

YT Managers Check-In



1st May 2020

Attendees:

Kenny McGlashan (YTAS) - Chair
Josh Holton (YTAS)- Minutes
Lisa Williamson (YTAS)
Mahri Reily (SYT)
Jo Jeffries (Edinburgh Youth Theatre)
Lisa Mathieson (Aberdeen Performing Arts)
Julie Brown (Toonspeak)
Eleanor Morrison (Firefly Arts / Edinburgh College)
Catherine Ward-Stoddart(Tron Theatre)
Nicholas Barton-Wines (RCS)
Gillian Gourlay (NTS)
Matthew Swan (Regal Youth Company)
Jo Jeffries (Edinburgh Youth Theatre)
Jenni Mason(PACE Theatre)
Lucy McGlennon (Eden Court)
Andi Stevens (Comar Young Company)

Introductions, including “A time when you were ‘on the curve’”, chosen from the diagram:

<https://cutt.ly/RyhgbIS>

- There was general feeling that everybody had been up and down the curve at various points.
- YTAS confirmed that attendees are welcome to attend if furloughed.

Adapting Summer plans:

- Concerns were voiced about losing momentum after working hard to build a following for particular events.
- Methods for marking the dates of these events were discussed. Andi from Comar Young Company shared how they celebrated their 10th anniversary by releasing videos by young participants across the week.
- Mahri (SYT) shared how the national ensemble had moved online with rehearsals and creative practice. Participants were given the opportunity to opt out as this is different to what they signed up for. They have been working with a creative director as it can be overwhelming to think managerially and creatively at the same time.
- Concerns were aired that youth theatre participants may lose confidence and parents may be angry if shows don't go ahead soon.

- Kenny (YTAS) shared that some Irish theatres had prioritised backstage production for the time being so that things could move forward.
- Catherine (Tron) shared that making a decision to postpone shows to the same time next year allowed the freedom to do fun and productive zoom activities for the time being. Young people, their parents and creatives are onboard.
- Jenni (PACE) shared that engagement was kept by keeping young participants in groups they largely recognised with staff they knew. Alumni volunteers and masterclasses are also a big help. A donate what you can system is working well.
- Consideration that the community of youth theatres and their physical buildings (if they have them) are assets for the country.

Adapting to social distancing:

- It may be possible for youth theatres to fill gaps in school provision.
- Does social distancing contradict the core values of Youth Theatre?
- Concerns that activity might be forced when the best course of action might be to wait this out.
- Finding out what young participants value about youth theatre could guide how practice continues.