



#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, April 21st 12-1pm

Reflections On The First Month – What Next?

Proposal: We're just over a month since our youth theatre activates have ceased to function in a 'real shared space' and the initial scramble to fill the immediate needs of our youth theatres has passed.

What have our successes been?

How have we coped?

What's not working?

For our next #YOUTHTHEATRETUESDAY on Tuesday April 21st we want to extend the conversation beyond skill share to more medium and long-term thinking.

Youth Theatre Ireland is continuing to reshape and rethink our National Programme and will be providing some updates.

We'd love to hear from those of you who:

Are going to stop working for the summer,

Plan on extending their programme into the summer

Have thought about where we will be in autumn?

Facilitator: Alan King – Youth Theatre Ireland

SAMPLE EXERCISE

Alan King started the ball rolling with a game – a Zoom take on “Anyone who...”

- Each participant to write their name on a sheet of paper
- Facilitator: “Anyone who has been for a walk this morning / spoken to someone they haven’t spoken to for a long time / rediscovered an old or found a new hobby / had a haircut in the last 4 weeks etc. etc. – hold your name up”
- Facilitator chats with the respondents (specific and general)

Contributor: Michelle Carew – Director, Youth Theatre Ireland

Theme for today’s meeting is “Taking Stock” – i.e. what we’ve all been doing, what’s worked, what hasn’t, concerns and questions etc. Commended the many YTs out there who have kept going. Stressed that Youth Theatre Ireland is looking forward as well – hopefully, some clarification as to how/where YT’s can continue their activities may come after May 5th. YTI will also be issuing survey to members in near future.

Gave an update on various YTI programmes including –

- Cancellation of National Festival of Youth Theatres with promise of a bumper birthday festival in 2021 & plans to run a “remote” festival later this year (input will be sought later from YT’s on this)
- Young Critics
- ARTiculate
- BUZZ Artists’ and Leaders’ Labs
- ASD Seminar
- Leading On
- Laying The Foundations

<http://www.youththeatre.ie/news/press/programme-announcement-cancellation-of-national-festival-of-youth-theatres>

Contributor: Ollie Breslin – Artistic Director Waterford Youth Arts)

- Made point that as a sector we've had little practical support (apart from that offered by Youth Theatre Ireland)
- Noted that some young people are feeling very isolated and in need of support – not every young person is getting loads of phone calls, texts etc.
- Stressed need for Leaders and Facilitators to look after themselves too – e.g. finding a new/rediscovering an old creative outlet can be very helpful – if we don't look after ourselves, we can't hope to look after our members.
- WYA is looking at ways they can mount their 2020 Summer Theatre Project on ZOOM or similar live platform – wondered if a separate forum could be set up for YT's who wish to explore ways to present theatre online.
- WYA also running Open Mic nights & Performance Events on Instagram etc. for their members.
- Ollie would welcome input from other YT Leaders on his on-going research into the development and overall coordination of a comprehensive national policy regarding Youth Arts Funding & Structures.

Contributor: Julie O'Leary -Activate Youth Theatre, Creative Learning Co-ordinator Graffiti Theatre Company

Their planned May performance, Migrations, involving all 3 groups has obviously had to be cancelled. Given that the members had all been working on this project since September, they really wanted to keep going with it – so, the production has been reconfigured (core funders NYCI have been very understanding and are on board with revised plans).

Weekly sessions have continued but having all 55 members together didn't work well, so the 3 groups are working separately on different aspects of the production – e.g. funds previously planned for set etc. have been diverted to the engagement of a professional Animator who is working with the youngest members while the older members continue rehearsing songs and scenes. It is planned to make a film of the whole to be shown late May.

Planned West Cork Literary Festival event – where members were to interview novelists – has also been cancelled but project going ahead in Podcast format with the assistance of a professional Trainer. As this Trainer wasn't Garda-vetted*, they made a video which was uploaded to Vimeo & then shared by Julie with her members. Julie to check if this can be shared with YTI so that we can all benefit from it.

Plans are also afoot to develop a Podcast featuring interviews with playwrights.

Although they usually finish up at the end of May, they're going to keep running throughout the summer with weekly check-ins on Zoom.

Autumn plans include further work on a stage adaptation of a novel with a view to mounting a production in 2021.

Julie made a strong case for the development of NEW & MEANINGFUL SKILLS in these Covid days- e.g. Animation, Voice Recording, Script-writing, Film, Podcasting.

This point was echoed by Alan King, who said that now is an excellent time to look at the NON-PERFORMATIVE ASPECTS OF THEATRE – he referred participants to <https://techspace.ie/> as a great place to start looking at podcasting, animation and other digital skills.

Contributor: Jo Quinn (Tipperary Youth Theatres)

Tipperary YT's were due to finish up 24th March but have been gifted another 10 weeks by Tipperary Arts Office.

A popular activity for members over the last while has been –

- Find your favourite monologue from stage or screen, record and share.

Jo also echoed previous leaders points about the need to support our members – and each other – during these tough times

Plans are also underway in Tipp for QUARANTEEN – ONLINE YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL, featuring Monologues, Stand-Up & Songs performed by members of the 2 Tipp YT's. This will go live on 1st May (see poster attached) with the performers performing on Zoom with the other members as the audience. OBS software will live stream the event to FB & Instagram It is hoped to “go national” with the Festival on June 1st.

