



#YouthTheatreTuesdays is an initiative of Youth Theatre Ireland. Due to the restrictions of movement and the gatherings of large numbers due to the COVID19 health emergency, this is a way for our community to stay connected and share practice.

Each Tuesday, youth theatre leaders come together through video conferencing to share ideas, insights and inspirational ways to keep their programmes on track.

These facilitated discussions are open to youth theatre leaders, facilitators and assistants. Each week a new area of discussion is proposed and guests are invited to submit ideas and exercises to be shared with the cohort. A volunteer takes the notes and then they are then shared with the group. These notes are more of an aid memoire rather than an extensive write up of any exercise or idea. Using the medium of Zoom software, the exercises make reference to the functionality of that app. i.e. chat boxes etc.

These are the notes from:

#YOUTHTHEATRETUESDAY – Back in the Circle – Inclusion & What’s Worked So Far? – July 28th 2020

Proposal: Following on from our last #YTTuesdays we’re looking at how we’ve be reopening and working in the space. We’re looking for input from those who have been running socially distanced sessions.

What are workshops looking like?

What kind of exercise can you do?

How challenging are safety protocols?

How are young people reacting to being together again?

This Tuesday, we'll also explore a special contribution around inclusion and youth theatre during this COVID-19 era from Lisette Auton, a disabled writer, activist, poet, spoken-word artist, actor, theatre-maker and creative practitioner living in the UK (<http://luxicreative.co.uk/when-you-just-cant-zoom/>).

Many of us have been thinking about the young people who haven't been able to take part in online work and those who will struggle to get 'back in the circle' as we re-open physical youth theatre activities. How can we keep that spirit of inclusion with us over the next few months?

Featuring Contributions from:

Anna Galligan – Barnstorm/ Kilkenny Youth Theatre & **Dave Kelly** Youth Theatre Ireland

Rhona Dunnnett – Deputy Director / Research and Development Officer Youth Theatre Ireland

Ollie Breslin – Waterford Youth Arts

Paul Higgins– Backstage Youth Theatre with **Liam Halligan** Freelance Theatre Artist

#YOUTHTHEATRETUESDAY – Back in the Circle – Inclusion & What's Worked So Far? – July 28th 2020

24 Participants including the Youth Theatre Ireland team

Intro from Alan King, Youth Theatre Ireland

We will move to #YouthTheatreTuesday Zoom calls every 2 weeks beginning this week.

Dave Kelly and Anna Galligan demonstrated how to prepare your space for socially distanced workshops. Items covered include:

Marking out a socially-distance grid on the floor. Triangles can be marked out with tape or by using floor mats or mini traffic cones.

Include perimeter lines to allow space for a designated chair for each participant. Place these alphabetically in order for easy access. These can be easily cleaned between workshops.

- *This system was developed by Anna, in conjunction with Orla McGovern at Kilkenny Youth Theatre*

Footage of system can be viewed here.

https://youtu.be/sDRq_G_ts9s

"It's triangles with 2m sides. You start with an insulation tape straight line the width of your room, 50cm from the walls at the top of the room. mark into two metre sections starting at the end of line. Chalk the one metre mark to give an idea where the top of the triangle should be on next line. the next straight line is 1.73m parallel to first line. measure 1 m in and mark and then continue on 2 m marks. In our room it would be 4 2m marks, on the 2nd line it is 3 2m marks. Join marks on the two lines with insulation tape. In our room that gives us 4 triangles. Continue on down the room in the same way so on third line you are back to starting on the very edge again." – Anna Galligan

Challenges include any high energy or spontaneous work and any work using props or costumes.

Positives include more mime work, increased spatial awareness, group observational skills and exploring stagecraft.

Dave and Anna will be working with members to explore more on reopening workshops next month.

Rhona Dunnett

Rhona spoke about the importance of inclusion and the importance of bringing groups back together when some have not taken part in online workshops.

