

Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Ymchwiliad i'r achosion o COVID-19 ac effaith y feirws ar ddiwylliant, y diwydiannau creadigol, treftadaeth, cyfathrebu a chwaraeon / Inquiry into the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on culture, creative industries, heritage, communications and sport

CWLC COV02

Ymateb gan Theatr Clwyd / Response from Theatr Clwyd

What has been the immediate impact of Covid-19 on the sector?

Complete closure for live arts venues and loss of all earned income. Whilst much of the industry has responded well in delivering online content and community support through its work, the pure facts are that this industry is based on bringing together large groups of people for collective social experience – something that stopped immediately and is unlikely to return anytime soon.

Organisations are in real danger of collapse with some venues within the UK already going into administration. The economic, social and cultural impact of these organisations is wide ranging and is in grave danger of being lost.

How effectively has the support provided by the Welsh Government, the UK Government and arms-length bodies addressed the sector's needs?

The furlough scheme has helped in the short term and the Welsh Government and Arts Council emergency funding is welcomed – but for many organisations the amounts available aren't enough to navigate the length of likely closure.

The sector of live arts venues also feels like we don't have a 'seat at the table' as to how we might emerge from this crisis – we need direct consultation and involvement.

Many freelance artist have felt overlooked by the available schemes.

What will the likely long-term impacts of Covid-19 be on the sector, and what support is needed to deal with those?

On the assumption that social distancing is going to be part of our every day lives until a vaccine is found there needs to be an understanding that there is no new financial model that makes sense - and income from live arts events cannot possibly cover costs with social distancing in place.

The sector needs to be involved in detailed discussion as to what terms of re-opening will be required, the measures needed to build public/consumer confidence, and what investment might be needed to deliver this. Involvement from the people who run the venues and companies to build the operational plan now – rather than non-operational bodies coming up with the framework.

What lessons can be learnt from how the Welsh Government, the UK Government, arms-length bodies and the sector have dealt with Covid-19?

Community and health and wellbeing is the strongest outcome and response from the sector. When income, economic impact and cultural gatherings disappear, the most important thing is community benefit and social impact.

There is, within the theatre and live venue sector a feeling that we are more fractured in Wales than we should be – more collaboration is needed in the future.

We, as a subsector of the creative industries do not have a strong enough voice, or are not recognised enough to be included within decision making meetings as others are (an example might be sports and the planning meetings they are offered compared to our sector)

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How might the sector evolve after Covid-19, and how can the Welsh Government support such innovation to deal with future challenges?

Evolution further towards the Future Generations Act for the sector could be one of the positives to come out of this.

Thinking about the place of artists within major organisations will become a big area of consideration (most arts organisations don't actually have artists within employed roles – they tend to be freelancers).

The digital evolution will continue but I believe will only highlight the need for humans to gather for collective cultural, social events and strengthen this work – it is about people coming together. This will only happen if the immediate risk is understood and mitigated – social distancing offers a real threat to live arts venues in Wales.

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Mae'r neges e-bost yma a'r wybodaeth ynddi ac mewn unrhyw atodiadau'n gyfrinachol ac efallai ei bod yn gyfyngedig neu'n breifat. Os ydych chi wedi derbyn y neges e-bost yma mewn camgymeriad, rhoch wybod i ni ar unwaith. Os nad chi oedd i fod i dderbyn y neges e-bost, neu os nad ydych chi awdurdodi i'w derbyn, ni ddylech ddefnyddio, datgelu, copïo, dosbarthu, cadw na dibynnu ar y neges e-bost yma nac unrhyw ran ohoni.

Efallai y bydd Theatr Clwyd yn monitro negeseuon e-bost sy'n mynd allan ac yn dod i mewn, a thelegyfathrebu arall ar ei systemau post ac egyfathrebu. Ni ellir gwarantu bod cyfathrebiadau e-bost yn ddiogel neu heb gamgymeriadau, oherwydd gall gwybodaeth gael ei rhynggipio, ei llygru, ei diwygio, ei cholli, ei dinistrio, cyrraedd yn hwyr neu'n anghyflawn neu gynnwys feirysau. Nid ydym yn derbyn cyfrifoldeb am unrhyw faterion o'r fath na'u canlyniadau. Rydym yn cymryd bod unrhyw un sy'n cyfathrebu â ni ar e-bost yn derbyn y risigau cysylltiedig â gwneud hynny.

Cyflenwir pob gohebiaeth ar sail gyfrinachol ac mae'n parhau'n eiddo Theatr Clwyd. Nid yw safbwyntiau, casgliadau nac unrhyw wybodaeth arall yn y neges e-bost yma, nac mewn unrhyw atodiadau, nad ydynt yn berthnasol i fusnes swyddogol y cwmni'n cael eu rhoi na'u cymeradwyo ganddo.

Heb ystyried y cynnwys, ni fydd y neges e-bost yma'n gweithredu i rwymo Theatr Clwyd i unrhyw orchymyn eu gontract arall oni bai ei fod yn unol â chytundeb ysgrifenedig penodol.