Questions/Points Made From The Online “ Floor”

- A number of Leaders said they have had or were planning to have GUEST FACILITATORS / SPEAKERS * join their YT Zoom/online meetings. Michelle pointed out that ALL SUCH GUESTS MUST BE GARDA-VETTED. The YTI GV service will be back in operation very soon and it is hoped that turnaround will be much quicker in the current climate.
- Alan – it's advisable to practise Zoom features – e.g. Break-Out Rooms – BEFORE trying it out with your members. Tutorials here: <https://tinyurl.com/y8wn4rfq>

- Some leaders said they were experiencing low turnout/reluctance to participate in projects. How can we get more members to turn up/engage more? Responses included:
- Christina Matthews (Droichead YT): Keep checking in on members – what do you want to do? If just games, fine – have a games group, if more project-focussed – have a separate meeting for that. We have to be willing to constantly reimagine activities.
- Geraldine O'Brien (Playacting YT): checks in regularly with her members too. Sent them a needs assessment survey via Survey Monkey. Geraldine's survey is here to give you some idea of what to ask <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7s6Q2TP>
- Leish Burke (Griese YT): There should be no judgement around not turning up – there could be lots of reasons why young people don't show up – e.g. poor broadband; they're uncomfortable with family nearby; school pressure etc. etc. Restated others' point that it is important to get their feedback on activities. It's a good idea to get them up and moving about at some point/s during a session so that they're not sitting the whole time. Also advised us to make sure we have parental consent if members are making & sharing videos though this should be covered off in our CP policies. Michelle Carew said that Youth Theatre Ireland is currently looking into producing a specific online consent form.
- Alan King (YTI) Stressed the need to do a Needs Analysis with the members. Check in with the members as to what they want and need over the coming months. Survey Monkey can be used for this www.surveymonkey.com
- Calantha Forde (Giant Wolf YT): Uses Discord App with her members – it's an audio & text app. Reduces lag often associated with online video apps like Zoom etc. She sets her group a weekly assignment – these have included – Scriptwriting, Voice-Acting & Audio Plays. Leaders keep in touch with members during week via Discord and members link up through the App as well to work on the projects together. <https://discordapp.com/>
- On the subject of LEARNING NEW SKILLS, Alan repeated the point he made earlier that now is an opportune time for this to happen. He stressed that while quality is important, projects which involve new non-performative skills don't have to be perfect – it's a process of learning through trial and error. To help us and our members, Youth Theatre Ireland has developed a range of Practical Training Videos which are available to all leaders and facilitators at <http://www.youththeatre.ie/resources/young-critics-resource-suite/creating-a-critical-response>

- Youth Theatre Ireland is also constructing a new website page at the moment which will provide Information & Resources for YT's for operating in the current climate. COVID19 Resources for Youth Theatre <https://tinyurl.com/yc8a88zt>. Please send Alan any relevant information you would like to see on it.
- OUR NEWS! Tracey Ferguson reminded us to send her on your Youth Theatre news items for YTI Social Media channels – images, video, text all welcome to tracey.ferguson@gmail.com

Other Useful Links and Apps.

Before you download or use any third part app or programme please rigorously check the terms and conditions. If an app is free, the user is paying for it in some way – whether it's consents, cookies or use of data, there is a hidden price. Be especially mindful if you are asking young people to work with, or download any of these apps to their devices. Get relevant parental permissions as needed.

Fionn Woodhouse -Lightbulb & UCC YT's recommends- *Howlaround*. A UK based company. Some excellent imitative and content here including– Good outline of how to produce livestream events
<https://howlround.com/how-produce-livestreamed-event>

Company 3 are running the Coronavirus Time Capsule Project. *Co. Wexford Youth Theatre* are taking part
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-J4kej4kvU>

Company 3 in the UK, inc. guides to video-conferencing:

<http://www.companythree.co.uk/resources#coronavirus-resources>

Also a host of other very useful content.

Creating video content

Kinemaster is a free (and paid) app that can be used on mobiles or tablet devices for creating videos. Works with IOS and Android. Very easy to use with reasonably high quality results <https://www.kinemaster.com/>

Apple computers and iPads come preloaded with *iMovie*.
<https://www.apple.com/imovie/>

An excellent entry level programmes for making video and film.

Also *Filmora App* and link to *Top 10 video apps*.
<https://filmora.wondershare.com/video-editor/android-video-editor.html>

Video FX. Available for IOS and Android. Make music video easily

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/videoFX-live/id478338333>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.videoFX&hl=en>

Exploring Radio

Maxine Acton from Rusty Frog Youth Theatre as found good radio plays for young people here:

<https://www.weirdworldstudios.com/experimental-plays/>

Garage Band comes free with Apple products and is an excellent entry level for creating music and audio content

<https://www.apple.com/ios/garageband/>

Online spaces. Google Offer *Google Classrooms* and *Google Hangouts*. Also *Google Drive*, *Google Forms* etc.

https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/?modal_active=none

<https://hangouts.google.com/>

Again check the *Terms and conditions* here, especially around data mining

<https://privacy.commonsense.org/evaluation/Google-Classroom>

Geraldine O'Brien from PlayActing Youth Theatre recommends *Jotform* for creating forms

<https://www.jotform.com/>

*Notes kindly written up by Emer Casey from Mr. Sands Youth Theatre.
Additional information supplied by Alan King from Youth Theatre Ireland.*

TIPPERARY YOUTH
THEATRE PRESENT

QUARANTEEN

ONLINE YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
TIPPERARY ARTS OFFICE

ACCEPTING
SUBMISSIONS
FROM YOUNG
PEOPLE AGE
13-21YRS

- SONGS
- MONOLOGUES
- STAND UP

QUARANTEEN

1ST MAY AT 7PM

TO ENTER EMAIL
QUARANTEENFESTIVAL@GMAIL.COM