

THE WORKING PEOPLES THEATRE

ARTISTIC INTENTION

**CHALLENGING THEATRICAL NORMS THROUGH BOLD,
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN, HUMAN EXPERIENCE**

CHALLENGING THEATRICAL NORMS

The Working People's Theatre was founded with the intention of challenging the expectations surrounding theatre: what it is, who it belongs to, and how it is experienced. For many people, theatre can feel distant or confined to particular spaces and audiences. Our work aims to challenge this perception by creating performances that feel immediate, accessible, and relevant to the communities around us.

Our commitment to narrative-driven storytelling, grounded in human experience, is at the centre of our practice. Anchored by the need to communicate in ways

remain a space where new ideas can be trialed and errors made, where our artists are encouraged to experiment, and where audiences feel empowered to engage critically with the work they encounter.

CHALLENGING SOCIAL IDENTITIES

Alongside our interest in theatrical form, The Working People's Theatre is deeply concerned with the ways identity is shaped and understood within society. Many of the stories we explore examine how individuals navigate social structures, expectations, and pressures that influence the way people see themselves and others.

"THEATRE WORK THAT INVITES AUDIENCES INTO THE EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN PLACING DISTANCE BETWEEN THE PERFORMANCE AND THE SPECTATOR"

that engage everyone. Our theatre is both artistically ambitious and emotionally truthful. While we are interested in exploring new theatrical forms, experimentation is always rooted in clear communication and connection with the audience.

Our work frequently combines multiple performance approaches, including hip-hop theatre, devised practice and verbatim material. These methods allow us to examine stories from different perspectives while expanding how theatre can communicate ideas. By blending forms and challenging traditional structures, we aim to create work that feels alive and responsive to the contemporary world.

However, challenging theatrical norms does not simply mean rejecting tradition. Instead, it involves questioning assumptions about who theatre is made for and how stories are told. Through this process, we seek to create work that feels open rather than exclusive, this means to us: "Theatre Work that invites audiences into the experience rather than placing distance between the performance and the spectator."

Ultimately, our goal is to contribute to a theatre culture that continues to evolve. Theatre should

Our work aims to challenge fixed or simplified understandings of the way people function by presenting complex characters and perspectives.

Rather than offering definitive answers, we are interested in asking questions about how identity is constructed, negotiated, and sometimes resisted within contemporary society.

By exploring these themes through theatre, we create opportunities for audiences to reflect on their own experiences and the structures that influence everyday life. We believe theatre uniquely places people within another perspective, allowing audiences to encounter unfamiliar viewpoints in an open space.

This process encourages dialogue. When audiences witness stories that challenge assumptions or complicate familiar narratives, the performance becomes more than entertainment; it becomes a moment of reflection and conversation. In this way, theatre can act as a catalyst for thinking differently about the identities and communities that shape our lives.

We believe that theatre has an important role to play in examining social identity because it is inherently communal. Unlike many other art forms, theatre brings people together in a shared physical space, where stories unfold in real time. This collective experience allows audiences to encounter ideas together, creating the possibility for meaningful exchange and discussion.

Through our work, we hope to use this ideology around theatre to open conversations about identity, perspective, and the social forces that influence how people understand themselves, their surroundings and one another.

COMMUNITY, INTERPRETATION & THE CREATIVE LOOP

Community sits at the centre of The Working People's Theatre and informs the way we approach both the creation and presentation of our work. We see theatre not simply as a finished product presented to an audience, but as part of an ongoing creative loop between artists, audiences, and the communities in which the work exists.

This loop begins with observation, research, and engagement with the world around us. The stories we develop often emerge from conversations, shared experiences, and the realities of contemporary life.

The development of future projects. In this way, the relationship between artist and audience becomes cyclical rather than one-directional. The work grows through engagement, and each performance becomes part of a wider ongoing conversation.

Equally important to our artistic practice is the responsibility to give back to the wider theatrical community. The Working People's Theatre aims to support emerging artists, writers, and collaborators by creating opportunities for development, experimentation, and shared learning. Through initiatives such as scratch performances, collaborative workshops, and open submission opportunities, we seek to create pathways for artists to test ideas and develop new work.

We believe that theatre thrives when artists support one another. By fostering environments where artists can share ideas, take creative risks, and develop their craft, we hope to contribute to a culture of generosity and collaboration within the theatre community.

This commitment to community extends beyond artists to audiences as well. Theatre should feel like a space where people are welcomed and encouraged to engage with ideas, stories, and each other. By creating work that invites participation and reflection, we aim to ensure that theatre remains a living and evolving dialogue between performers and the

“WE HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY AND COLLABORATION WITHIN THE THEATRE COMMUNITY.”

Once these ideas are shaped into performances and shared with an audience, the process continues through interpretation and response.

We believe that theatre should not dictate a single meaning. Instead, audiences are invited to bring their own perspectives and experiences into the space. Each viewer interprets the work differently, and it is through these varied interpretations that theatre gains depth and resonance.

Audience responses, discussions, and reflections then feed back into the creative process, influencing

communities they serve.

This continuous exchange occurs between artists, audiences, and the wider theatrical landscape. The Working People's Theatre seeks to create work that is not only artistically ambitious but also socially connected. Our intention is to build a theatre practice that challenges norms, explores identity, and remains rooted in the shared human experiences that bring communities together.

Theatre should challenge, connect, and belong to everyone and that is what we strive to create.