

FEEDBACK 2022

HEULDRO – CASE STUDY/ SKILL SHARES



Manon Prysor and 2 stewards Learning how to do Fire drawings with Rob Hill



Skillshares introduction to Tactile Bosch Artists and Creative Producer to discuss performative elements of HEULDRO before a walk through



Rhys and Manon had performance backgrounds and were really keen to have the opportunity to perform in HEULDRO.

Rhys Trimble

“Dwi’n bardd yn benodol ond llicen i gwybod mwy am ochr actio a drama a sut i llwyfanu perfformiadau er mwyn i mi fedru gwneud celf-perfformiad o safon well a gyda mwy o bobol.”

“I am a poet but I would like to know more about performing/acting and how to stage in order to do more performance art of a higher standard to a larger audience”.

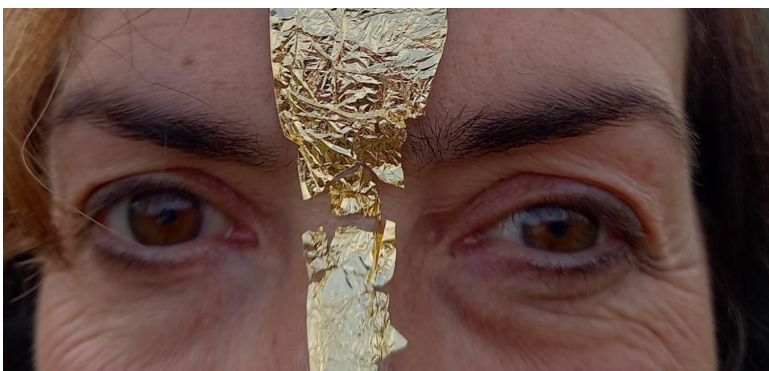
Manon Prysor:



“Byddai’n hollol wych cael y cyfle i gydweithio a dysgu gyda Tin Shed. Byddai cael cysgodi y gwaith cynhyrchu creadigol a dysgu am drefniadau perfformio awyr agored yn wych i mi.”

“It would be absolutely amazing to have the opportunity to learn and collaborate with Tin Shed Theatre Co. Shadowing the Creative Production and learning more about outdoor theatre would be great for me. “

Manon shadowed and learnt from Producer of Participation, helped to create the fire drawing and worked with Tactile Bosch creative producer to create a performance art ritual piece holding the space for audience members 1to1 within the Bryn celli Ddu chamber with spoken Welsh dialogue based on an old Welsh Poem about the landscape of Bryn Celli Ddu using gold leaf.



Manon Prysor FEEDBACK (was sent in Welsh):

I ddechrau, ga i ddiolch i chi gyd am y cyfle i fod yn rhan o'r prosiect. Teimlais iddo fod yn llwyddiant mawr nos Sadwrn ac mae llawer o ddiolch i bawb fuodd yn trefnu ac yn rhedeg y cyfan gyda naws mor hamddenol.

Fel arweinydd prosiectau cymunedol ar ddechrau ei gyrfa roedd cael sgwrsio gydg aelodau'r cwmni am y gwaith cefn llwyfan yn braf ar cyfle i rwydweithio gyda pobl broffesiynol ac artistiaid eraill.

Cefais gyfle i wneud cerfluniau tan gydag Angharad a Rob ac roedd hyn yn brofiad hollol newydd i mi. Roedd eu ffordd o weithio yn groesawus a'r arweiniad mor glir.

Cefais fy synnu gan ymatebion gwirioneddol ddwys gan rai aelodau o'r dorf ddaeth ataf i brofi y ddefod aur a bu hyn yn fodd i roi hyder i mi fel artist. Cefais sawl un yn dychwelyd ataf yn hwyrach yn y nos i ddiolch i mi. Yn olaf, teimlais bod y digwyddiad wedi bod yn Gymreig ei naws ac yn gweddu i'r henebion ar yr ynys hon. Mae modd rhoi pethau Cymraeg ac eto bod yn gynhwysol a dwyieithog. Mae gen i gariad at ddysgu am yr henebion ac annyn ail gysylltu gyda ein hen hanes coll. Os bydd cyfleoedd eto, cofiwch amdanaf yn wir.

English Translation:

To begin with, may I thank you all for the opportunity to be part of the project. I felt it was a great success on Saturday night and many thanks to everyone who organized and ran it all with such a relaxed atmosphere.

As a leader of community projects at the beginning of her career, it was nice to have a chat with members of the company about the work behind the scenes and an opportunity to network with other professionals and artists.

