

Puppetry and the Funding Tick Box

Chris – Green Ginger etc. Puppet Maker, Performer.

Dik – Pickled Image, Puppet Maker, Performer

Laura – Head of Culture Bristol City Council, responsible for making the fun happen.

Emma – Director of Theatre – Creative Group Member and Puppet Place Associate Artist.

Trish – Artist Director of “Make Believe Arts”

Becky – Creative Practitioner, Engagement and Facilitator Creatively

Lhosa – Deputy Director of Spike Island

Mary – Resident Artist of Puppet Place and Stop Motion Instructor

Chris – fleshing out question. No specific “tick box” used to be variety / drama / dance (depending on genre / funding body).

Professionalism – Should puppetry seek to be an art form / sub art form? As a puppeteer you are in a huge pool of creative practitioners with very diverse scope of skills and experience .

Becky – What would be the aim of extracting puppetry?

Chris – To differentiate ourselves as craft practitioners.

Fascinating crossovers could be stifled.

Trish – The notion of a kite mark resonates. Anyone can call themselves a puppeteer.

Chris – Opera Singers and Dancers make good puppeteers. Not a move to safeguard the craft.

Becky – Subdivision of theatre box. Puppetry begging to exist beyond physical live theatre.

Dik – Lumped in with mime, mask etc.

Chris – Culture of Adult puppetry emerging.

Emma – Puppeteering gaining emerging status

Chris – Standards within education – agreed standards

Emma – Need to allow outsiders an entry point.

Mary – Rigour in language – what is the different between an “interdisciplinary artist” and a “craft puppeteer”. Require a “Relationship Manager for Puppetry?”

- Laura – Discussions on Puppetry don’t happen spontaneously. What are the areas of general “ concern”

Dik – Rehearsal space and storage are critical.

How do we get advocates for puppetry in key positions?

Emma – The “other than” sense is appealing to the puppetry community.

Visibility is key. Puppet place could fight for that – it is well positioned.

Brand leaders (War Horse etc.) Bred through the purist notion of puppetry as children’s form.

Collaboration can become diluted.

Rachel McNally – Most artists less concerned with craft (interdisciplinary strategic thinkers)

Pushing knowledge “back up” to funders need more nuanced approach opposed to who shouts the loudest.