



Using Drama with Young Offenders

Professional Development

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Aims

This course is designed for practicing artists and facilitators aged 18+ with an interest in working with young offenders in a criminal justice setting.

By the end of the course you should have:

- Examined the role of young people in the criminal justice system
- Explored some of the logistical challenges of working in this context
- Explored a variety practical exercises designed to support creative work in this context
- Discussed some of the key arguments for the impact of the arts in working with young offenders

Venue, Date and Cost

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
100 Renfrew Street
Glasgow G2 3DB

26 May 2012
10am - 5pm

£90

Course Content

This intensive one-day course aims to look at the role of art and creativity in working with young people in the criminal justice system and examine strategies for delivering projects in this context.

Participants will engage in both a practical and theoretical exploration of some of the key issues surrounding young people in the criminal justice system and the considerations of facilitating an arts project in this context.

The course will look at the role of arts as a tool for social engagement, creative expression and learning. You will explore the impact of arts activity on confidence, self esteem and ability to work positively with others.

The course seeks to explore some of the logistical considerations of working within the Scottish Prison Service and with young people in secure settings. The course tutors will introduce a variety of models of working which include weekly classes and longer residencies, and touch upon helpful ways to structure work of this kind.

There will be the opportunity to engage in a variety of practical exercises and approaches to planning creative work in this context. You will also be asked to consider ways that your current practice might translate into this specific context in line with your own professional development.

Additional Information

Course Leaders

Jess Thorpe

Jess is the Lecturer of Applied Performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in the School of Drama. Alongside this work she is co-artistic director of Glas(s) Performance and the young people's performance collective Junction 25. She is also a trustee and staff member with the International Schools Theatre Association with whom has worked all over the world leading creative projects and residences.

For the past three years Jess has been developing her practice within the context of criminal justice and has led a number of classes in Scottish Prisons. As part of this work she received an Athenaeum Award Knowledge Exchange from the Conservatoire to further this work and to spend time working in Prisons in the USA as part of the University of Michigan. Jess is also a founder member of SPAN (Scottish Prison Arts Network).

Paul Gorman

Paul is the Head of Education and Participation for Visible Fictions. He has considerable experience in participatory arts and education projects with particular knowledge of working with disadvantaged and excluded young people.

Since joining Visible Fictions in January 2007 Paul has devised and managed a diverse range of creative projects which have engaged groups of young people from across Scotland. Groups have included: clients of a drug rehabilitation project in Greenock, Higher Drama pupils from Fife, Polmont Young Offenders Institution, Looked After and Accommodated groups in West Lothian, and two youth theatres in East Ayrshire and Port Glasgow.

Paul completed the BA Hons in Community Arts at the University of Strathclyde and now lectures on the course part time

Student Preparation

You should have some previous experience of planning and delivering arts projects.

You will be provided with some information and articles prior to the course which you are expected to have read.

You should dress in comfortable, loose clothing as some course activities will be practical.

You may also find it useful to bring along a notepad and pen to make notes during the course.

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