

# YT Freelancers Check-In



*22nd April 2020*

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## **Attendees:**

Lisa Williamson (Chair)  
Finlay Ross Russell  
Jonathan White  
Alice Donnelly  
Jeannie Marie Hamilton  
Josh Holton (minute taking)

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## **Check-in began with how everyone was feeling and self-care suggestions such as:**

- Escapist entertainment
- Keeping activity diverse
- Acknowledging and accepting that it's not possible to be at full productivity just now.

## **What are freelancers' priorities this week?**

- Scriptwriting and working out whether this is something done for its intrinsic value or just to satisfy the need to be doing something.
- Starting to think politically again. Question the feeling of having to be doing something
- Preparing for the question, what do we want the world to look like after this?
- Working out finances. Time to do the admin side of freelancing.
- Waiting to hear back from funding applications.

## **YT Essential Online Consultation**

- Lisa updated on YT essentials- explained how the old programme is being swapped to online platform, from now to end of July. All events are free and can be booked on Eventbrite.
  - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> is ideas swap shop- a platform to share what has and hasn't worked for engaging young people remotely.
  - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>- digital safeguarding.
  - 19<sup>th</sup> May- Supporting young people's wellbeing.
  - 26<sup>th</sup> May- What's next- online mentoring coaching session about goals for the future.
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- Freelancers expressed an appetite for finance and budgeting and wellbeing.
  - Freelancers find it difficult to imagine operating after lockdown, so not sure how useful YT essentials will be on such a practical level specific to youth theatre.

- Freelancer appetite for something where people can chat informally like the check-ins.
- Interest for something that reflects the unpredictability of youth theatre and the current situation.
- Keenness for something about origins of how practitioners got into youth theatre and their processes.
- Concern from freelancers that they won't be working with young people. Things like digital safeguarding maybe not be that useful for unemployed freelancers.
- LW said Check ins will continue- the informality and contact is appreciated by the freelancers.
- Freelancers request that YTAS finds ways to link freelancers to organisations. Preferably in a fun and social way.

**Other sessions freelancers have attended include:**

Creative Edinburgh events, Star Catchers check-ins, National Association of Youth Theatre check in, Boundless events, and Epad lunchtime meetings.