We watched a video from Lisette Auton re: people being left out or left behind for various reasons if video participation does not work for them.

Full video can be viewed here : <https://youtu.be/FnNPKnYUjL4>

Tech limitations, health concerns (vertigo), chaotic homes can all contribute to non-participation and leave people feeling excluded or isolated.

How do we open this world?

Use audio descriptions and captioning.

Schedule breaks at the start of a call and stick to them

Allow cameras to be off if necessary.

If someone is missing, follow up with a call or letter.

Circulate a template prior to the call inviting content and input from anyone who can't make it.

Group wave and screenshot.

Follow up with an update to all following the call with an exercise.

Encourage pen pals or phone pals.

There is no one-size-fits-all.

Breakout Rooms

Breakout rooms to answer the question *'how will you make inclusion part of your reopening plans?'*

Findings from Breakout Rooms

Everyone has similar issues

Waterford are going ahead with a live summer show using visors

Griese found that non-online members were excited to return to workshops

Jacque Whelan asked if membership include visors.

Discussed max group size.

Difficult to make any decisions until the schools policy was in place.

Rhona said that Youth Theatre Ireland will follow guidelines as they happen and update members accordingly.

National Youth Theatre Ensemble

AK updated the group on the NYTE. Auditions will not be in the room so people don't have to worry about travelling. Deadline for submissions is Friday.

Paul Higgins

Paul from Longford had an update on their autumn show which will now be a radio play. He went through their Google form, which is sent to parents and guardians prior to rehearsals. 'BYT COVID Protocols 2020'. Shannonside radio will broadcast.

Liam Halligan

Updated us on how things were progressing with rehearsals.

Ollie Breslin

Waterford YT will adapt their previous show for outside venue. 'Stolen Time' will run from 24-29 August with a socially distanced audience.

Youth Theatre Ireland should have resources ready for members by early September. Send any suggested required supports to Alan or Rhona.

Current Guidance on Social Distancing and Group Work

- Indoor groups of up to 50 people (including all staff and volunteers)
- Outdoor groups of up to 200 people (including all staff and volunteers)
- Maintain hand washing and respiratory Hygiene
- Keep a safe 2m social distance to the greatest extent possible

Other Useful Links

Link to DCYA Guidance for Youth

Organisations: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/58393-guidance-for-youth-organisations-on-resuming-full-services-after-covid-19/>

Government's Phase 3 Roadmap (current phase): <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d06271-easing-the-covid-19-restrictions-on-29-june-phase-3/>

YTI's resource 'Back in the Circle: Guidance on Re-Opening your Youth Theatre': <http://www.youththeatre.ie/programmes/new-stage/>

Arts Council Supports

<https://www.chg.gov.ie/jobsstimulus/>

Arts Council YPCE bursary award – July 30th deadline

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Young-people,-children,-and-education-bursary-award/>

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/News/Arts-Council-welcomes-additional-supports-for-arts-and-culture-sector/>

Next Members call will be on Tuesday 11 August at noon.

Select chat from Chat box:

12:52:40 From Anthony Act Out: Love the grid on the floor idea that Anna & Dave did but is there any suggestions on a model of how to do something similar when you're working in a space where you can't leave all that tape on the floor (rather than having to map it out before every workshop and lift it again after every workshop)?

13:02:52 From Anna Galligan : Hi Anthony, there are small non slip floor mats - I've seen them in primary schools. Blue tack small cones? The only thing is that you would have to measure each before each workshop. If its a public space or school you could sell the usefulness of it for training/PE/any group that wants to work indoors, even coffee mornings! Anyone else got any ideas I'd love to hear. If its on the stage I wonder could you use the light rig to mark out the space?

2m Bamboo sticks can be got in garden centres if broom handles can't be got and do Liam's wonderful broom handle work - it's great fun and good work.

Notes kindly taken by Tracey Ferguson, Publicist for Youth Theatre Ireland, additional material by Alan King, Youth Theatre Ireland.