

# RADICAL MAKERS



**A FREE TRAINING PROGRAMME IN PARTICIPATORY THEATRE  
FOR EMERGING ARTISTS**

**a guide / prospectus**

# WHAT IS IT?

The Radical Makers is a free training course in Participatory Theatre delivered by Collective Encounters. It takes 8 hours a week and is split into 6 modules:

**Getting Creative Online** – learning how to get online, be confident with digital tools, and to work together in ‘meeting rooms’

**What is Participatory Theatre?** – the history and basic ideas behind making theatre with communities

**Working With Groups** – learning how groups behave, how to enable them to create, and what to do when things go wrong!

**Making Theatre** – creating performances with groups: directing, devising & writing skills.

**Digital Participatory Theatre** – creating performances online

**Working Professionally in the Arts** – what you need to know to start a career, set up as self employed, or start a company

You can either do all the modules in one year, or dip in and out and spread them over 2-3 years.

As well as this you will get **individual mentoring**, **access to our Masterclass programme** and have the chance to take up work experience placements with Collective Encounters and other arts organisations.

The course is COVID secure and involves a blend of learning with the group and in your own time, learning online for some modules and back in the room for others when it is safe.

# WHO IS IT FOR?

The Radical Makers is for people who:

- are interested in theatre and the arts
- enjoy being creative with other people
- want to learn new things
- believe in the power of community
- might be interested in a career in the creative industries
- want to learn how to work with groups
- have about 8 hours a week to spare

It is aimed at people who:

- have at least one year's experience of participating in a theatre project
- are aged 25 or over
- live in Merseyside
- have faced barriers to education, training or employment
- are ready for something new

The course is designed to be as flexible as possible and we will help to overcome any barriers you may face to taking part. Full support in getting online is included in the course, as is the necessary technology and internet access for those who don't already have it. No previous qualifications are needed. We can help with travel and other necessary costs to help you attend sessions.

# WHAT WILL WE DO?

You'll need to put in a minimum of eight hours a week. This will be a mix of group and independent learning. Each week there will be training workshp/s for around three hours, plus another couple of hours working with small peer groups, then a couple of hours of independent study connected to the module you are working on. You will have regular one-to-one mentoring sessions, which will help you reflect on your learning journey, plan for the future and identify additional training needs, which we can help you access; you'll set yourself tasks and ambitions through this process. You will also be invited to attend other training sessions and events during the year. Your independent learning can be carried out around your own schedule, with most course resources being available to use online or to download at your own convenience. Altogether we won't expect you to give more than eight hours per week.

We recognise that everyone has their own preferred learning style, and we try to tailor the learning experience to individuals as far as we can. We use a popular education approach, which draws on the life experience of everyone in the room and values each contribution on the learning journey. We foster a positive, inclusive, playful approach to shared learning.

The course is led by Aidan Jolly with contributions from Collective Encounters' Artistic Director and lead artists as well as bringing in a range of internationally respected guest artists. We have excellent course materials and lots of resources to help you with your learning.

# WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF IT?

By completing the course you will gain the skills you need to begin a career in the participatory arts or to move into further education or training. You will also achieve at least 18 credits of nationally recognised Open Awards accreditation.

Previous participants have gone on to form their own theatre company, be activists in their own communities, make films, and have their writing performed. Here's some work last year's group created before they graduated: [Life During Lockdown](#). Here's what some of them said about the course:

*"At whatever point you are in life, if you want to try something new, or want to make social change, it's good for different life skills, to find out whether you want to be a leader, or part of a team, it's a big eye opener as to what is out there, it inspires you to look deeper into the performing arts, and how important they are."*

*"The course is very stimulating, and helps to make you more creative and build more confidence. It makes you realise there are things you can do that you thought you weren't capable of. I thought I wouldn't be able to work digitally, and I surprised myself. It helps expand your skills."*

*"I would very strongly recommend it - although I came to acting late in life, it gives you a fabulous foundation to build on. It opens new doors. My background was not community theatre, it's opened my eyes to what community theatre is"*

# MORE INFORMATION...

Collective Encounters is a professional arts organisation specialising in Theatre for Social Change. We have been making theatre with diverse communities in Merseyside for the past fifteen years. To keep in touch with what we do sign up for our newsletter.

We run the UK's first Centre for Excellence in Participatory Theatre including a digital resource centre and an extensive sector support programme of training and events. The Radical Makers is part of this.

To find out more about the Radical Makers programme and talk through any questions, contact Aidan on [aidan@collective-encounters.org.uk](mailto:aidan@collective-encounters.org.uk) or 07377 968352.

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