	Performance from Birds of Paradise Young Artists & Strange Town
4.45pm	Wrap up and Thanks
5pm	Drinks and Networking
6.30pm	Goodbye!

Tickets and Booking

There are three ticket types for YTAS Members, Non-Members and a reduced price for Under 25s and Speakers. Tickets include access to workshops, talks and events, as well as lunch and refreshment breaks. Early Birds will benefit from a discount of 10% on all tickets booked before **Tuesday 18 February** (ends 11.30pm). Bookings close **Wednesday 18 March**, 12pm.

You can pay in full online at the time of booking, or request an invoice and pay in full via cheque or bank transfer within 30 days of receipt.

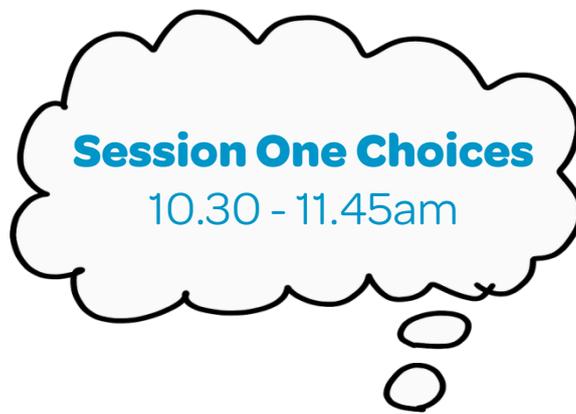
	Under 25s and Speakers	YTAS members*	Non-members
Early Bird ticket	£45	£63	£81
Regular ticket	£50	£70	£90

* Membership of YTAS is open to all. [Join now and benefit from the reduced members' rate on all tickets.](#)

For general enquiries or if you have specific access requirements, please contact catherine@ytas.org.uk or call 0131 538 0591 to discuss how we can best support these. There is also a space to mark this on your Eventbrite booking.

Bursaries

We are also offering three bursary places to YTAS Members to attend this year's event. Bursaries will cover ticket price, plus up to £50 travel expenses and accommodation in Glasgow if required. To find out more, download the application form [here](#). The deadline for bursary applications is **Monday 17 February**, 5pm.



The Revolution Will Be Staged: Can Culture Support Political and Social Change?

Ecodrama | Taitiu Theatre Company (Mosney Youth Theatre) | Strange Town

How can we encourage and support political and social change through the work we create as well as the activity we undertake with young people? A panel of three companies discuss their recent experiences of; working with young refugees, exploring European identity and encouraging positive action for the environment, and the impact this work has had on participants and audiences.

Throw Your Plan out the Window: How to Adapt in the Moment

Fraser MacLeod

You're leading your workshop but things aren't quite going to plan... Don't panic – you can always adapt! Join theatre artist, facilitator and director Fraser MacLeod as he leads this practical workshop exploring how we can adjust our workshop plans in the face of the unknown. Sharing a series of fun and practical exercises, along with tips and tricks for adaptations to suit a particular group, this workshop will be especially useful for early career facilitators or young people looking to take their first steps in facilitating.

Breaking Barriers: How to be Truly Accessible

Birds of Paradise Youth Arts Consultants | Callum Madge

The Youth Arts Consultants (YACs) are a group of young disabled artists who have been trained by Birds of Paradise Theatre Company to provide accessibility consultancy to the sector to improve the accessibility for disabled people engaging in arts activities. In this workshop the YACs will give provocations and share practical exercises to explore how the sector can improve its provision for participants with disabilities, with direct examples from young people who have faced these barriers. A great opportunity to debate, discuss and explore how we all get things wrong sometimes, and how we can make steps to getting it right.

Pushing Boundaries: Developing International Careers

BUZZ Network partners

During this session, Scottish and European artists and cultural leaders will share their tips and advice from exchanges and residency programmes which improved their knowledge, practice and self-development. With the current threats to EU funding and the environmental impact of

international flights both firmly on the agenda, it's never been more important to consider the real benefits, opportunities and alternative options for developing an international career.

