

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



OLDHAM THEATRE WORKSHOP
ERASMUS+ YOUTH ON STAGE
SCENARIO FOR YOUTH 2018

The Background

This scenario forms part of a collaborative Erasmus+ project that Oldham theatre Workshop embarked upon with Wszecchnica Uniwersytetu Poland, Institut Celostnej edukacie and SlovakiaYouth Association Droni in Georgia. Together we have set out to explore the challenges that young people face entering the labour market and have used forum theatre to create products that can be used in each county by young people and professionals who support them to better understand and change approaches.

Forum Theatre is an interactive form of theatre that enables its' audience to empathise with the characters on stage presenting a problem or issue for a character and then allowing the audience to debate and take part in possible outcomes. Created by Theatre Practitioner Augusto Boal it uses a scenario to introduce an idea and then invites the audience to shape what happens next.

The 'scenario' presents a character, the protagonist, facing a particular challenge, in this case trying to achieve their labour market aspirations, and introduces one or more characters called 'oppressors' whose actions get in the way of the character achieving their goal. There will also be another character or characters' who are on the side of the protagonist and could potentially offer them support. The 'scenario' finishes at a point of crisis when the character has reached a crossroads and needs help to make their next steps.

It is at this point that the 'Joker' or 'Facilitator' enters. This person asks the audience about the scenario and how they think they can help the protagonist move on. Audience members, in this case young people, professionals working with them or potential employers, are encouraged to discuss ideas to help the protagonist and invited in to the theatre performance to try these out. This enables them to really stand in the shoes of people with similar issues to them or people who they may work with professionally and understand the real challenges they face. The process enables them to discuss and develop tools and responses they can then take and use in their own lives.

The following scenario was developed following research and consultation with young people and professionals supporting them in the UK and it can be used to explore how young people can develop better problem solving tools and enable professionals to create new approaches and help shape their practice.

Meet the Characters

Lorraine – 41 years old, Amy's mum, unemployed.

Amy – 19 years old, looking for her next steps in the world.

Lauren – 19 years old, Amy's friend

Mr Hussen – 38 years old, a learning mentor at Amy's college

Amanda – 35 years old, a nursery owner.

Find out more

Look at the character profiles to find out more about each of the characters and how they relate to each other:

Name

1 card

Michael Hussen

Age

1 card

38

What do I do?


1 card

Learning Mentor in local College

Biography

1 card

Michael is a family man with a wife and one small child. He is passionate about his job and in supporting young people. Michael believes that young people shouldn't fall through the cracks and is keen to ensure that adults shouldn't patronise young people. He is a feminist, and inspiring, cultured and creative man who is passionate about the community he lives in.



Hopes & Desires

1 card

☐ To make a difference in the world
 ☐ Financial Stability
 ☐ Restore faith in the system
 ☐ To watch his family grow

Fears

1 card

☐ Not being able to support his family
 ☐ Scared that he's working in a system that isn't working
 ☐ Worries about the 'told you so' people in his life

Relationship to Amanda

1 card

He teaches her daughter as a Maths tutor. He thinks that she is hard working and is impressed that she owns her own nursery. He is aware of how she presents herself now as she's a little pompous.

Relationship to Lorraine

1 card

He doesn't really know much about her, just a one sided view. He has never met her but he feels sorry for her pressures. However he is frustrated that she doesn't

Relationship to Amy

1 card

Amy is his student and he is protective of her, she has lots of potential. She is in tune with her and is a project of success

Relationship to Friend

0 cards

Name

1 card

Lorraine Dickins

Age

1 card

39

What do I do?

1 card

Stay at home Mum

Biography

1 card

Lorraine stays at home as she has some mental health issues. She is in an unstable relationship and has become isolated. She relies on Amy to care for the five other children in the house. All the children are from different relationships. Her relationship with Amy



Hopes & Desires

1 card

☐ Wants her family to be happy

☐ Wants her children to be proud of her

☐ To be financially stable

☐ She wants punishment for the men who left her and the children

Fears

1 card

☐ Seeing her daughter turn into her

☐ Loneliness

☐ Missed opportunities, growing up too quickly

Relationship to Amy

1 card

She is Amy's mum and relies on Amy to run the house. She doesn't see her as an adult

Relationship to Mr Hussen

1 card

She isn't aware of Mr Hussen, she isn't interested in him and tries to defy Amy from seeing him.

Relationship to Amanda

1 card

She knows her as the lady with the posh car who Amy is working for. Lorraine is impressed with the success and money is tells her so

Relationship to Lauren

1 card

Lorraine knows her as Amy's best friend, they grew up together and she has spent

Name

1 card

Amy Williamson

Age

1 card

19

What do I do?

1 card

Not in employment, education or training

Biography

1 card

Amy is a passionate, strong headed and bright girl who hasn't been encouraged to apply herself to education. She has had a difficult relationship with her mum and she acts as a surrogate mother for her siblings. She has some friends but not much time to socialise.



