



ACT UP! NEWHAM AND BOOM-WOW THEATRE WANT TO SEE MORE PERFORMING ARTS PROJECTS LED BY COMPANIES AND ARTISTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND NEURO-DIVERSITIES

A LOT OF ARTISTS AND COMPANIES WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES HAVE GREAT IDEAS FOR PERFORMING ARTS PROJECTS BUT CAN'T ACCESS THE FUNDS THAT WILL LET THEM MAKE THESE PROJECTS COME TRUE.

A LOT OF ARTISTS AND COMPANIES WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES WANT TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FUNDRAISING.

ACT UP! NEWHAM AND BOOM-WOW THEATRE PARTNERED UP
TO EXPLORE WAYS TO MAKE FUNDRAISING ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE!

HERE WE WILL SHARE SOME OF OUR SESSION PLANS TO GIVE YOU IDEAS OF HOW YOU COULD PARTNER
WITH OTHER DISABLED LEAD COMPANIES AND MAKE THE FUNDRAISING PROCESS ACCESSIBLE TO THEM.

WE WILL ALSO SHARE A DRAFT APPLICATION FOR AWARDS FOR ALL THAT ACT UP! NEWHAM AND BOOM-WOW THEATRE
MADE TOGETHER.

SOME WAYS IN WHICH WE EXPLORED MAKING FUNDRAISING MORE ACCESSIBLE:

- SIMPLIFIED LANGUAGE: FUNDING APPLICATIONS ARE VERY WORDY AND SOMETIMES HAVE A LOT OF INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE VERY CONFUSING AND OVERWHELMING. WE BROKE DOWN EACH QUESTION AND USED SIMPLER LANGUAGE. WE TRIED DIFFERENT WAYS OF ASKING THE SAME QUESTION.
- ACTIVE EXPLORATION: WE DIDN'T SIT DOWN TO READ AND WRITE; WE FOCUSED ON AN ACTIVE EXPLORATION. THIS MEANS WE TRIED TO UNDERSTAND FUNDING APPLICATIONS ACTIVELY WITH OUR BODIES USING THEATRE TOOLS. WE USED DRAMA WORKSHOPS TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH THE FUNDRAISING PROCESS, USING A LANGUAGE ALL OF US IN THE GROUP UNDERSTOOD.
- DIFFERENT WAYS OF ANSWERING: WHY SHOULD WRITING BE THE ONLY WAY OF ANSWERING QUESTIONS. WE ANSWERED QUESTIONS IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS:
 - BY PLACING OURSELVES SOMEWHERE IN THE ROOM DEPENDING ON OUR ANSWER
 - BY MIMING OUR ANSWERS WITH OUR BODIES, SHOWING EMOTIONS AND ACTIONS
 - BY CREATING AND ACTING OUT SCENES AS A GROUP THAT SHOWED AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION
 - BY DISCUSSING ANSWERS AS A GROUP, BRAINSTORMING IDEAS, AND WRITING THEM IN A BIG PIECE OF PAPER
 - WE ANSWERED QUESTIONS INDIVIDUALLY OR SUPPORTED AS A GROUP

UP NEXT ARE SOME SAMPLES OF SESSION PLANS TO SHOW YOU HOW WE DID THIS

SESSION	(Introduction to project and fundraising)	Notes & Materials
Warm up 6:00-6:30	Short Game or Act Up Warm Up Thermometer (How is everyone feeling, how hungry, tired, excited are they? How much do they know about fundraising, objectives, beneficiaries, how important do they think fundraising is for Act Up? How easy do they think fundraising is?)	Speaker in case we do a bit of movement/dance warm up
6:30 -6:50	Separate into 2 groups. I will give them a question, and each group will have a bit of time to come up with a freeze frame or short movement sequence to answer the question. Share with each other from their spot. Discuss What is fundraising? / Why do we need to fundraise? / How many opportunities are there for disabled artists? / How would you feel if you could see A LOT of shows and movies by and with disabled artists?	
6:50 – 7:00	Brief summary of what we are doing. Want to try out a way for you, and other disabled groups to make sure you have the funds to run the projects that YOU want to run. Fundraising is a way of getting money to do those projects, but it's not accessible for everyone. (Show sample of a funding application) Breaking the barrier, each participant to symbolically break the barrier by doing what they want with the funding application.	Funding application sample
7:00-7:15	Break	
7:15-7:30	Warm Up a game of their choice	
7:30-7:50	Get together in groups. In groups they will move between stations answering specific questions in each station. Questions will be about what they want to do with this specific project They will have some time to discuss and then write their answers	Flipchart and Markers
7:50-8:10	Each group will get the answers from 2 stations. Select the 3 most important ones for them. Create 3 freeze frames (could have a bit of movement also) to show these three answers to the other group. Share back and have the other group try and guess what they selected.	
8:10-8:25	Go through their answers together as a group. See if there are any others that are very important, any that might need adapting to be more realistic (but might be good to keep in mind for future projects) or anything that might be missing.	Sticky tack
8:25-8:30	Check Out	

