

OPENING UP T@E

# HOW DOES GENDER INFLUENCE OUR EXPERIENCE OF T@E

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## DISCUSSION NOTES

### Introduction

- How gender influences our experience of T@E
- Upfront about unconscious bias about being white, cisgender as a facilitator
- Want us to have a conversation about sexism
- Even mix between male and female presidents, except everyone is white. Intersectionality is important
- Gender and equality in the rehearsal room
- Set the rule that if we're talking about potentially sensitive topics then put into the chat

### Exploring gender through the work

- Found it very fulfilling to discuss gender in the rehearsal room. Predominantly male cast. Game where you move to a side of the room based on your level of agreement with a provocation. Even if the work isn't directly about gender, it's exciting to unpack that
- In many experiences, the directing team haven't approached gender. Imperative to make sure that the whole company is aware of the thinking. Put this into the process.

- Doing a play about feminism, halfway through the cast realised that the men were making all the decisions in the room. The process has to mirror the message. Talking about issues which were emotionally difficult topics for women.
- There's an issue in that sometimes males leading the rehearsal room have rumours circulating about their behaviour in the past. How do we manage that when the content is about these topics?
- This is about listening. Everyone has to listen to each other. Frustrating to hear that women don't have the autonomy in a rehearsal space.
- Sportier games tend to be overtaken by the guys in rehearsals, it's that confidence/lack of awareness of others in the space. Translates into more serious discussions potentially.
- Comedy class: guys would be the ones getting up to do the improv. Women not feeling empowered within that space. Girls not
- Article in which women are laughing in spite of themselves. Noticed 24hr play in which all of the jokes were about women's bodies. Space for womxn/nb to perform
- Sense of lad culture within T@E and the university community. Breaking that down would be a helpful step. Seeing groups form.
- Putting off people from joining groups because of the lad culture atmosphere
- Theatre @ Exeter thinks they are progressive
- Staging the text is a module built on outdated texts with terrible gender roles. Lack of clarity about how we're meant to update them. So why can't we be given a space to create work which reacts to the reality of the world around us
- There are people out there who are writing applications which are deconstructing gender norms etc.

- Theatre socs are so tight with money that they are anxious to do other things
- So many musicals are put on with male leads - when there are so many womxn in the community looking for roles
- Gender blind casting

## **PUSHING FOR CHANGE POINTS**

- Create a comedy night for womxn/nb
- Larger talk/discussion panel about lad culture