I had the opportunity to make fire sculptures with Angharad and Rob and this was a completely new experience for me. Their way of working was welcoming and the guidance so clear.

I was surprised by really intense reactions from some members of the crowd who came to me to experience the golden ritual and this gave me confidence as an artist. I had several get back to me later that night to thank me.

Finally, I felt that the event had a Welsh feel and suited the monuments on this island. It is possible to give things in Welsh and still be inclusive and bilingual.

I have a love for learning about the monuments and reconnecting with our old lost history. If there are opportunities again, remember me indeed.

ROCKET LAUNCH SKILL SHARES/CASE STUDY

Lauren Mcnie:

"Working with the Producer of Participation, I gained behind-the-scenes knowledge and experience of what it takes to put together community-based projects and how to better engage with those unfamiliar with the work. I am learning about forming, building and maintaining key connections and how to collaborate to make this project extraordinary (and successful!) for all involved"

How did you come to the skill share programme?

As a result of seeing adverts for roles I was interested in Marketing & Communications but my experience was limited with press and PR agencies. I had an interview with the team and they suggested that I had other knowledge and experience in live theatre could be useful in a skill share role alongside the producer of participation. I have developed my interest in participation and engagement roles during lockdown and am keen to develop my skills.

Why did it appeal?

I wanted to get hands-on experience and gain skills and experiences in the role. I am still able to use my marketing skills through community engagement and can create posts and publicity material. I know that the communications I created around the skill share role was successful in bringing another skill share participant to the project so it was great to see the results of that first hand.

Did you know of Tin Shed Theatre Co & their work prior to applying?

Yes, I have an actor friend who has worked with them and a few years ago as Dep manager at WMC I duty managed a performance of theirs as part of the fresh cabaret.

What did you cover in your initial conversation?

George and Naomi put me in touch with Angharad for a first conversation and she explained her role in participation and how I could support that.

How did you share with TSTC your skill set/ experiences and interests?

I think this was probably revealed as the work developed. There was a lot of information which came in my direction initially and then in elements of the project I found I could put my hand up and say – I can do that and get involved with contributing ideas and input practical things.

Please tell us about:

Your welcome / induction to the work of the company.

When we first met in Blaenavon Angharad took me to meet different people in the community like the post office and arty crafty and how they were involved in the project and this then allowed me to go back to them with specific ideas or requests.

Communication and support levels – sufficient? Detailed enough?

I am more happy to be independent and Angharad has been great for suggesting what needs to be done and then I am happy to go ahead and do it. I don't feel like I need my hand holding in those aspects in the role but I can see that others might. Equally I would have been happy to work alongside others if that was what was needed. I'm quite laid back and it feels very easy to work like this.

What have been the key learning points so far? Expected / unexpected?

The first meeting and Becky's access presentation was a huge learning moment. When she talked about the different fonts and accessibility that enabled me to understand better what is needed to make publicity material more accessible and I was able to chat to her and then use what I had learned in the project. Using descriptive text alongside images for example.

The procession planning and road closures and practicalities has been an eye-opener as I have usually been involved in front of house only and not the planning processes.

Anything you have learned about yourself through the work to date?

A lot of the things I am doing I have done bits of and experienced before. It was nice to get back into workshops with young people – I'm not the biggest fan of working with kids but when we were working in the chapel for those 2 days it did remind me about what I enjoyed about it a few years ago. It has felt very natural to draw on the skills and experiences from my work in stadiums, theatres for 15 years. I am tapping in to that range of experiences quite a lot – realising that I have a little bit of knowledge in a lot of things so I am drawing on that a lot. I feel comfortable but realise that maybe in the coming weeks I will need to push myself out of my comfort zone.

Anything that feels particularly challenging?

It's challenging not knowing what is going on in other aspects of the project – not that it makes my role difficult but just being aware that there are so many other aspects taking place like lighting and design.

It was good to see the story appear on the padlet, to understand and see the story laid out and confirm what the plan was. I liked seeing the pics about the evening walk through as I couldn't be there. I see it kind of as a highlights board.

Anything which could improve your experience?

I don't think so – maybe more on site working. Having check ins at the Ironworks as a team was really good – I really like that but I understand that the team doesn't always have the capacity to do that. I might try and join the coffee drop in tomorrow to see what people are up to.

Hopes / aspirations for the rest of the project?

I would really like to get more people from the community involved in the stewarding role and plotting out how that is going to work for them. Hopefully getting a really good local team to facilitate that procession and smooth entry into the ironworks. I just want the whole thing to be a big

success. The people in the community I have spoken to have welcomed it saying nothing ever happens and it is nice that a bit of attention is being paid to the town. To get people excited about their home town again. It would be great if this project brought the community together. I'm excited for the kids seeing their work and ideas in the shop to inspire them. And it would be great for us to understand what works in engagement for places like Blaenavon so projects could go elsewhere.

