

My YCC Experience

By Will Blanch

What I learnt from taking part in the Young Commissioning Circle at CFT and why I think it's such a great project to take part in.



This season I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to take part in CFT's Young Commissioning Circle. I felt this would really help me in my creative media studies and I am interested in directing and production. The play I chose was 'Plenty' by David Hare. I was particularly interested in this one because I knew the time-frames jumped around and I knew it would be technically challenging. Plus, I thought the story sounded really interesting.

Director's Briefing

Before the official meeting with director; I got a chance to meet some of the fantastic and welcoming commissioning circle members, who gave me a further incite on the experience as well as the industry. When we met the director (Kate Hewitt) we sat down and proceeded to ask her questions on the play and the development behind it. We went over the specifics such as casting and scripting, which gave me a much better understanding of the logistics when it comes to producing a production.



Technical Rehearsal

After the director's briefing, I was extremely excited to see how things were going to pan out, after she had teased us that the floor was made of glass. I was very curious on how they would make use of the stage, as well as how the technical process is executed in a professional environment.

Observing how Kate was conducting the cast was very educational for me, as I was able to understand the amount of time it took and how co-ordinate a crew properly. I also got a glimpse of a few scenes which they were rehearsing, which involved a lot of practical elements. For example, of the scenes we were able to watch involved blanks being fired from a gun.

Dress Rehearsal

The dress rehearsal allowed us to watch the polished first version of the piece, to see how they had overcome the obstacles from the last rehearsal. This allowed me to view all the actors performing their roles, whilst watching the complex technical elements accompany them.

This part of the process was extremely helpful for me as I was able to see how Kate had adapted the script into a working play.





The Supporter's Event

The supporter's night was fantastic, there was a great atmosphere at the venue and everyone was really friendly. We were able to share our thoughts on the rehearsals and collect our thoughts before watching the final version of the play.

The final performance was fantastic, the actors' performances blew the roof of the theatre, the emotion was raw and the technical aspects were unique and were outstanding! It was also interesting to see how the play had developed from the beginning stages of the technical rehearsals.

After the performance I got a chance to meet some of the cast such as; Gemma Dobson, Raphael Desprez and Rachael Stirling. They were all extremely kind and all gave me a huge insight into the process of the play as well as advice on the industry, which was both inspiring and useful.



Overall

I found this experience to have been very useful, as I was able to get a very good opportunity which allowed me to take a look behind the stage curtain.

Being able to meet the director, the actors and everyone else that was involved in between was a great opportunity that I will never forget.

I would highly recommend this anyone who is curious in the industry or anyone who has any sort of passion for theatre.

Thanks, so much for letting me take part in something so special! Will 😊