



## **Current Projects**

Over the past nine months our first cohort of artists have been busily exploring and creating new ways to make theatre with and for children, young people and their families. This is just some of the brilliant stuff they have been making and doing during their Platform residencies. Across all projects the artists are supported by carefully selected mentors from across the UK, industry specialists, staff at Theatr Iolo and their partner venues and are encouraged to see as much theatre for young and family audiences as they can. For each project the artist and the Associate Producer works with the venue on developing a set of ideas that can be piloted for engaging young people with the venue.

You can find out more about the artists under the Platform Artists sections of the website and by checking out the blog.

### **Anna Poole**

#### **Dare to Reimagine Parc & Dare, Treorchy**

Dare to Reimagine asks Treorchy's young people and their families to get involved in a fantastical journey through Treorchy, seen and heard through the eyes and ears of the town's local children, young people and the wider community. One of the aims of Anna's project is to explore a model of engagement based on meaningful interaction, creativity and a sense of place, as well as working with different forms outside of Anna's usual practice as a director.

Over the past few months Anna has been working with children age 10 – 11 from Treorchy Primary School on a series of story-writing workshops, creating fantastical short stories inspired by the town of Treorchy, unicorns and death (obvs). These have been taking place on a weekly basis at the school and at the Parc & Dare. These stories have been woven into a longer story which has been recorded by professional artists and children from the school. The culmination of all this will be a series of audio tours for children and their families in June 2016, penned by the town's young community with Anna during the school sessions. These tours will travel through parts of the town and the Parc & Dare that reimagine what these spaces might look like.

Anna is also working with visual artist Tiff Oben to create visual installations that will 'pop-up' at different places on the audio tour route within the town and sound artist Greg Harradine on a sound scape for the piece.

### **Ellen Groves**

#### **Green Balloons PLC and Dear Diary Chapter, Cardiff**

## **Green Balloons PLC**

This project is aimed at children and is the main focus of theatre-maker Ellen's residency. It will be an improvised, Saturday-Night-Live style show for 7- 9 year olds and their families. The show will be about birthday parties, specifically a group of 'party-makers' who are not very good at their job! They will need the children's help to get the party started. It will bring together improvisation, comedy and telling stories. The aim during the Platform residency is to create a loose narrative that will be shaped by the young audience contributing their own experiences. This will be work-shopped with children in schools and at Chapter.

Workshops will take place at Grangetown Primary School. A two-day workshop / audition was held at Chapter Arts Centre with 15 artists from the wider sector to find 3 performers to join the ensemble and develop the idea with Ellen. Mathilde Lopez will direct. This project will go into stage one R&D in June 2016.

## **Dear Diary**

Dear Diary will see Ellen using her teenage diaries as source material to create a piece of comedy theatre for 14+ about what it's like to be a teenager, drawing together a narrative and exploring and reminding the audience of the highs and lows of teen-dom. She will be working on this with local high schools and through research and development, artist talks and invited sharings with teenagers, artists and industry professionals. Her collaborators on the project are musician Tom Elstob and director and theatre-maker Laura Mugridge.

Dear Diary was performed as a work-in-progress performance at Machynlleth Comedy Festival. It will also be performed as part of the ASSITEJ On the Edge work-in-progress sharings this July. We are also exploring turning it into a podcast.

## **Tracy Harris and Paul Jenkins**

**20-16**

### **The Welfare, Ystradgynlais**

Theatre-makers and playwrights Tracy and Paul are working with 15- 16 year olds from Maesydderwen High School to develop a piece of documentary theatre that gives young people a voice to speak out about what it means to be a teenager in 2016. They are working with local teenagers to develop and make the show based on their personal experiences, perspectives of the world and stories from their real lives. Their Platform residency will see them work towards a scratch performance with young people performing the script with a view to further development beyond the life of the residency.

Workshops have been taking place over a period of months teaching writing and performance techniques. These have been held at Maesydderwen High School and aim to empower young people to find, give voice to and perform the opinions and stories of their generation. Venue residencies at The Welfare have been planned between April – June that will develop performance skills in the young people and introduce them to other professional theatre-makers.

