

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 COV61

Ymateb gan Theatre Projects / Response from Theatre Projects

Hello

As an architect who lives in Cardiff and works in the design of theatres and performing arts buildings I am very concerned about the effect that Covid 19 is having on the state of the creative industries in Wales and what the best ways might be to get them up and running again as safely as possible. My experience tells me there are measures that can be taken to assist theatre managers in their efforts to rehearse and stage performances safely and to reintroduce audiences in a way that optimises revenues with social distancing requirements. I believe the senedd should set up a central cultural team or 'task force' that have the skills to assist theatre managers in creating the correct strategies. I know you don't want long emails so I will just create a list of items which could be targeted by a specialist team

- Assessing the suitability of spaces for rehearsal and how other facilities could be used if existing backstage conditions do not allow for social distancing
- Creating strategies for safe backstage movement by reviewing existing building layouts
- Reviewing the seating area of the theatre to assess distances and grouping possibilities to maximise overall capacity – possible introduction of extra aisles for safer audience access
- Considering new ideas to create revenue – Ideas for creating short term VIP areas where patrons can pay increased ticket prices which will then help to offset the loss of reduced capacities.
- Revue audience access into the building and around foyers with front of house managers to use all entrances and exits efficiently with the greatest safety.
- Consider ideas for creating temporary areas for bars and merchandise sales (possibly outside the main theatre in temporary structures)
- Assist executives and managers in assessing building operations in terms of general administration etc. in order to allow essential staff to work safely and effectively.

This is just a short list of items which I think a dedicated team could do to help overcome the difficulties which will be experienced by the theatres and performing arts venues of Wales in their attempt to reopen.

If you would like me to expand on what I have said here you can contact me on this email or by ringing my mobile number

Kind regards

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