



#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:

#YouthTheatreTuesdays – Tuesday, May 19th at 12pm

Skill share: Getting Physical in the Online Space

Proposal: It's time to think Outside The Box- The box that surrounds your Zoom chat that is.

How can we get out of the chair, get physical and keeping moving in our online session?

What's your favourite physical exercise you have been doing in the online space?

Contributors:

Alan King – Youth Theatre Ireland

Road-testing a few new exercises & adaptations

Alexandra Sakavitsi – Laois Youth Theatre

Two fun physical exercises

Michelle Carew, Director, Youth theatre Ireland will then lead us through a discussion around the big theme of

"What will Youth Theatres need to survive and thrive as we emerge from COVID-19?"

Fionn Woodhouse – Lightbulb & UCC Youth Theatres

Session Closer

Alan King – Youth Theatre Ireland

- **Zoom Intros –**

Leave cameras and Mics on/open.

First person gives names, what group they work with and a very brief indication if they are currently working or not.

Nominates a new person (ideally someone they don't know) e.g. Alan calls Emer. Then turn off your own camera and misc. (N.B. rememebtr who you picked)

The second person tells who they are etc.

Repeat all the way around the group.

(By turning off the cameras it's easier to see who hasn't gone yet)

- **Clapping in Unison**

Everyone on his or her feet and working hands free if possible.

Start with first person again.

They clap twice.

Then Nominates the person as before, try make eye contact if possible e.g. Alan calls Emer

The whole group tries to clap twice at the same time.

Repeat around the whole group.

(Mixed success with this exercise as there is always a lag. Great for people out of their seats.)

Alexandra Sakavitsi – Laois Youth Theatre

- ***Frogs in Space based on (Frogs in the Pond)***
 - Participants remain standing with enough room to extend their body from the ground then with their hands fully extended above their heads.
 - You can see it being played here
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N34UNb6q9uA>
- ***Grannies Footsteps – Online Zoom version***
 - Play as you would a regular game of Grannies Footsteps
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPXfZ3kt_ns

Instead of touching whomever is On/ Granny, you must type the words GOTCHA into the Chat box function on Zoom.

Make sure to have your chat function on before you start to play.

(Exercise worked very well. You could even play this out side in back garden if you had the room and good weather.)

Michelle Carew, Director, Youth theatre Ireland

The group was randomly divided into Break Out Rooms and given 10 minutes to discuss the following

"What will Youth Theatres need to survive and thrive as we emerge from COVID-19?"

Feedback from groups of concerns and needs.

- Training in adapting live exercises and room to explore in person with other facilitators in advance
- Also tech training IRL
- Social distancing will mean delivery over more hours with implications for space and cost
- Need to source new and bigger spaces

- Need to tease out the H&S protocols etc. and ensuring that it doesn't overwhelm and override your role as youth theatre leader.
- Support to navigate the family circumstances of members. E.g. Parents no longer able to support youth theatre fees; some families insecure about letting young people return to activities for various reasons.
- Need for a plan or framework for socially distanced workshops
- Insurance Cover - will insurance indemnify against COVID-19 or will liability fall to the youth theatre?
- A timeline for re-opening
- Support to identify where H&S responsibility lies where dependent on a 3rd party venue

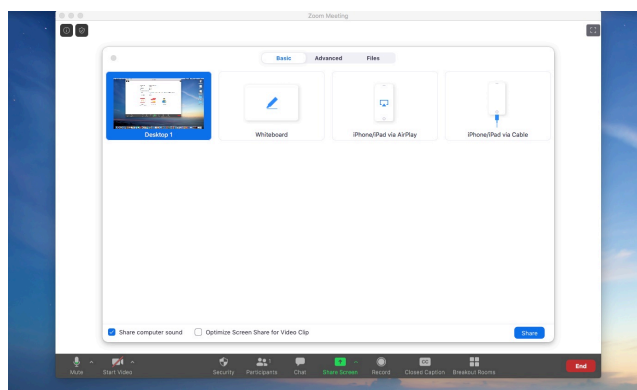
Fionn Woodhouse – Lightbulb & UCC Youth Theatres

Follow the Leader Game.

Play some suitable music. We used The KLF - Chill Out - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWebqCRw7o4>

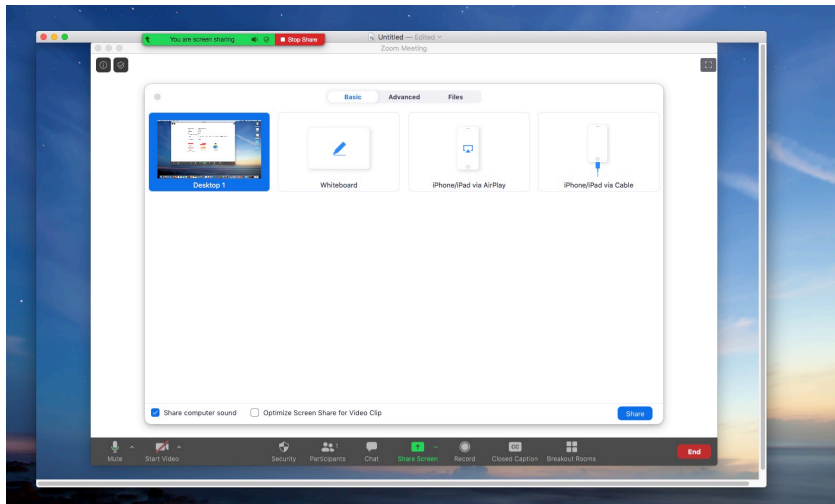
On Zoom you can share music directly from your computer to everyone who is attending the meeting.

Select *–Screen Share in the bottom tool bar of your zoom screen*
Then Tick *Share Computer Sound Box.*



Select Share.

You are now sharing your computer audio with everyone, through the speakers on their device. The Green/ Red Bar will be displayed at the top left on your screen.



Once music is playing the facilitator/ leader start slow with small movements.

To pass to the next person, call out their name. The point is that people should be able to follow - take your time. Pass after one move if you want to. Music should be at a low level.

Some people can just watch and then be asked what they liked at the end, did any stories emerge, etc.

Additional Links

Theatre Forum [Resource: Guidelines for Re-opening Arts Centres](#)

It's very detailed and aimed at the managers of CEOs / Directors of Arts Centres but youth theatres may be interested to see what the steps and considerations are. It was launched on May 18th so it's very new.

The Stage has a good account of UK theatre's digital response to the Coronavirus. There are some [good links, resources and streaming ideas there.](#)

The Arts Council's COVID-19 page: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/COVID-19/>

Notes taken by Alan King - Youth Theatre Ireland with additional material from the contributors and Rhona Dunnett, Youth Theatre Ireland