QUESTIONS FOR STATIONS:

Station 1: How do you think this show should look like? Make up, scenography, costumes, lighting, props, what style, do they want all that or all wearing black instead for example?

Station 2: Where would you like to perform it? For how many people, How many times do they want to perform it?

Station 3: Who do they want to perform it for? Would it make a difference for someone to watch this show? Who and why? Who do they want to make sure can come and watch this show? How do we make sure?

Station 4: What do you need to rehearse and create this show? How much time? Do you need someone to come and give you some special classes or a professional? Dance? A filmmaker? A writer? Stage fighting? Etc.

SESSION	(Priorities and Community focus)	Notes & Materials
Arrival time plus warm up 3:00-3:35	15-20 minutes for everyone to arrive. Act Up Warm Up Sun shines	Speaker just in case
3:35 -3:55	Circle with everyone. This funding wants to support people who have been most affected by COVID, so you are the best ones to tell me how COVID affected you. I have some questions for you, we'll go around the circle and you will show me with a movement and a word (if you want), your answer to that question. The rest of the group will copy the movement. How did you feel during lockdown? / What did you miss during lockdown? / How does COVID make you feel now? / One thing you would have loved to do if there was no COVID around the last couple of years / One thing you think other people don't understand about how COVID affected you / How do you feel now you are back at Given Wilson? / How would rehearsing and performing your show make you feel? /	Film this might to collate the answers later
3:55 – 4:15	The first fund we are applying for has three main goals they want to achieve. You are going to tell me how you think we fit their goals, we don't have to fit them all, but maybe we do. 3 corners, each with one of their priorities, as a group we list how we fit, 5 minutes per corner. By the end, the group will vote, on which is the one they think we fit the most by placing themselves in one of the corners	(Priorities on paper with VISUALS/PICTURES to explain what they mean)
4:15-4:40	Break	
4:40-4:55	Warm Up a game of their choice	
4:55-5:25	Community... Who is Act Up's Community? Their definition (People who live in the same area or, people who have similar interests or life experiences, but might not live in the same area) Act Up's community is firstly, you! And they want to make sure you were involved in coming up with this project. 2 groups, I will ask some questions and you will have some minutes to create a short scene to answer the question. If you are not sure, that's OK, we will discuss each answer after How did Act Up start? Who started it and why? How did you come up with the idea for this show? How will the reading of the play on 14 th help you to improve the show? Why are each one of you important for creating the show?	Film or write down their answers and discussion.
5:25-5:30	Check Out	

Their Priorities:

- Build strong relationships in and across communities *(Make friends, meet new people, meet other theatre companies)*
- Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities *(make a park, theatre or given Wilson nicer, more beautiful more accessible)*
- Help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage. *(Help you get better at acting, dancing, writing, other? Help you show off your talents)*

