



KILDARE YOUNG  
PEOPLE'S ARTS  
PROGRAMME

A CROOKED HOUSE PROJECT

*theatre | music | street dance | film*

.....

*providing a space where young people can be creative citizens*





## CROOKED HOUSE THEATRE COMPANY

Crooked House established Kildare Youth Theatre in 1997. It became a flagship youth project, receiving international acclaim as a model for successfully integrating youth work with theatre. The concept was simple: involve as many young people as possible, make it free, and use theatre to explore issues affecting the young participants' lives. We discovered that young people stayed with us, through secondary school and college, and are now in their mid twenties running many of our projects. Now we include street dance, film making, and music. We provide a forum in which young people can develop the skills necessary to be creative citizens. We do this by training our participants in the arts of theatre, dance, film and music.

## WHAT WE DO

1. We organise and run: drama-based personal development workshops, film making workshops, music and jam sessions, Open Mic Nights, dance workshops (street dance, hip-hop, shuffle), and leadership training for 14 to 25 year olds.
2. We promote positive mental health initiatives.
3. We work with marginalised young people and early school leavers.
4. We integrate young people with special needs into mainstream workshops.
5. We bring young people from all of the socio-economic classes and backgrounds together in one place.
6. We attract young people from all over county Kildare and from neighbouring counties of Wicklow and Dublin.

Our youth theatre is the oldest youth theatre in County Kildare and is one of Ireland's finest young performance companies, having staged international premieres of plays by leading contemporary writers such as Mark Ravenhill and Jon Fosse, and toured Ireland, the UK and Europe. In any given year there are over 300 young people engaged as theatre and film makers in projects run by KYT. With the young people we organise productions, tours, exchanges, festivals and training workshops. The majority of this work is voluntary and un-funded. Our workshops and performances reach, on average, an extra 3,000 young people across the county and beyond.

## WHY WE DO IT

The Kildare Young People's Arts Project is centred around the needs of the young people it serves, and is managed by a committee that includes young people, drama facilitators, and members of Crooked House Theatre Company. We have a trained panel of facilitators who work with a wide variety of organisations. Since its inception Crooked House has worked with youth groups throughout Kildare, Ireland and abroad, on themes of social justice, which are expressed through workshops, devised pieces and plays. The majority of this work aims to promote positive mental health; increase citizenship abilities; promote equality and develop critical thinking. This section of the organisation is also responsible for organising the annual Human Rights Youth Theatre Festival, an event which is unique in Europe. To date there have been seven annual festivals involving young people from Ireland and Europe.





**W**e are now recognised nationally and abroad as experts in the field of youth work through the arts. Universities from Scotland, Norway, the USA, Italy and Greece have made study visits here and have worked with us on researching the methods we use. Peter Hussey, the Artistic Director, has developed and currently delivers a wide range of third level programmes in this field with NUI Maynooth and DCU. We train youth workers from a number of third level institutions in the use of theatre and the arts in youth and community work.

## HOW MANY PEOPLE INVOLVED

Members of Kildare Young People's Arts Programme (aged 4 to 22) and our young leaders.

DETAILS OF GROUP LEADERS (2012)	M	F
Junior Leaders (U18 yrs)	3	2
18-25 years	4	4
Over 25 years	3	2
Total Leaders	10	8
DETAILS OF MEMBERS (2012)		
Under 10 years	7	6
11-14 years	3	3
15-18 years	25	23
19-21 years	21	22
22-24 years	12	20
Over 25 years	5	8
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>82</b>



**Tutors facilitate workshops and train members in various techniques. Directors direct the plays. Leaders are senior members who assist with facilitation and take occasional workshops. KYT Staff work mostly as volunteers.**

They are:

Peter Hussey (*Artistic Director; Stage Director; Tutor - Advanced Training*)

Keith Millar (*Drama Facilitator*)

Keith Burke, Mary Linehan (*Stage Directors*)

Mostafa Khaddem (*Film-maker*)

