



**#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.

From the start of lockdown in March, youth theatre leaders come together through video conferencing each Tuesday. Leaders shared ideas, insights, and inspirational ways to keep their programmes on track.

As some restrictions eased towards the end of the summer, the meetings became fortnightly.

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 Aide- mémoire rather than an extensive write up of any exercise or idea. Using the medium of Zoom software, any practical exercises refer to the functionality of that app. i.e. chatboxes etc.

***These are the notes from:***

**#YOUTHTHEATRETUESDAY – Re-Opening Q& A – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Proposal: We're hosting a [Re-Opening Q&A](#) this Tuesday! So email your questions in advance to [rhona@youththeatre.ie](mailto:rhona@youththeatre.ie) and then bring a cup of tea to the Tuesday Zoom Room!

- Have you questions around COVID procedures, social distancing, and face coverings?
- Unsure of how to talk to parents and young people about re-opening?
- How do you plan for the Autumn term when things are so changeable? Size of workshop groups, blended programming, etc.
- Or maybe you've had some re-opening successes that you want to share? Or a brilliant plan you think other youth theatres could learn from!
- Whatever your question or story, please do send it to us in advance to [rhona@youththeatre.ie](mailto:rhona@youththeatre.ie). We'd love to hear from a range of voices!

## **News**

New appointed Youth Theatre Ireland director: Eoghan Doyle on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and he will be at the next Zoom Tuesday on 22 September.

Two new grants, you can chat about them at the end of the session (Starting and developing grant before 14 September)

<http://www.youththeatre.ie/news/press/youth-theatre-ireland-announces-2-supporting-grants>

Additional funding to have more staff to ensure the best experience for young people. Youth Theatre Ireland asked the Arts Council for a COVID relief grant.

<http://www.youththeatre.ie/news/press/covid-relief-grant-announced-for-youth-theatres>

YPCE project award's deadline is soon.

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/available-funding/?searchQuery=YPCE#search>

## ***Recently issued guidelines:***

### ***Youth Theatre Ireland Guidelines available from***

<https://tinyurl.com/yc8a88zt>

Highlighting some Youth Theatre Ireland guidelines:

Workshop group numbers

Performances numbers.

### ***Waiting for new Government regulations to issue new guidelines after September 13<sup>th</sup> \****

***\* Published Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. Government Guidelines for Youth Work Organisations.***

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

### **Questions:**

Is everyone wearing facemasks throughout the workshop? And if not, is someone else making sure of social distancing? Is someone official insisting/ensuring that this is done?

How young people enter / exit space?

Plan the workshop with social distancing in mind.

Dispose of belongings. Not touching even through props.

There is a bit of wiggle room to interpret the guidelines, wearing facemasks is only obligatory when social distancing cannot be maintained

Keep the wearing of facemasks for periods of movement.

Ask young people to bring face covering to all activities is Youth Theatre Ireland's advice.

***We cannot request young people wear visors instead of face masks, as they are not as safe.***

### ***Inclusivity and safety.***

Check with the group, is everybody able to wear a cloth mask?

The problem is that different sectors have different guidance (education setting and arts setting)

On [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) there is a [list of exceptions](#) for people with additional needs. Always check if that is an issue for your group yet

Will Youth Theatre Ireland run training for COVID awareness courses, for youth practitioners and young people themselves?

All organisations must provide this training. Check the "back in the circle" document with a link to [NYCI training online](#) (15m) that produces a certificate.

As an organisation, you write down your own policies and induct all adults involved in the organisation through those procedures.

For young people, looking at your procedure, have a zoom meeting, and seek feedback from young people about their coming back to the promises.

Recommend maybe a video with all the new ways of entering and exiting the building, and what will the first few sessions will be like. [A great example here from Anna Galligan from Kilkenny Youth Theatre.](#)

If there is a need from the whole sector, Youth Theatre Ireland can look into it.

## ***Cleaning***

Have gaps between workshops for cleaning and disinfecting.

If hiring a venue Check what the venue is offering and what the procedures are?

If you have your own venue, organisation may contract the facilitators or have alternative plans to clean the venue, mopping the floor, and cleaning touchpoints between workshops?

You may also decide to have shelves or boxes for any personal belongings (these to be kept to a minimum).

## ***Attendance & Payments***

We talked about subs. and need for cashless systems / also to have on the note that parents receive the possibility that workshops go online if the situation changes and that this will be part of the payment.

Spoke about asking parents not to send a child to workshops if feeling unwell etc. - The GAA get parents to vouch for this each week before children attend GAA activities - Rhona felt it was important to have a system in place that we can cope with and is manageable - Also to consider zoom options for kids at home sick?

***If families don't return form saying the child hasn't been sick etc. they can't attend workshops.***

If you are corresponding with parents better to do so via Microsoft Forms as they are secure.

Lobbying for our sector - Rhona has attended meetings with [National Campaign for the Arts](#) to make sure the youth arts sector is being represented at meetings between NCFA and the Arts Minister - similarly, she is meeting [National Youth Council](#) this Thursday to ascertain that they are also keeping youth arts in mind when they speak to Dept. Of Education.

Note1: At the next YTI Tuesday gathering on 22nd Sept. Anna will be going through the main ideas and principles that they outlined in the three trial drama workshops that they created which take COVID into consideration

Note 2: These notes are also to be read alongside Rhona's email resource attachments that were sent out today

***Notes were kindly taken by Amélie Bal, Head of Education, Galway Community Circus, & Ollie Breslin, Artistic Director, Waterford Youth Additional material by Alan King, Youth Theatre Ireland.***