Hopes & Desires

1 card

☐ She wants to support her family

☐ Hopes her mum will get better

☐ Wants a brighter future

☐ Wants a career and family or her own

Fears

1 card

☐ Fear of failure

☐ Losing relationships with siblings

☐ Never amount to anything

Relationship to Lorraine

1 card

Lorraine is her mum, she has a tempestuous relationship with her. She is also very protective of her mum. She finds Lorraine's lack of interest frustrating

Relationship to Mr Hussen

1 card

Mr Hussen is her learning mentor, she feels that he is a friend too. She finds him

Relationship to Amanda

1 card

Amanda is the woman who may be able to provide Amy with a job. She sees her as a her lifeline to development. She is very respectful of Amanda, who she sees as successful

Relationship to Lauren

1 card

Lauren is Amy's best friend. She has grown up with her and they do load

Name

1 card

Lauren Holmes

Age

1 card

19

What do I do?

1 card

Not in employment, education or Training

Biography

1 card

Lauren is Amy's friend, they were at school together and have stayed friends since. She like to have a good time, is easy going and has no real aspirations. She is fine with that.



Hopes & Desires

1 card

- ☐ To be happy with her life
- ☐ To find someone to settle down with and have children
- ☐ To support Amy in all that she does
- ☐ To earn enough to live on

Fears

1 card

- ☐ Losing Amy as a friend
- ☐ Not finding her fairytale life
- ☐ Being forced to work in a dead end job

Relationship to Lorraine

1 card

Lauren spends a lot of time with Amy and so knows Lorraine well. She likes her but feels sorry for Amy having to be the family runner. Lauren is glad that she has a good relationship with her Mum.

Relationship to Mr Hussen

1 card

Lauren isn't taught by Mr Hussen and so doesn't have contact with him. She has seen him around and can see how much

Relationship to Amy

1 card

Lauren is Amy's best friend. They spend all their time together and trust each other. Lauren is happy that Amy wants to make something of herself.

Relationship to Amanda

1 card

She has no relationship with Amanda other than knowing that she is Amy's new volunteer employer.

Name

1 card

Amanda Brown

Age

1 card

43

What do I do?

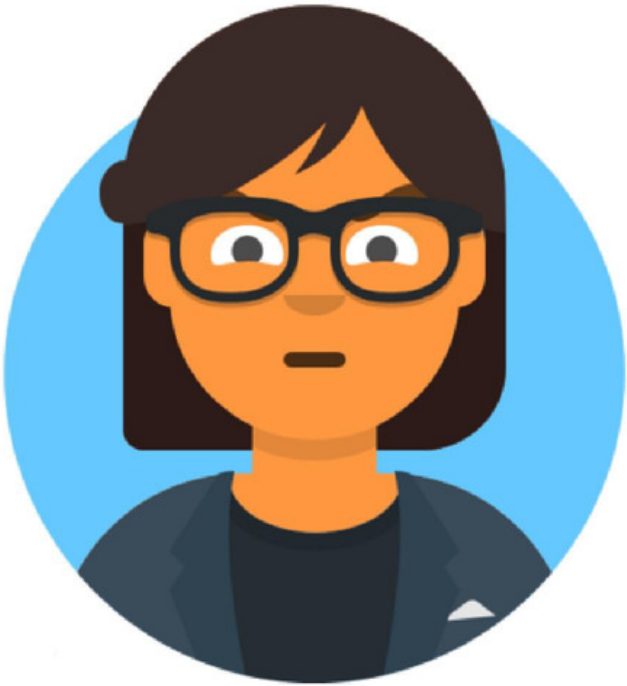
1 card

Manager of a Children's Nursery

Biography

1 card

She runs a successful business and is very middle class but with working class roots. She is a driven, strong empowered woman who believes that you make your own path in life. She is the oldest of her siblings, has a husband and and a 13 year old daughter. She likes to run a tight ship, she is very strict.



Hopes & Desires

1 card

- ☐ Money, status, power, social standing
- ☐ Acknowledgement that she belongs to the middle class
- ☐ She wants her children to succeed
- ☐ She is happy in her job

Fears

1 card

- ☐ Being Lonely
- ☐ Not being in control
- ☐ Losing the connection between her and her husband

Relationship to Lorraine

1 card

She knows very little about Lorraine, she does have preconceptions about her. She thinks of her as 'one of those', 'doesn't want help, benefit scroungers'.

Relationship to Amy

1 card

Amy is her volunteer placement, she sees her as her contribution. She thinks that Amy needs her help and knowledge and skills.

Relationship to Mr Hussen

1 card

Teaches her daughter as a maths tutor. His also her employee. She sees him as a valuable member of society, good to

Relationship to Lauren

1 card

She has no relationship with Lauren other than knowing that she is Amy's best friend.

Questions/ Ideas for the Joker/Facilitator to explore:

What do we think is going through Amy's head right now?

What do we think will happen next?

Is there anybody that could support/help Amy?

How would she approach them and what help might she ask for?

Is there anything she could or should have done differently before she arrived at this crisis point?

What do we think would be a good ending for the scenario?