More Than a Tick Box: Working across Intersections

Mahri Reilly | Clara Bloomfield

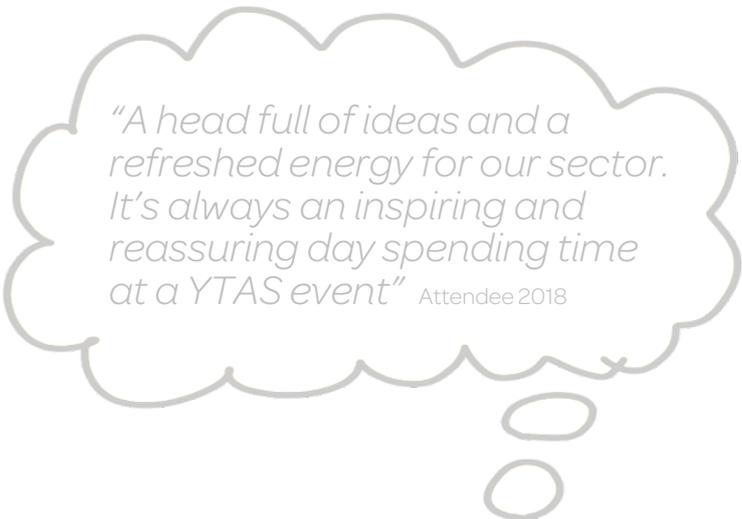
Equality and diversity frameworks often mean we have to categorise young people into social groupings of class, gender, race, sexuality, disability, geographic isolation etc., without truly acknowledging the multiple systems of oppression that impact young people's participation on a daily basis. When working in socially engaged arts practice how do we ensure everyone has an equitable experience and is cared for and empowered? Join Mahri Reilly and Clara Bloomfield for a round table discussion as we attempt to dissect power and privilege, challenging our own cultural and unconscious biases and deepening our understanding of intersectionality.



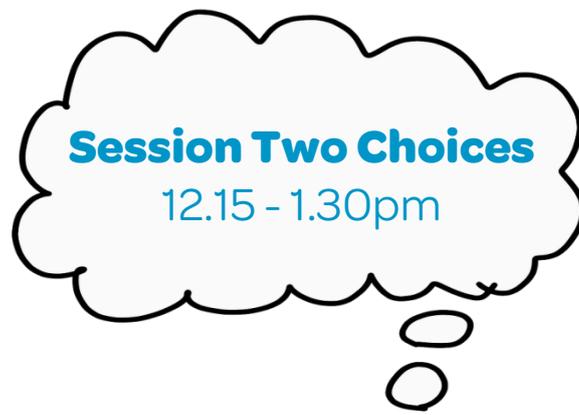
"I loved the debate... there should be more communication between the education sector and youth theatre sector" Attendee 2018



"Today has been energising and has allowed me to reflect on my practice and feel empowered to go out and do something about it" Attendee 2018



"A head full of ideas and a refreshed energy for our sector. It's always an inspiring and reassuring day spending time at a YTAS event" Attendee 2018



The First Cut is the Deepest: How Leaders Can Adapt to Funding Changes

Pace Theatre | Scottish Outdoor Education Centres | Eden Court

We are existing on a shifting landscape with funding challenges and cuts seemingly appearing around every corner. So how do we face these head on and ensure our own sustainability and wellbeing? Hear from a panel of three very different organisations about how they dealt with challenging situations in relation to funding and join the discussion on how we avoid becoming disillusioned.

Youth Advisory Panel with YTAS's Young Board Members

Mhairi Gilmour | John Reader

Mhairi Gilmour and John Reader, Youth Theatre Arts Scotland's first young board members will host this inaugural Youth Advisory Panel. A unique opportunity for convention delegates to hear more about the role of young board members as well as providing focused consultation on youth theatre provision and development across Scotland.

Out of the Ordinary Creativity: Working with Young People in Unusual Environments

Imagine | Polmont Youth Theatre

During this session we will explore two very different artistic approaches that have brought theatre to audiences and participants in a brand-new setting. Glas(s) Performance will share their experience of setting up Polmont Youth Theatre – the first ever youth theatre to exist within a Scottish prison – exploring what it's like to make theatre with young people in custody. Imagine will discuss collaborating with Punchdrunk to bring the [Lost Lending Library](#) to primary schools across Edinburgh. Join us for a roundtable discussion about the value of bringing theatre to those who wouldn't normally experience it.

