



## Project Report 2014

Celebrating excellence in youth theatre and transforming young lives through creative and cultural exchange

**RE:LOCATION** is an international youth theatre exchange project. Co-founded by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS) and the Rogaland Teater, Norway it provides an international platform for showcasing young talent and ideas and celebrates the creative and social powers of youth theatre arts. It is a best practice exercise in multinational partner working.

Every two years – each time in a different host country – talented young people from across Europe come together in a unique collaboration with professional theatre artists to create a brand new piece of contemporary theatre. The project took place for the first time in Norway in 2012.

In July 2014 Scotland proudly hosted RE:LOCATION at the Rothes Halls and Falkland Estate campsite in Fife, welcoming 28 young participants aged 15-18 and their group leaders from the following partner youth theatres:

Scotland **Mitchell School of Drama** [www.rhonamitchell.co.uk/](http://www.rhonamitchell.co.uk/)

Norway **Rogaland Teater** [www.rogaland-teater.no/english](http://www.rogaland-teater.no/english)

Denmark **Filuren** [www.filuren.dk/](http://www.filuren.dk/)

Sweden **Västerås Kulturskola** [www1.vasteras.se/kulturskolan/](http://www1.vasteras.se/kulturskolan/)

France **Le Grand Bleu** [www.legrandbleu.com/\\_front/Pages/page.php?cat=4&item=4&page=24](http://www.legrandbleu.com/_front/Pages/page.php?cat=4&item=4&page=24)

Germany **Junge Akteure** [www.theaterbremen.de/de\\_DE/junges-theater#junge-akteure](http://www.theaterbremen.de/de_DE/junges-theater#junge-akteure)

Ireland **Kildare Youth Theatre** [www.kildareyouththeatre.com](http://www.kildareyouththeatre.com)

RE:LOCATION 2014 was produced by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland in partnership with the Rogaland Teater, Norway. The project was generously supported with funding from the European Union, the National Theatre of Scotland, Fife Council and Creative Scotland. In-kind venue support was kindly provided by Fife Cultural Trust.





## Project Aims and Objectives

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland's mission is to transform young lives through youth theatre by developing inspiring participatory opportunities for young people, and connecting, supporting and training the professionals who work with them. Aligned with this mission, the aims and objectives of RE:LOCATION 2014 were:

### To enable the young participants:

- to work with professional European theatre artists to devise and perform a new piece of ensemble theatre
- to take part in an international creative exchange; learning, performing and making friends with other young people from across Europe who all share a passion for youth theatre

### To allow professional artists:

- to represent their country's youth theatre sector within an international collaboration
- to share and develop their artistic practice with international colleagues
- to establish new international partnerships
- to increase their knowledge and understanding of best practice in youth exchange



Different styles and different cultures need a good concept to work together. To not be precious about what you bring to the table, but to be able to share and learn.

RE:LOCATION partner





## Project Activity

An advanced planning visit took place in Scotland in early April and was attended by all 7 international partners. At this point the project's aims, artistic focus, logistics and partner responsibilities were discussed and agreed on.

Between April and July partners prepared their young people in their home countries by responding to a series of creative tasks set by the artistic team. Material generated at this stage was shared online and informed the artistic direction and planning of the rehearsals and performance, which would take place when the groups came together in Scotland.

In July, the international groups arrived in Fife. The 28 young participants formed the RE:LOCATION 2014 International Young Company and began their for 6-day residency at the National Festival of Youth Theatre. Under the guidance of a multinational professional artistic team they worked together to create **The Homecoming**, a new piece of ensemble theatre inspired by the project's themes of home, place and identity. This piece was showcased as the closing performance of NFYT 2014 to a peer and public audience of around 300 festival attendees, members of the local community and invited special guests.

4 of the international partners also delivered artistic workshops as part of the National Festival of Youth Theatre's education programme.

“

We live together, create together and share everything. It sounds hippie-like, but it works.

RE:LOCATION partner

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## International Participant Feedback

We carried out a survey with RE:LOCATION participants to determine the impact the project had made on their artistic, social and cultural development and aspirations.

**91%** said the project had encouraged them to think more creatively and want to see more theatre

**95%** said the project made them feel more confident and want to take part in more arts activities

**100%** said the project had made them want to take part in more international exchanges

What they most enjoyed about the project:

*"Meeting people from other countries. Communicating with them in foreign languages and making friends in that short amount of time. We discussed everything from politics to differences in languages and it was so amazing to create a new theatre piece with them."*

*"The few euphoric minutes after the performance, the feeling of connectedness with everybody involved. The feeling of achievement after having created something together."*

How they summarised their experience:

*"It gave me the opportunity to make friends with people from all over Europe and learn more about their cultures and it taught me new ways of creating a theatre performance. I would not have missed it for the world."*

*"An amazing journey which I shared with great pleasure with so many different and unique people. An experience I will never forget."*

*"The single best week of my life!"*



## What Youth Theatre Arts Scotland learned

During the project Youth Theatre Arts Scotland adapted planning in line with changing investment and delivery requirements. This included reducing the original scale of the project as well as assuring that the international partners and YTAS's national network were benefitting as much as possible from the rich opportunity which RE:LOCATION offered.

The young people's positive feedback provides evidence that the project's aims and objectives were well managed and achieved.

Feedback from group leaders provided assurance that *"narrowing the overall artistic leadership to fewer people made for more effective creating and a more finished looking end product."* (Carl Jørn Johansen, Norway)

Further unexpected outcomes we have learned from include:

- how easy and effective it was for elements of the creative process to take place across borders via online collaboration
- how fulfilling it was for the RE:LOCATION 2014 International Young Company to perform in front of a large peer audience at the National Festival of Youth Theatre
- the high level of local and national press coverage in print and broadcast media, including BBC Radio Scotland and STV News

Future developments we will consider for international collaboration projects include:

- more regular online contact between partners in advance of the residency
- defining the roles of group leaders not involved in the artistic process during the residency
- incorporating more 'getting to know you' and socialising time into the project schedule

As a best-practice model of an international youth theatre exchange project, RE:LOCATION works well. In addition to the robust financial and logistical management of the host country, the project's success to date can be attributed to the individual and shared beliefs, commitment and good will of the international partners.

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland's involvement in RE:LOCATION has informed our strategy for international collaboration and development. We will continue to share the experience, expertise and skills we have gained from this project with Scotland's youth theatre sector and advocate for the role youth arts can play to build international relations and ambition.

# RE:LOCATION

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE PROJECT



## Credits

### YTAS Core Staff:

Acting CEO  
Communications & Marketing Manager  
Training & Engagement Manager

**Helen Bain**  
**James Coutts**  
**Claire Bloomfield**

### RE:LOCATION Project Staff:

Projects Co-ordinator  
Project Administrator  
Digital Projects Assistant

**Abigail Harte**  
**Dominic Di Rollo**  
**Steven Mackenzie**

### RE:LOCATION Artistic Staff:

Director  
Assistant Director  
Dramaturg  
Artistic Consultant  
Movement Consultant

**Nathalie Forstman**  
**Morna McGeoch**  
**Carl Jørn Johansen**  
**Sune Tønning Sørensen**  
**Maud Leroy**

Germany  
Scotland  
Norway  
Denmark  
France

For more information about RE:LOCATION or advice on international collaboration please contact Youth Theatre Arts Scotland on 0131 538 0591 or visit [www.ytas.org.uk](http://www.ytas.org.uk)

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