Chris Clarke, Treenie Curran and Chris Kearney (*Leaders*)

Rachel Lally (*Crooked Mice Facilitator*)

Marc Tuffy, Anthony Davidson and Mary Kiely (*Junior Leaders*)

Jill Bradbury (*Voice Coach*)

Jackie Tyrrell and Brenda Walsh (*Volunteers*)









## HOW THE ARTS BENEFIT US: how we use theatre

The kind of theatre that we practice with our young performers in Kildare Youth Theatre, and with our young groups as part of Crooked House's Outreach programme, is sometimes known as process drama. In it we explore participants' attitudes, experiences and senses of self through the rehearsal and devising process. Instead of simply getting lines to learn for a part in a play, a young person must create the whole part themselves (with our help and guidance). They draw on their experiences, personality traits, knowledge of themselves and of society, and their attitude and observations in order to create the part. This is done through **discussion** and through various rehearsal techniques. It takes time but is invariably worth it as the young person has complete creative control and owns the 'part' as a valid, imaginative expression of their own.

We have found that this type of drama practice **combats depression** particularly well. It also assists hugely in alleviating feelings of isolation and estrangement, and it builds high self esteem. In our practice over the past 15 years we have discovered that it also effectively acts as a **measure for suicide prevention**. It does this by developing key skills and aptitudes in the participants that contribute to positive mental well-being. Some of these skills and abilities are regarded as key deficiencies in young people with suicidal tendencies. The particular ones developed by theatre are:

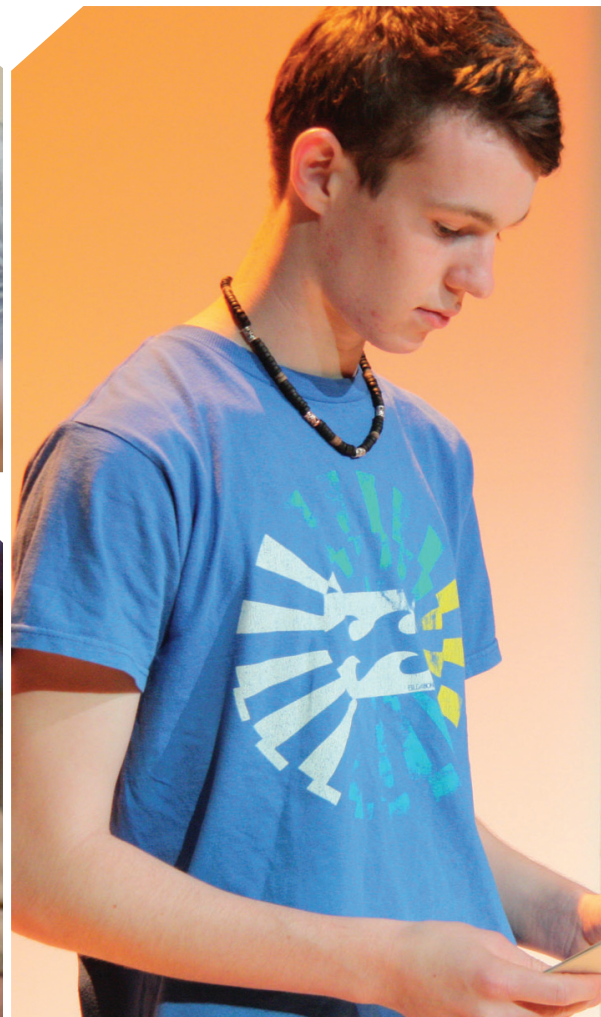
- **The ability to channel impulsive behaviour.**

Many suicide attempts result from, among other factors, a strong impulsive action taken by the young person often under the influence of drink or drugs. These impulsive actions regularly come about because feelings have been bottled up or repressed for years. In our drama practice we encourage the expression and channelling of impulsive reactions and behaviour. We show how to harness and use spontaneity and instant expression. Young people are encouraged to use their feelings and impulses to create improvised and devised performances in safe and encouraging surroundings. They become accustomed to channelling sudden feelings, strong reactions and responses to external stimuli in a way that is healthy and non-aggressive.

