



COMMON WEALTH

**COLLABORATE
WITH US**

"A victorious reclamation of the arts"
Kae Tempest, *The Observer*



Photo credit: Karol Wyszynski

WHO WE ARE

Common Wealth makes site-specific theatre events that encompass electronic sound, new writing, visual design and verbatim. Our work is political and contemporary, based in the present day - the here and now. We make work that is relevant and addresses concerns of our times.

We seek out places to stage our work that are right in a community; a residential house, a boxing gym, places where people who might not go to the theatre might come to instead. Our ideas are rooted in socialist politics, working class backgrounds, a keen interest in contemporary music/ theatre/ art/ design, the people that we meet and an idealistic ambition to shift things.

We see our plays as campaigns, as a way of bringing people together and making change feel possible.

WHAT WE DO

We co-create site-specific, political theatre with people from their lived experience. Co-creation for us is about bringing communities and artists together, as experts, to create high-quality, exciting, multi-disciplinary live performances that imaginatively frame people and their stories.

Common Wealth believes in the power of cultural democracy, inviting people to have agency in creative decision making. Trust, care and connection underpin our process, with a commitment to thinking long-term about the development of people and place.

"Common Wealth are the future - through handing over creative power, they encourage people to take political power. Common Wealth is becoming the go-to company with a growing international reputation."

The Stage 25

"Common Wealth are a kind of model of what community theatre could and should be."

Exeunt

WHAT WE WANT TO DO, MAYBE WITH YOU?

WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT SHARING OUR PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

Common Wealth believe in theatre as a catalyst for social change. Art can help us see ourselves, understanding who we are and where we come from. It can help us recognise the power we have. We love meeting new people and working with them. Over the years we have collaborated with many communities - steelworkers, female boxers, soldiers, activists, young people and survivors of domestic abuse. Each collaboration is unique and bespoke, a co-design between us and all partners.

Here are some examples of how we've collaborated with partners internationally:

CO-CREATING WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

In Australia we worked closely with the Perth International Arts Festival and a group of women who were seeking asylum, to explore their stories and what they wanted to say about the world. They spoke a vast array of languages. We collaborated to co-create a piece of theatre about their reception in Australia as newly arrived women.

In Chicago we worked with Albany Park Theater Project and their company of 30 young people. Over 3 weeks we shared our process of creating experimental site-specific work, collaborating and co-creating with communities and working with lived experience as a starting point. The young people led on all aspects of the making and designing with Common Wealth providing structure and direction. We explored the theme 'what can we teach each other' and connected with people across the world from Gaza, Palestine to Bradford, UK.

In both places we developed productions with the companies and shared our practice, tool-kit and methodology with the facilitators as we planned and debriefed sessions together.



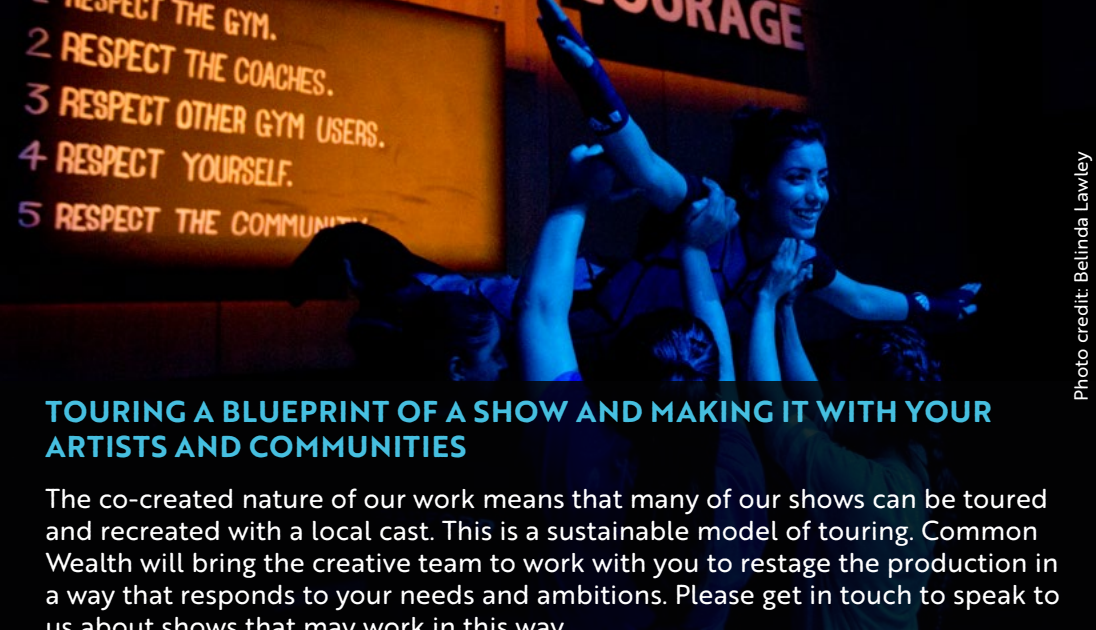


Photo credit: Belinda Lawley

TOURING A BLUEPRINT OF A SHOW AND MAKING IT WITH YOUR ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES

The co-created nature of our work means that many of our shows can be toured and recreated with a local cast. This is a sustainable model of touring. Common Wealth will bring the creative team to work with you to restage the production in a way that responds to your needs and ambitions. Please get in touch to speak to us about shows that may work in this way.

WORKING WITH COMPANIES AND ARTISTS

We have been commissioned by internationally renowned companies and artists to share Common Wealth's practice; how we work with audiences, communities, places and how we make work that is relevant to our times.

We have designed and delivered week-long residencies sharing our expertise through practical exercises, facilitated reflection and company coaching. We use the lens of our artistic co-creation process to look at place, community, audience and protagonists.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

- + AVAILABLE - flexible and up for discussion
- + PARTICIPANTS - up to 35
- + DEVELOPMENT TIME - from 1 day to 4 weeks. We are open to longer processes depending on project needs
- + CREATIVE TEAM - usually 2 to 3 people (artistic directors and other collaborators as required)
- + SPACE - we can work in any space, but we have a particular interest in responding to buildings in the heart of communities and working site- specifically
- + AGE GUIDANCE - suitable for all ages
- + LANGUAGE - English or can be facilitated in a local language if translation is provided



GET IN TOUCH

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