

Centre
Stage

+ 10

Recommendations

Recommendations

This chapter identifies specific recommendations arising out of the research for NAYD and the youth theatre sector in Ireland.

Chapter 2 Youth Theatre Models and Structures

- Celebrate and promote the diversity of youth theatre models among local and national stakeholders, support agencies and funding organisations;
- Tailor NAYD assistance and supports to suit each specific model and ensure greater sustainability for the sector;
- Support the engagement of the youth sector in youth drama and theatre in Ireland;
- Carry out an audit of youth drama activity in counties where there are currently no youth theatres affiliated to NAYD and support any existing activity;
- Engage with local youth work and arts agencies to promote the development of youth drama in counties where there is no existing youth drama activity;
- Work with Local Authority Arts Officers and other agencies to develop mechanisms for the sustainability of youth theatre at a local level;
- Encourage parent organisations of youth theatres to embed the youth theatre within their long term development strategies and make youth theatre less vulnerable to staff and policy change.

Chapter 3 Youth Theatre Funding and Resources

- Ensure that youth theatres are identified by VECs as local youth work providers, are represented on local youth work committees and supported through local VEC Youth Work Plans;
- Support Local Authority Arts Officers in the development of criteria that will allow all youth theatres to access local supports and funding opportunities from Local Authorities;
- Lobby for the creation of a funding ladder that provides opportunities for youth theatres to move from project specific funding to sustained annual funding which supports the core activities of the organisation.
- Engage with The Arts Council and national youth work structures to identify progression routes for youth theatre funding;
- Lobby for the acknowledgement of youth theatre funding priorities within appropriate funding programmes, i.e., support for regular youth theatre leaders, space hire and the annual programme;
- Promote the natural alliance that exists between local venues and youth theatres particularly those supported by Local Authorities to broker competitive space and theatre hire rates for youth theatres;
- Work with local venues, professional and amateur theatre companies to encourage the provision of in-kind support to youth theatres through advice, space and theatre hire, administrative support and subsidised tickets;
- Work with the Arts Council to create incentives that encourage collaborative working relationships between youth theatres and local venues / theatre companies.

Chapter 4 Practice and Programming

- Raise awareness of quality youth theatre standards which were proposed through the *Centre Stage +10* project. Advocate for the recognition of these quality standards and the ethos of youth theatre within the assessment / evaluation practices of funders as well as within the on-going self-evaluation and artistic planning strategies within youth theatres;
- Support professional companies in their engagement with youth drama and strengthen relationships between these practitioners and local youth theatres to maximise the impact on the artistic quality of youth theatre practice;
- Promote appropriate supports, locally and nationally, to support the regular workshop programme of youth theatres;
- Encourage youth theatres to consider a variety of performance opportunities, including large, public productions which may involve professional artistic staff as well as smaller, private performances that allow for more experimental work or work initiated or directed by youth theatre members.

Chapter 5 Youth Theatre Members

- Work with youth theatres to develop inclusion strategies specific to their own local area and support youth theatres to draw on a more representative mix of young people from their community;

- Develop a practical guide exploring strategies for the recruitment of new youth theatre members, sharing examples of good practice from around the country. Include a specific section on the recruitment of male youth theatre members;
- Partner with youth work agencies to promote the benefits of participation in non-academic activities to parents and young people, with a particular focus on young people preparing for state exams;
- Develop supports for youth theatres who have built up significant numbers of members aged 18 and over that help to create different models of practice for the transitional years before a young person leaves a youth theatre or becomes a leader.

Chapter 7 The Benefits of Participation

- Disseminate the findings of Chapter 7 (The Benefits of Young People's Participation in Youth Theatre) to a wider audience including the arts, youth work and education sectors;
- Carry out further research into the outcomes of young people's participation in youth theatre in partnership with academic institutions.

Centre
Stage

+ 10

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

NAYD wishes to thank all those people who generously contributed to the *Centre Stage +10* research process.

Many thanks to all the youth theatre leaders, members and stakeholders who participated in the *Centre Stage +10* Census Week, responded to the questionnaires and took part in Member Workshops and interviews. This report is a tribute to their work, energy and commitment to youth theatre.

Thanks to NAYD staff, board members and advisors, particularly Rebecca Bartlett and Caoimhín Corrigan. A special debt of gratitude is owed to Emelie FitzGibbon, NAYD board member and Artistic Director of Graffiti Theatre Company for her advice and editorial assistance.

Many thanks to Professor Sheila Greene, Director of the Children's Research Centre at Trinity College, Dublin for her advice.

NAYD acknowledges the continued support and funding it receives from the Arts Council and the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and also their support and encouragement in carrying out this review and research.

Centre
Stage

+ 10

Bibliography

Bibliography

The Arts Council, *The Public and the Arts*,
Dublin, 2006.

Caldwell, L.L., Smith, E.A. and Weissinger, E.,
Development of a leisure experience battery for adolescence: Parsimony, stability and validity,
Journal of Leisure Research, Vol. 24, 1992.

Central Applications Office, *Board of Directors Report 2007*,
Galway, 2007

Central Statistics Office, *2006 Census Volume 2: Ages and Marital Status*,
Dublin: Stationary Office, 2007

Central Statistics Office,
2006 Census Volume 4: Usual Residence Migration Birthplaces and Nationalities,
Dublin: Stationary Office, 2007

Central Statistics Office,
2006 Census Volume 5: Ethnic or Cultural Background (including the Irish Traveller Community),
Dublin: Stationary Office, 2007

Central Statistics Office,
2006 Census Volume 8: Occupations,
Dublin: Stationary Office, 2007

Central Statistics Office,
2006 Census: Non-Irish Nationals Living in Ireland,
Dublin: Stationary Office, 2008

de Róisteand, Dr. Áine and Dinneen, Joan,
Executive Summary – Young People's Views about Opportunities, Barriers and Supports to Recreation and Leisure,
A research report by Cork Institute of Technology on behalf of the National Children's Office, 2005.

Donaghue, Freda, Prizeman, Geraldine, O'Regan, Andrew & Noël Virginie,
The Hidden Landscape – First Forays into Mapping Nonprofit Organisations in Ireland,
Centre for Nonprofit Management, School of Business, Trinity College Dublin, 2006.

Hughes, Jenny and Wilson, Karen, *Playing a Part*,
National Association of youth theatres (NAYT), 2003, Darlington (UK), P31

Morgan, M., *Schools and Part-Time Work in Dublin. The Facts*,
Dublin Employment Pact, Policy Paper No. 4, 2000.

NAYD, *Centre Stage, The Place of Youth Theatre in Ireland 1997-1998*, Dublin, 1998.

Neelands, Jonathan, *Essentially Youth Theatre*, *Youth Drama Ireland*, Issue 10 2007-2008, NAYD, 2008.

WEBSITES

Ballymun Regional Resource Website, <http://www.bryr.ie>

Barnstorm Theatre Company Website, <http://www.barnstorm.ie>

Roscommon Arts Centre Website, <http://www.roscommonartscentre.ie>