SESSION	(Outcomes and Company)	Notes & Materials
Arrival & Tea 2:00-2:30	Arrival & Tea time	
2:30 -2:45	Act Up Warm Up Chuchuwa	
2:45 – 3:10	<p>OUTCOMES: Importance of making a difference. First figure out what they get from Act Up to help determine important outcomes for them as members.</p> <p>CHARADES: Each one of you, have a think, why do YOU come to Act Up every week? What is the most important thing you get out of coming here every week? Have a think but don't say anything. Maybe each person before going ahead can have a short chat with Hannah to support.</p> <p>Then each person will go to the middle and mime it for us, the rest of the group will try to guess. (They can do it in pairs if they need someone to help them with the charades) They can talk if they want, but not say what it is, for example, they can say hello if they want to show they are meeting other people, but they can't say: meeting other people.</p>	
3:10-3:30	<p>Thermometer: (Answer by placing themselves somewhere in the room, example: AGREE (Right side of the room); DISAGREE (left side of the room)</p> <p>With some outcomes that I have outlined based on my observations, check with them how much they agree that it is something that Act up makes a difference for them. Outcomes on their own or outcomes against each other. Get some comments. Any other ideas?</p>	Film this.
3:30-3:45	Break	
3:45-3:55	Warm Up a game (Musical statues)	
3:55-4:25	<p>AUDIENCE AND COMMUNITY OUTCOMES.</p> <p>Putting on a show has other outcomes than taking part in rehearsals. What difference do you want to make by having an audience watch a show.</p> <p>We want to make the world a better place, Act Up shows can make it a better place. How do you think a show by Act Up can make the world a better place? Not just this show, but any show that Act Up puts together.</p> <p>Separate into 2 groups (one can stay with me on the screen, worth trying it out)</p> <p>Each group discuss and decide one way in which an Act Up show can make the world better (Teach the audience something, inspire them to do things different, change attitudes, etc). Create a short scene to show us the before and after.</p> <p>Share back</p> <p>Any other ideas that were discussed but not shown?</p>	Film or write down their answers and discussion.
4:25-4:30	Check Out	

WE MADE AN APPLICATION FOR “AWARDS FOR ALL” TOGETHER.

UP NEXT, YOU WILL SEE AN EASY READ OF THE FIRST DRAFT WE CREATED FOR THIS APPLICATION.

PUTTING ALL THE INFORMATION TOGETHER IN AN EASY READ IS ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH WE MADE SURE EVERYONE WAS INFORMED AND GOT A CHANCE TO GIVE FEEDBACK BEFORE SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

THE SAME AS IN SESSIONS, SIMPLIFYING THE LANGUAGE, USING PICTURES, AND GIVING SPACE FOR EACH MEMBER TO COMMUNICATE WAS A GREAT HELP.

What will we do?



Act Up! Will rehearse their play named “_____”. They will meet 2 times a week for 4 months at Given Wilson



Act Up! Will perform the play at the end of June 2022 for the Newham community. They will perform 2 times a week for 3 weeks



The script of the play was made by Awa. Trevor will come and help her finish the script.



This will be Act Up's first big, in person, performance in ____ years! They had to perform on Zoom since COVID started.



This rehearsals help Act Up members to meet their friends, get better at acting and share ideas with each other.



shutterstock.com · 540781456



Download from
Dreamstime.com



We will invite everyone, but the most important people are:

- Disabled audience members
- Professionals and directors
- Authorities



Access is very important! We will create an audio script, have a BSL interpreter and large print.

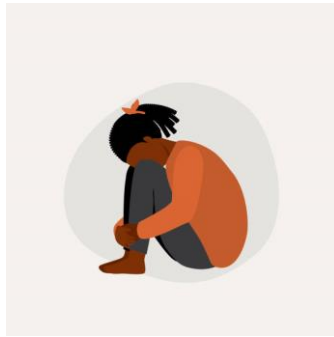


We want to be more well known in Newham and help Newham become a more inclusive area.

Did COVID affect you? Will you help members get better at something?



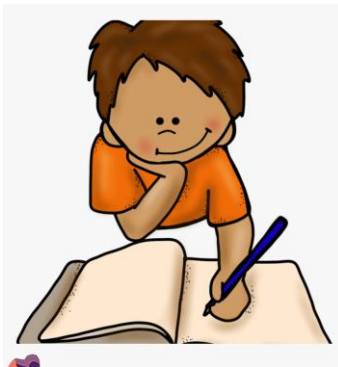
Studies show that disabled adults felt lonelier than non-disabled adults during lockdown.



Act Up! Members felt sad, lonely and missed performing during lockdown.



Act Up! Members are happy to be back acting and meeting their friends.



Act Up helps people get better at:

- Acting
- Writing
- Creating stories
- Performing for other people
- Dancing



Act Up members can be an inspiration for other disabled artists that want to perform.

Do Act Up! Members make decisions or does someone tell them what to do?



It was Sterre and Jade's idea to continue Act Up and invite more people to make shows together



All Act Up! Shows are created by Act Up. Act Up members make the decisions.



All Act Up! Members helped Awa when she was working on her script, giving her ideas each week

WE HOPE THIS HELPS YOU!

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

WE WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OTHER COMPANIES AND ARTISTS!

GET IN TOUCH WITH US:



actupnewham@gmail.com

www.actupnewham.co.uk



info@boomwowtheatre.org.uk

www.boomwowtheatre.org.uk