Beyond the project?

I think I would like to get into the producing / community engagement side of the arts. Whether that is back at WMC or whether I look for something new so this is giving me some great experiences to add to my CV and talk about in interviews. If Tin Shed are happy with my work and have projects coming up in the future I would be happy to work with them again or taking myself off completely different. I really want to stay working in the arts – I have spent 15 years customer facing and so getting more experience in engagement work and behind the scenes has given me good building blocks for the future.

EVALUATION Interview with all x3 skill shares:

- **Please tell us about:**

- Your welcome / induction to the work of the company**

It was awesome and really helped me to understand the organisation.

It was a very easy process – people were really nice. They really helped with my anxieties about facing new situations. I met Angharad and she took me for a walk through the town to explain the project in more detail. AMY

(See also previous LM conversation write up). As well as my skill share induction I also had an introduction to the stewarding role with Naomi. It was great to feel valued and be offered this paid role. In preparing for the procession I became part of an extended team including Angharad, George, Naomi and Cadw.

Communication and support levels throughout the project

I have had very good support and this has helped me feel able to manage things and do what is needed.

Everyone has been really clear in their guidance and instructions which has really helped. I know that I can go to Bethany with practical questions about what I have been asked to do.

I have enjoyed continuing my participation role and contact with The Space but have also had the opportunity to support and be part of the wider team, reporting to others around the procession. Amy

- **What have been the key learning points? Expected / unexpected?**

It has definitely been around communication skills and building up my confidence in talking to people. It has really helped my anxiety to feel part of something and part of a team.

I think I realised too late that I just should have been around more for the project. I have enjoyed it but some days it has been hard to get here and I know that I can only get out what I put in. I wish I had put in more.

- **Anything you have learned about yourself through the work?**

I have loved getting involved in things and would love to do more. Amy

I have had both front of house and backstage roles and realised that I am probably more suited to a role which is supporting backstage / preparing sets etc.

That I can be adaptable with my planning. Things changed a lot of times over the course of planning the procession and stewarding and it was important to have a good understanding of the stewards role but at the same time to give up control and let the custodians do what they do best. Lauren

- **Anything that feels particularly challenging?**

It was sad when Pete left The Space because he was fab but I loved taking over his role. Amy

Meeting new people is always challenging for me but I met a lot of people on this project. (man)

Understanding the project and narrative as a whole was challenging. I would like to have understood the story better, earlier.

- **Anything which could improve your experience?**

I would have liked to have been the one in the rocket!!! 😊 And the loo in The Space could have been better..... it was ghostly.... ! Amy

I would have liked to have spent more days on the project but that was down to me. I felt welcome and with more time would have got to know people better and felt more a part of the team.

I think I would have got a lot from more training opportunity to maybe use my music interest and skills from my course (music tech level 2)

Next steps:

Consider any next steps / actions you will be putting in place as a result of your experiences on the skill share programme. ie. Training, volunteering opportunities, looking for new roles?

More opportunities and training with Tin Shed please! Lauren

Looking for community engagement positions – maybe kickstart opportunities? Amy

Performance opportunities – would be great to have better provision of adult drama classes in the area. Amy

Do you know where to get help with these next steps?

Justin from Tin Shed/ Rebecca – Healthy Blaenavon

Developing my technique in painting and design.

Looking for opportunities in music / sound engineering to continue on from my studies.

Look for more experiences whether in Blaenavon or further afield – Cardiff?

Do you know where to get help with these next steps?

Kings Road Studio does apprenticeships which I could look at.

I have a few contacts in arts and music but not many local to Blaenavon yet. It would be good to get involved in something locally.

I am applying for roles and have applications in for things like venue manager, producer and marketing. (Has since begin a role in arts admin and finance at The Sherman Theatre).

More community engagement experiences.

Do you know where to get help with these next steps?

I would always look to Tin Shed for advice and have some connections in the arts community. I know that Angharad is at Artis Community and hope to keep in touch.

Any other comments about your experiences. For example is there anything which could have improved your Skill Share experience? Anything you would have liked to have done more of / less of... ?

I wish I had been brave enough to make more of an effort to join and be part of the group.

I would have liked to have spent more time at the ironworks to really understand the cross-over with the community element and The Space and worked to strengthen that link.

With more time available I would like to have done more with the youth groups and workshops.