



#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 – Skill Share- NFYT Facilitator’s Ciarán Gray & Ruth Lehane Jun 16 12:00 PM

Proposal: Following on from last weeks YT Tuesday We are thrilled to welcome another two facilitators from this year’s National Festival of Youth Theatres facilitation team.

Ciarán Gray:

In the session Ciarán will start by facilitating a short physical warmup as an experiment in what works in Zoom.

Ciarán has asked participants to have

- 2 sheets of white A4 card [paper is okay but not great],
- a scissors
- some sellotape.

We will have a go at making a very simple mask and then do a short exercise using that mask to look at the opening lines of the poem The Listeners by Walter de la Mare.

Ruth Lehane:

Ruth will be talking about her recent work with Dublin Youth Theatre. Ruth directed a one act for DYT's DEBUT one act festival. Due to the lockdown Ruth and the cast had to move to online Zoom rehearsals.

Ruth would like people to watch the piece in advance of her session next Tuesday.

<https://vimeo.com/426520901>

Three of the young actors could not continue with the project so we had to reimagine the piece on many levels....What started as a piece for theatre with seven young actors became a film created on Zoom with four young actors "REMOTE" is the result. They performed a live online performance for an invited audience. Here is a recording of the show.

You can here more about Ciarán's and Ruth's workshops at the festival here

<https://tinyurl.com/y7p5yclp>

Ciaran Grey

Warm Up

- Fists in front of chest
- Little fingers up
- Thumbs up
- One finger up
- One thumb up
- One finger one thumb up
- To music

Shoulders

- One Shoulder up and down
- Other shoulder up and down
- Both shoulders up and down
- To music

Take note that some peoples image of themselves is a mirror image on zoo, so your right looks like your left etc. Important to remember if you are copying a leader.

Standing Exercises

- Walking on the spot
- Step to the right on 1, across on 2, 3, 4
- Back on 1, across on 2, 3, 4
- Repeat until everyone has found a rhythm
- Add a jump - 1, 2 (across), 3, 4, jump
- Back - 1, 2 (across) 3, 4, jump

- Add a turn - 1, 2 (across), 3, 4 & jump and turn your body to face your right
- Back 2, 3, 4 and jump and face your left

Do it to music

Obsevation: Worked well only a slight delay on zoom for some people.

Masks

Ciaran showed us on his shared screen really simple masks that he made with children. He wants to cover the face and move quality of movement into the body

How to make a mask

You need A4 card or paper, card works better.

- Fold the card along the long side
- Make a nose flap. Go to the closed edge draw and cut a nose shape about 1/3 of the way down and fold down
- Cut flaps at the top of the card
- Move flap and cut a triangle shape for your nose to breathe.
- Start small and cut larger is needed
- Put mask on and feel for the eyes, make an indent with your little finger and cut out the eyes
- Keep eyes round and simple
- Cut off any harsh corners, round them off
- Cut an 'O' shape for the mouth
- On a second piece of card cut out a long strip and staple it to your mask to secure it to your head.

Audio of 'The Listeners' by Walter de La Mare

Ruth Lehane

Ruth recently directed a one act play for DTY's Debut one act festival called 'The Party'. Due to lockdown she had to move to online zoom rehearsals.

- Devised piece with 7 actors before lockdown, ended up with 4 actors, had to reimagine the pay.
- She wanted to create a piece of theatre that was about the young people's own lives, what was going on for them. She wanted them to have the chance to really play so tried to have equal parts in as much as was possible.

- Similar characters to themselves, except one older male character. Incorporate lockdown, young people in their bedrooms. Theme of revenge.
- 12, 2 hour zoom sessions. The young people improvised scenes on zoom using break out rooms, typing them up and sharing on google docs. Then Ruth would edit scenes as needed.
- Filmed scenes and she had a young person who was tech savvy who did the editing for her. She found this a great help during the process, a techie young person as an assistant.
- Difficulties on zoom – Book ends of scenes, some got missed when they performed it and filmed it.
- Other DYT members did the extras scenes dancing in their bedrooms.
- Young people really enjoyed it and adapted to it really well.
- A little piece of history made in lockdown
- We then watched a clip from 'The Party'

Notes kindly taken by Trina McCann, POD Youth Theatre, with additional material by Alan King, Youth Theatre Ireland.