

YT Managers Check-In

8 May 2020



Attendees:

Kenny McGlashan (YTAS) - Chair
Catherine Makin (YTAS)
Lisa Williamson (YTAS)
Andi Stevens (Comar)
Nicholas Barton-Wines (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland)
Mahri Reilly (Scottish Youth Theatre)
Matthew Swan (Regal Youth Company)
Julie Brown (Toonspeak)
Louise Allan (Glass Performance)
Eleanor Morrison (Firefly Arts / Edinburgh College)
Jo Jeffries (Edinburgh Youth Theatre)
Stewart McLaren (Mix Up Theatre)
Catherine Ward-Stoddart (Tron Theatre)
Graham Kitchener (Film Academy Edinburgh)
Jenni Mason (PACE)

Introductions

Participants shared how their focus for this week and what they're setting as future goals. Common topic which arose included:

- Furlough and staff changes.
- Having the opportunity to complete website updates and other ongoing admin tasks
- Forward Planning. Activity plans beginning to take shape as 2020 projects move to 2021 onwards.
- Settling into new way of working and finding ways to adapt for summer projects.
- Starting to explore what organisations will look like in the future.
- Fundraising – plugging gaps, writing new applications.
- Trying to be creative/starting writing projects.
- Exploring how online performances and ticket sales might work.

YTAS Update

- [International Swap Shop](#), a joint session with YTAS & Youth Theatre Ireland will take place next week, with case studies from each country. Capacity is very limited to allow for discussion, but the session will be recorded for those not able to attend.
- YTAS are continuing to update the [Coronavirus Sector Guidance Toolkit](#) to make sure its relevant. New additions include:

- Wellbeing resource update.
 - Scottish Gov Cyber Resilience guidance now linked to from toolkit.
 - SCVO links, in the other resources toolkit.
- Coaching & 1-1 Advice Sessions are still available, for anyone involved in the sector who is looking for guidance at this time.

Sector Shoutouts

Participants shared activities they were keen to advertise or seek help for:

- Mix Up Theatre: Hosting a 24hr workshops fundraiser for National Emergencies Trust . Looking to advertise the workshops and slots are still available if anyone would like volunteer to host a workshop. More details can be found [here](#).
- Toonspeak: have been awarded funding through Scottish Government's Supporting Communities Fund to increase their activity in NE Glasgow. Launching three new activities Creative Calm, Digital Access to Creativity & Projects by Post. Details can be found [here](#).
- Currently recruiting for two paid opportunities:
 - JOB [Digital Creative Inclusion Coordinator](#). (This role has a very quick turnaround deadline is Sunday 10 March, due to take most Monday 18 March.)
 - Opportunity to join their [Artists Mentor Bank](#) to be matched with participants for 1-1 mentoring sessions.
- [Connecting Scotland](#) is a targeted fund to help connect with those who are unable or struggling to access online resources.
- Nicholas Barton-Wines introduced his research practice which helps to capture data to make the case for youth arts at a lobbying level. Process involves tracking mental health, needs desires and challenges within groups and demonstrate the ways in which participation is beneficial for young people. He is keen to set up a steering group to inform and develop this across Scotland. YTAS suggested facilitating a focussed session around this, also looking at YTAS's upcoming sector research and previous pilot studies from Toonspeak.

Discussion: What Could Youth Theatre's offer to schools and venues during the next phase?

Participants started a discussion around the next phase of work which could take place as lockdown measures are released. Questions included:

- a) How can youth theatres support young people's transition back to school? What could youth theatre's offer be to schools and the local community?

- b) How can youth theatre support the challenges and changes expected for theatre audiences over the next 12 months? What could youth theatre's offer be to venues and industry organisations like FST / Creative Scotland?
- c) What can YTAS do to help with this?

Emerging concerns included:

- Risk assessment required when classes go back. Is there a training session or blueprint of conditions to consider before hosting classes?
- More likely that numbers would be lower. Additional staffing capacity may be required to host additional classes if smaller group sizes are required.
- New support mechanisms are likely to be needed to adjust to new practises.
- SYT had been due to launch their [Generator](#) programme in schools and colleges in August, but this will now need to be readjusted.
- Important to be mindful of those who are not obviously slipping through the cracks. Many more young people becoming vulnerable due to lockdown. How we can support young people's mental health. For example, working with schools to monitor young people's wellbeing.
- Is there potentially more normality in keeping online sessions going one schools are back in place rather than having smaller groups or leaders wearing PPE.
- Is there any way to shift focus of relationship with venue? What is the potential of using their spaces for YT practise?

Checkout:

Participants shared some music getting them through lockdown. We've collated it into a spotify playlist [here](#). Enjoy!