

YT Managers Check-In

5th June 2020



Attendees:

Kenny McGlashan (YTAS) – Chair
Josh Holton (YTAS) – Minutes
Lisa Williamson (YTAS and Hidden Route)
Mahri Reilly (Scottish Youth Theatre)
Louise Allan (Glass Performance)
Jo Jeffries (Edinburgh Youth Theatre)
Lisa Mathieson (Aberdeen Performing Arts)
Gillian Gourlay (NTS)
Amy Watt (Eden Court)
Kate Stevens (Beacon Arts Centre)

Introductions, including the following suggestions for “what you’ve been reading recently”:

- An article from Ned Glasier of Company Three, featured in The Stage:
<https://www.thestage.co.uk/opinion/company-threes-ned-glasier-if-supported-youth-theatre-can-redefine-the-industrys-future>
- This is Not a Drill by Extinction Rebellion
- Women on The Edge of Time by Marge Piercy.
- Everywoman by Jess Phillips
- Ear for Eye by Debbie Tucker Green
- My Dark Vanessa - Kate Elizabeth Russell

YTAS Updates

- YTAS “Green Room” sessions start this afternoon as a fortnightly social space for people involved in Youth Theatre. Contact lisa@ytas.org.uk for an invite.
- In the near future, Managers Check-ins will become fortnightly to alternate with green room sessions.
- Upcoming YT Essentials Online sessions can be viewed here:
<https://www.ytas.org.uk/2019/06/yt-essentials-full-programme-announced/>
- YTAS were made aware that some people, especially newer freelancers, may feel nervous about engaging. YTAS aim to address this potential barrier via social media.

Sector Updates

- Kenny shared sector update document for those present to add their updates.

- YTAS plan to reach out to Imaginate and FYT to find out how they are doing.

Draft plans for the Sector Recovery Working Group.

- The sector recovery working group will be open to all for a weekly discussion starting June 16th. It aims to focus on objectives and outputs (not a list of challenges) on topics including venues, training, events, sustainability, and partnerships. Contact kenny@ytas.org.uk for an invite.

Feedback and discussion:

- Interest in keeping updated on guidelines as they emerge.
- Creation of toolkits will be useful
- An interest in what other countries are doing, whilst bearing in mind that Scottish rules and guidelines may differ.
- Agreement that a proactive focus is positive and inspiring.
- It is key that smaller organisations are also involved.
- Perhaps larger organisations can take on some of the administrative burden that may prevent the attendance of smaller groups?
- A larger conference-style consultation may be of use later on.

Future Managers Check-in Agendas:

- Perhaps manager check ins could be more about managers than their organisations, once the recovery working group gets started.
- A skills audit would be useful as well as finding out managers' capacities for helping each other.
- Check-ins mustn't ignore the anxiety of managers who are currently secure but fear for the future.
- Be mindful of the risk of losing contact with furloughed managers who may be less able to communicate.
- Concern that not all problems can be shared in the current format, e.g. money issues and professionalism.
- Furloughed staff are still keen to be involved. They won't want to miss out on learning opportunities
- Kenny will look into and update on furlough guidance in terms of clarity around what can and can't be done in terms of communicating with furloughed workers.

Check-out: "Something old and something new you're planning this week(end)"