



Theatre for Social Change Master Class

Background and expertise: Collective Encounters specialises in theatre for social change and is now at the forefront of its sector in the UK with a growing international reputation. Over the past 9 years through research and practice the company has developed its own unique approach to Theatre for Social Change, with a clear methodology, rationale and set of processes. Collective Encounters has an extensive participatory programme, working with a wide range of vulnerable and marginalised communities through medium and long term programmes. The company's research lab conducts practice-as-research through the delivery of this work, as well as undertaking and commissioning academic and sector-based research.

Target participants: Professional artists working in a participatory arts/applied arts/community arts/engaged arts/collaborative practice settings who are interested in developing their methodology and getting an insight into Collective Encounters' unique approach.

Summary of the Training day: Co-facilitated by Collective Encounters' Artistic Director Sarah Thornton and Playwright Anders Lustgarten, this full-day training session will involve tutor presentation, action learning sets and group discussion. It will look at the ideology driving Collective Encounters' work, the ideas underpinning theatre for social change more widely; and the practical realities of delivering this work in a UK setting.

Beginning with a brief introduction to theatre for social change, its heritage and range of contemporary practices the day will go on to explore:

- The liberal and radical perspectives on change – shifting the work from the personal to the political
- Engaging people on the margins – what are the ethics involved here, and how do we reach those who are 'difficult to reach'
- Exploring the role of the artist/facilitator in theatre for social change
- A Collective Encounters theatre workshop methodology
- A Collective Encounters approach to creating performance work
- How can we evaluate the impact of theatre for social change?

Participants will leave the day with:

- An enhanced understanding of the history and context for their work – better able to situate their own practice within a broader framework.
- A clear understanding of the ethical and practical challenges of working through TFSC, and an understanding of how to navigate these
- A clear understanding of Collective Encounters' approach and processes
- Information on UK and international best practice and companies/practitioners

The training day will be enhanced by a range of resources for participants to take away including Collective Encounters' policy and procedure documents, a bibliography for further reading, and support materials from the day.

This master class will take place on 3rd October from 10am – 5pm in our Liverpool City Centre base. A place on the master class costs **£30**.

For more information email admin@collective-encounters.org.uk