



#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 28th 12-1pm

Home Recording Workshop with Heather Troy Whelan

Proposal: As we face into the long-term prospect of having no theatres to access or audiences to play for, what will this New Form take?

It's no longer theatre, but it's not film. So what is it?

Youth Theatre Ireland is committed to programming a series of workshops with pioneers in this field.

Our first facilitator, Heather Troy Whelan will run a 30-minute session on Home Recording. The workshop will look at DIY ways that we could record monologues at home. This demo and discussion will inspire you and your young people to think of different ways that they can achieve a good looking (and sounding) video at home with what they have around them.

Biog:

Heather Troy-Whelan is a professional musician and stage technician. Having originally studying sound in Bray Institute of Further Education, Heather moved into the world of theatre in Waterford City where she began working as a stage and lighting technician, progressing to lighting design for some small to medium size productions. More recently Heather has started working as a sound recordist for film and live broadcasts online with Waterford Film Centre, Waterford Youth Arts and on some independent productions. She has worked with Aiken Promotions, Garter Lane Arts Centre, Theatre Royal Waterford, Every Event, Waterford Film Centre, Waterford Youth Arts, Brothers of Charity Services South East, Central Arts, Waterford Viking Promotions, Rigout Productions, Devious Theatre and Barnstorm Theatre. Over the past 3 years Heather has been employed by Waterford Youth Arts as their technician for all events, productions and festivals and as a workshop facilitator in film, lighting and sound.

Facilitator: Heather Troy-Whelan – Waterford Youth Arts

Sound

- Make your earphones into a makeshift lapel mic, by using a badge or pin and pinning into the collar of your hoody. The longer earphone leads the better.
- Medical tape does the same job, take earphones to skin, make sure skin is clean and dry.
- Phone picks up background noise so try to isolate the sound source.
- Blue tooth earphones are good, no wire, you can move more freely.
- You can get cheap lapel mics on e-bay for €3, takes a few weeks to be delivered.
- Try and record sound in a quiet place if possible if you do not have a mic or headphones – rule in general. If you can hear background noise e.g. bus driving past so can the mic/phone/devise.

Light

- Good to be lit for the side, it is flattering, the more defined your features will be for film/theatre.
- To light your face, Google full screen colours and use them as a lighting source. White – emotive, play around with them, see what works.
- Play around with it moving closer towards the colour or further away, experiment and discover what happens.

- Dead on – coming from the same angle as the camera.
- Light from behind, good to define the outline of your head/body.
- Mover yourself around. Light reflects off a white wall, look at hoe the light changes the frame, test things out. Can create different styles versus realistic. Have fun with it!
- As a technician Heather has learned more from making mistakes, do not be afraid to try things out. See how light reacts with your camera.

Visual

- Filming on phone use main camera and not selfie camera, it is better quality.
- Placement of phone – physically distance your devise to get your frame
- Shaky camera – think of ways to emulate a tripod.
 1. Elastic band and a lamp/pole
 2. Blue tac phone to wall if phone is light weight
 3. Cheap clip/grabby thing you can get in pound/shop
 4. Selfie stick
 5. Stick/mop – hold device against it to steady it, bottom of it should be sturdy and balanced on the ground
 6. Moving shots – Cheap clip/grabby thing, wheelie chair, put phone on it, secure it and wheel or sit on it holding camera and get someone else to push. Slow and steady emulates a dolly.

Recap...

- Use more than one device if possible, one for audio, one for visual etc.
- If using iMovie use a clapper, make sure lens see's the clap and the audio hears it. Easier to edit.
- Think of camera as a character, who's perspective is it being filmed in, the narrator, the audience, a character.
- Think about camera angles.
- Everything is worth a shot.
- Think of interesting places to film from, the oven, the TV, from the point of the dog.

Self-Taping

- Such a big part of auditioning is self-taping get young people to experiment.
- YouTube tutorials helpful
- White wall, natural light is best.
- Look at camera and not at screen or get someone to hold their hand just above the camera lens. Mark a spot in the room to use as your focus as if you were talking to someone.

Suggestions from Chat Box

- Rode NT2 – Shotgun mic. Also Rode Video Mic. Good quality, priced accordingly.
- Radio mics lapel Sennheiser. Excellent quality, priced accordingly.
- Android substitute for iMovie – Kinemaster, Filmora
- Windows 10 computers great free editing programme
- www.thomann.de German company. Good prices on good quality sound electronic equipment. Delivery is really quick and cheap.
- Best way to share/send large files: Google Drive, WeTransfer, WinRAR ON Windows to compress films.
- Storyboard App www.storyboardthat.com Free trial period
- Music videos, using two phones, Lossless – how to use an iPhone for recording voice
- Audiowarehouse.ie
- Mojo – Mobile Journalism. <http://www.mojo-manual.org/> Loads of tutorials on YouTube.
- Get members to set up a phone station while doing Zoom Youth Theatre sessions. Tutorials on YouTube. Books are a good way to get height for head level and a sturdy object to lean phone against.
- If members are filming monologues/self-tapes/short films/ and there's resistance, do one yourself, facilitators get involved and show them that you are willing to give it a go, strengthen the group by getting involved.
- If young people's Internet is not strong, try and record radio plays, do not rely on the visual.

Some apps and links have been mentioned already in previous sessions and links can be found in those notes.

Notes taken by **Trina McCann**, pod Youth Theatre. *Additional information by Alan King from Youth Theatre Ireland.*