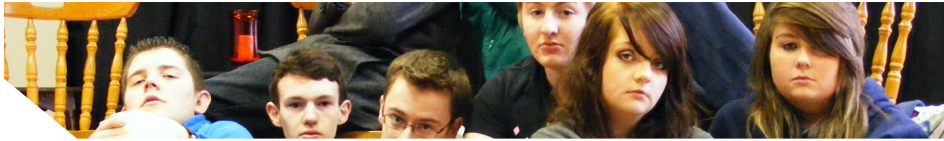
- **Taking control over one's life.**

Our informal research has shown that young people today generally don't feel that they have a lot of control over their daily routines and lives (they are collected and dropped off by parents; school is very structured; their evenings are set and established; etc). In theatre they have to make their own characters, performances, and expressions – all from scratch. They must be in control of the process themselves. For many this is difficult: they will constantly ask "What do you want me to do?" or they will regularly seek permission to do some action or reaction on stage. Eventually they learn to be independent and to gain control and ownership over the process of making something. This sense of control spills over into their lives and assists them in taking charge of other processes like career choice, life choices and emotional responses.









## THEATRE AND MENTAL HEALTH

- **Collaboration and teamwork.** As Adults, we have to learn how to give and take, collaborate, compromise and grow, and work together. Often it is in the drama workshop environment that they first encounter this life-skill, as much of their unregulated time is spent alone with video games, in their bedroom, or silently receptive to TV and cinema. The collaboration in youth theatre builds very strong friendships and opportunities for engagement with others.

- **Creating, not consuming.** The key skill in process drama is teaching the young people how to be active creators (of meaning, of identity, and of viewpoint) as opposed to being passive consumers of opinion, of culture and of commodities. Instead of listening and watching the opinions of others (in the media, in the schoolbooks, in the video games) they have to create meaning from a blank canvas – there are no models to follow, no guidelines other than you must get up and create a situation, a character, an opinion, a point-of-view. The dramas we create are all expressions of their concerns, their attitudes, and their points-of-view. This facility helps them

have a critical engagement with the world around them; to name their concerns, joys and interests; and to formulate their own opinions.

- **Active Citizenship.** This drama encourages the young people to look twice at everything. They need to be sharp and observant when creating realistic scenarios and realistic character types. This stimulates an interest in their surroundings, which is then channelled into making a drama about their concerns and issues. Many young people then go on to become involved in organisations and work that help create a more just and equal society. Their political engagement is stronger and they take a very active interest in social issues.

- **Accessing the Imagination.** Nothing beats theatre when it comes to opening up people's imagination. It is the principal quality of drama. Young people are natural creators – but they need a safe and stimulating environment in which to be imaginative. We help them use their imaginations to solve problems, to imagine different sides to a complex argument, to imagine alternatives to set ideologies. An imaginative young person is someone who will not become trapped in a problem or find something too heavy a burden to bear.

- **Using information.** The drama we practice with young people helps them to access and use information – as opposed to simply ignore it, or be overwhelmed by it. Many young people ask for permission to do something rather than find out for themselves if it would be a good or bad thing to do. Process drama requires them to gather all kinds of information in every moment, and to act on the information they gathered. The information is usually about the other person acting with them, the environment they are in, the context of their situation and scenario, the likely outcomes of saying or doing something. This is an essential skill in problem solving, and in dealing with unwelcome situations in life.

***There are many other qualities in process drama that assist in suicide prevention (eg leadership skills, having fun and being stimulated etc).***

In many of our other projects with young people the idea of suicide prevention is to the fore of the project – that is, we address issues like depression and help people identify resources that can help them. But with Kildare Youth Theatre we do not explicitly state that this is a suicide prevention project. Instead we trust that the processes described above will work in such a way that a young person in KYT will benefit from it and be able to see their lives differently, and in a more positive light.

## HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO RUN

It costs between €32,000 and €40,000 annually to run Kildare Young People's Arts Project. The following is a breakdown of costs. We do not have any paid staff. We are all volunteers on the youth theatre project. All our income (from fund-raising, grants and productions) goes towards the costs of running our centre and our programmes. Membership is free to anyone whose family is in receipt of social welfare. Otherwise, young people pay €12 per month to take part in the year-long programmes.



### TYPE OF COST

### TOTALS

Administration (recruitment, promotion, publicity, coordinating meetings, promoting performances, arranging venues, arranging transport of participants etc).	€5,500
Posters and publicity material for performance; general photocopying (eg of information and leaflets)	€700
Materials for performance (costumes, set items, props and furniture) and workshops.	€2,000
Materials for film and music (camera, editing software, microphones, guitars, keyboards, speakers, etc). Usually these are hired.	€5,800
Travel costs for facilitators.	€1,600
Phone and internet.	€1,000
Annual Rent	€12,000
Electricity (light and heating).	€2,100
Insurance (public liability, and employer's insurance).	€1,300
Venue hire for workshops and performances.	€4,000
1 project evaluator; to visit and observe the project; to assess and record aspects of practice; to advise on how the project is adhering to the aims and objectives; to write a report at the end.	€2,000
DVD – filming of projects as a documentary record (including interviews and context information); editing DVD; creating copies and distribution of same.	€2,500
Miscellaneous	€800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€38,000</b>



CROOKED HOUSE THEATRE COMPANY

# MUSICAL THEATRE SUMMER PROJECT

**3rd - 28th AUG. 2010**

A FOUR WEEK SUMMER CAMP WITH CROOKED HOUSE

CREATORS OF 'PROPER PREGGERS'

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 11 TO 22 YEARS OLD

11am - 6pm, MONDAY - FRIDAY  
ONLY 25 PLACES AVAILABLE  
COSTS €100 FOR 4 WEEKS

TO CREATE YOUR OWN MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION  
COMPOSE AND SING YOUR OWN SONGS  
WRITE YOUR OWN STORY

TO APPLY PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO CROOKED HOUSE THEATRE COMPANY, 1 MAIN ST. NEWBRIDGE, CO. WICKLOU OR EMAIL TO [info@crookedhouse.com](mailto:info@crookedhouse.com) CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS

**FRIDAY 28TH MAY AT 5.00PM**  
APPLICANTS WILL BE SELECTED BY 4TH JUNE  
(NOTE: PARENTAL CONSENT MUST BE RECEIVED FOR ALL UNDER 18s)

[www.crookedhouse.ie](http://www.crookedhouse.ie)

His is his theatre

# this lime tree bower

BY CROOKED HOUSE  
DIRECTED BY PETER HARRIS

THE LIFFEY STUDIO

21st - 24th APRIL 2010  
8.00pm - Ticket: €10

Booking: 021 4581112 or [www.liffeystudio.com](http://www.liffeystudio.com)  
Tickets: 021 4581112 or [www.liffeystudio.com](http://www.liffeystudio.com)

## KILDARE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ARTS PROJECT: Typical Weekly Schedule of Regularly Occuring Work.