Rehearsals for the Revolution

John McCann

Join playwright and actor John McCann in this practical workshop exploring the enduring power of theatre and performance as a crucial means of protest. At a time when words and gestures are increasingly challenged, manipulated and devalued and when even the smallest gesture has the capacity to be utterly revolutionary, it's time to ask yourself "How *will I act?*"

Groundwork, Honesty and Opportunity: Preparing Young People for Industry
Lyceum Youth Theatre | Scotland's Enterprising Schools | Scottish Drama Training Network

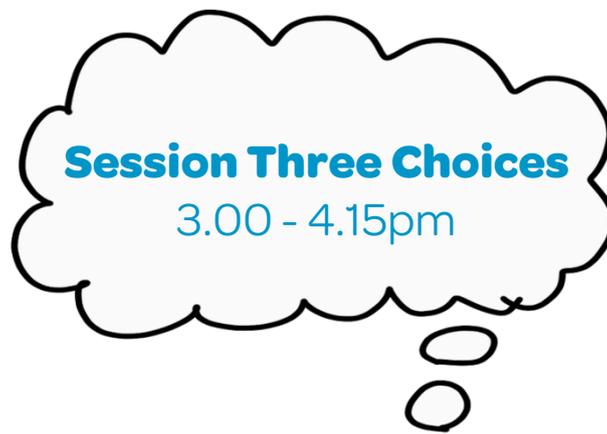
We all know that a career in the creative industries is incredibly satisfying but can also present a lot of challenges. How can we prepare our participants for this as well as the changing world of work they face? How do we prepare them with the tools to look after their wellbeing as well as a set of diverse skills that will equip them for a long career? A panel of three different companies share their approaches to preparing young people for their future careers, exploring everything from mental health to the importance of lifelong learning.



"Some really valuable exercises and approaches to work and projects. I also personally feel very positive and inspired - READY TO GO!" Attendee 2018



"We can create an open environment for young people to express themselves. We need to collaborate with them and value their ideas" Attendee 2018



Supporting Young People's Wellbeing

Scottish Youth Theatre | Articulate | Pure Potential Scotland

During this panel session we will hear from a variety of creative organisations about how they have approached supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing through creative processes and what techniques we can incorporate into our own practice to ensure our young people are supported. An opportunity to discuss the situations we all face with the rise of mental health challenges in young people.

Where Do You See Yourself In Ten Years?: Setting Career Goals

Andonella Thomson (Kingscavil Consulting)

Are you itching for change or a new challenge? Do you feel a little stuck in your career? Do you need a push to think further ahead? In this practical and engaging workshop, trained coach and mentor Andonella Thomson will help you set yourself goals for the future and ensure you have the tools to achieve them.

Get up! Stand up! Create!: Activism through Art

Hot Chocolate Trust | Jordan & Skinner

How can participatory practice and youth work open doors for young people to have an influence in the world, to be activists through their chosen art form and encourage positive change in the world? In this round table discussion Andy Robertson from Hot Chocolate Trust and Melanie Jordan from Jordan & Skinner will share their experiences of activism through art.

Little People, Big Imagination: Creativity in Primary Schools

The Drama Box | Aspire | Sistema Scotland

Arts learning experiences play a vital role in developing young people's capacities for critical thinking, creativity, imagination and innovation. Three organisations explore their experience of working within primary schools and the profound effect that this has had on pupils' learning and wellbeing. The Drama Box will discuss how the high-challenge; low risk environment they encourage creates the perfect conditions for individuals to thrive. Aspire will share how their work with drama, dance and music in the areas of highest deprivation in Dundee aims to transform children's lives and to empower the communities they work with, and Sistema Scotland will discuss how their Big Noise programme is targeting some of Scotland's most challenged communities and is enriching young people's lives through music.



Getting to the National Convention of Youth Drama

The National Convention of Youth Drama will take place at Scottish Youth Theatre, Brunswick Street, Glasgow, G1 1TF. For more information and local travel advice, visit [SYT's website](#). If you want advice on finding hotel accommodation nearby please contact info@ytas.org.uk.



By Train

The closest train stations are Glasgow Queen Street and Glasgow Central, which are both less than a 10-minute walk from SYT.



By Bus

Glasgow's main bus terminal at Buchanan St is a 12-minute walk from SYT. Buses travel regularly from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen and Dundee.

To plan your journey by train or bus visit [TravelLine Scotland](#)



By Car

We'd encourage you to take public transport to the event, but if you need to drive there is no parking at the venue, but various on-street and car park options can be found nearby. Delegates may like to consider lift shares using services such as [GoCarShare](#).



A Greener Convention

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland is a climate-aware and climate-active organisation. We are proud to be a member of the [Green Arts Initiative](#), an interactive community of arts organisations working to reduce their environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable Scotland. We are committed to monitoring and reducing our own environmental impact, and to inspiring, encouraging and supporting our sector to act sustainably as we transition towards a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy.

At the National Convention of Youth Drama, we will be...

- Reducing paper resources. We'll be sending out information packs, delegate lists and schedules by email.
- Providing vegetarian-based catering, with vegan and other dietary requirement options available.
- Encouraging you to bring your own keep cup to use throughout the day.