DAY OF WEEK ACTIVITY OCCURS	TIME: FROM - TO	DETAIL OF ACTIVITIES	AVERAGE NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING
MONDAY	6pm to 9pm	Hip Hop and Street Dance for teenagers.	7 - 10
	5pm to 6pm	Weekly training session for drama facilitators and volunteers aged 19 to 30.	10
	6pm to 7pm	Grind Club: free grinds for Junior Cert and Leaving Cert students	5
	6pm to 9pm	Core skills Workshop (a drop-in session where we devise, play games, learn techniques, build team work, etc). This is for those aged between 14 and 17. Anyone can come along to this session provided they are at least 14	48
TUESDAY	11am to 4pm	Outreach project in Scoil Dara, Kilcock with Leaving Cert Applied and TY students exploring positive mental health. This is in partnership with Kildare Youth Service. (Other similar projects have been with St Conleth's Community College, Newbridge Youth Project, Dara Park; Athy Youth Project; etc).	25 in two groups
WEDNESDAY	4pm to 6pm	Street Dance and Break Dance workshop for young people especially from non-Irish background.	11 (African, Latvian, Polish, Philippino, Chinese, Korean) and 5 Irish
	4pm to 7pm	Homework Club for 14 to 17 year olds	9
	7pm to 9.30pm	Devising Project with 14 to 17 year olds who work on an issue-based piece of theatre that will be performed abroad, representing Ireland at youth theatre festivals in the UK and Europe every summer.	20



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DAY OF WEEK ACTIVITY OCCURS	TIME: FROM - TO	DETAIL OF ACTIVITIES	AVERAGE NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING
THURSDAY	10am to 4pm	Youth Leadership and project admin training in association T.Y. classes in schools (work experience)	3 per term
	7pm to 10pm	Shuffle Dance and Street Dance workshop for 14 to 17 year old males (from Kildare, Laois and Dublin)	12
	5.30 to 8.30pm	Community Drama Project for young people 18 to 25 looking at how young people can help each other in relation to suicide awareness.	18
	4pm to 6pm	Drama project with young people from Athy Youth Project looking at social issues relevant to them.	8
FRIDAY	6pm to 7pm	Guitar lessons for young people	5
	6.30pm to 7.30pm	Theatre workshop for 18 to 21 year olds. They work with a professional writer and a professional director to make a new piece of theatre on issues that affect their lives. This piece is invited to theatres across Europe, ranging from Norway to Italy.	20
	4pm to 7pm	Street dance and hip-hop project: young people teach each other under adult supervision. This project is for both males and females.	20
	4pm to 7pm	Youth Café and Drop in. This service catches those not immediately interested in the arts. We provide food, video games, youth workers, and they can watch the dancers/film makers. They gradually become more engaged in the work of the centre.	14 - 22





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DAY OF WEEK ACTIVITY OCCURS	TIME: FROM - TO	DETAIL OF ACTIVITIES	AVERAGE NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING
SATURDAY	10am to 1pm	Crooked Mice: drama project for children aged 5 to 13. Here, older young people help the professional facilitators – they learn how to facilitate workshops.	14 - 19
	3pm to 5pm	Film-making workshop for 14 to 18 year olds.	12
	7 to 10pm	Monthly Open Mic Night (performances of singing, playing, dancing and comedy). This time slot is also when we have regular planning meetings and training sessions.	50 - 60
SUNDAY	12pm to 3pm and 3.30pm to 6.30pm	6 hours of rehearsals for various theatre productions. Throughout the year the youth theatre has a number of productions running concurrently for 14 to 17 year olds. Each Sunday rehearsal lasts a maximum of 3 hours with breaks and no young person is involved in more than one.	30
	6.30pm to 8pm	Young Musicians Jam session (with adult youth worker and musicians).	13

A RANGE OF OTHER PROJECTS – including once-off workshops and meetings, outreach programmes, international exchanges, festivals, performances and trips – all happen around these regular activities above. The organisation relies heavily on volunteers, and there is no core paid staff.

Kildare Youth Theatre @ Crooked House  
**The Merchant of Venice**  
 by William Shakespeare  
 7th | 8th | 9th | 10th Dec  
 riverbank arts  
 riverbridge  
 Tickets: €12 (95 concessions), 8pm  
 Bookings: 045 448333

riverbank arts  
 riverbridge  
 Adm: €20 | €15  
 Booking: 045 448333

**PLAYBOY of the Western World**  
 by J.M. Synge  
 Sept 19 - 23 2006

Kildare Youth Theatre @ Crooked House  
 in association with The Royal National Theatre London

**four NEW PLAYS FOR YOUNG ACTORS**

BROKEN HALLELUJAH  
 by Brian MacDevitt  
 THE MIRACLE  
 by Caryl Chesson  
 SHUT UP  
 by Andrew Payne  
 THE SPIDER MEN  
 by Chris Ware

Tues 28 March - Sat 1 April 2006  
 Box €12 and €10 (concessions) also available  
 BOX OFFICE 045 448333  
 info@kildareyouththeatre.ie  
 www.kildareyouththeatre.ie

Kildare Youth Theatre @ Crooked House  
 in association with The Royal National Theatre London

**nt connections 2007 FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS**  
 Young

DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID  
 by Dennis Kelly  
 BRIDGE TO THE STARS  
 by Henry James & John Ruskin  
 RED SKY  
 by Brian Cleeve  
 A YEAR AND A DAY  
 by Christina Reid

TUES 27 - SAT 31 MARCH  
 Box €12 and €10 (concessions) also available  
 info@kildareyouththeatre.ie  
 www.kildareyouththeatre.ie



## AWARDS

2010: Young Ensembles Scheme award from The Arts Council, Ireland.

2008: NT New Connections Winner with *Scenes From Family Life* by Mark Ravenhill (opening the NT Connections Festival in the Royal National Theatre, London on 3rd July 2008).

2007: The Patrick Murray Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Gay Theatre for *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde (Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival, May 2007).

2005: The Hilton Edwards Award for Outstanding Achievement in Production for *Citizenship* by Mark Ravenhill (DIGT Festival, May 2005).

2005: UK National Student Drama Festival Acting Awards for Caitriona Curran and Ross Mac Mahon in *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde.

2003: NT Shell Connections Winner with *Totally Over You* by Mark Ravenhill (performed in the Royal National Theatre, London in July 2003).

## WHAT THE CRITICS HAVE SAID

“Kildare Youth Theatre stage a sparky, streetwise production with winningly comic performances. This is a spunky, talented young group.”  
*Rachel Halliburton, The London Evening Standard (16 July 2003).*

“this is the lightest, most endearing, most hilarious, and the most flawless play I have ever seen from him. And oh every detail is so funny.”  
*Alastair Macauley, The Financial Times (on Totally Over You, 2003).*

“Precisely because it doesn’t patronise young people with pat morality or sentimental solutions, *Citizenship* is obviously a piece of work that young actors can recognise. And in this excellent production by Peter Hussey for Kildare Youth theatre, the youth wing of Crooked House Theatre Company, the cast repays the compliment with thoughtful, intelligent and utterly committed performances. Young actors would not expose themselves to such a delicate exploration

of sexuality unless they had complete trust in the process, and it is evident that Hussey has earned the trust and respect of his company. It is the ensemble work that impresses most. When a young company is capable of taking such a sensitive, compassionate and skilful approach to a difficult subject, it is impossible not to conclude that, for all its problems, Ireland has grown up fast.”

*Fintan O’ Toole – The Irish Times (Sat May 14 2005).*

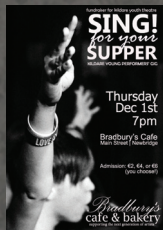
“the talented Kildare Youth Theatre of Ireland actors.”  
*Nicholas de Jongh, London Evening Standard (2008).*

“What we get instead is a convincing character piece which displays an admirable lightness of touch as it explores themes of love, jealousy, deception, death and madness. The bare-bones staging and lighting design allow the seven actors to really shine, with performances that are impressively polished yet demonstrate a faultlessly downplayed realism and terrific comic timing.”

*The Scotsman, Edinburgh 2009.*







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*FINTAN O' TOOLE, THE IRISH TIMES*

“performances that are impressively polished yet demonstrate a faultlessly downplayed realism and terrific comic timing.”

*THE SCOTSMAN, EDINBURGH*

“Kildare Youth Theatre stage a sparky, streetwise production with winningly comic performances. This is a spunky, talented young group.”

*THE LONDON EVENING STANDARD*



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