

Youth-theatre groups invited to create and perform their own version of new play, alongside COP26

When This Is Over has been created by leading youth-theatre organisation Company Three



As world leaders prepare to gather in Glasgow for the International Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November 2021, acclaimed youth-theatre organisation **Company Three** and leading theatre publishers and performing rights agents **Nick Hern Books** are inviting youth theatres, schools, and community groups everywhere to come together and share the stories of the young people whose futures depend on the Conference's outcome.

Participating groups will join youth-theatre companies from across the UK – including Caerphilly Youth Theatre, Camden Youth Theatre, Firefly Arts, Make/Sense Theatre, Manchester Royal Exchange, Mortal Fools, Turrets Youth Theatre, and Company Three themselves – to **create their own, unique version of a brand-new play, called *When This Is Over*, and perform it between September 2021 and February 2022**. This exciting, mass-participatory cultural event builds on collaborative development of the play earlier in 2021, involving 16 youth theatres from across the UK.

When This Is Over is a play in which young people tell the stories of their lives. It is about what has happened to them in the past, who they are right now, and who they want to be in the future. It's not directly a play about COVID or the climate crisis, but about the young people who will live through and negotiate the impacts of both. It's a chance to amplify the voices of a pivotal generation at a pivotal time, so that their stories can inform the decisions we take about the future.

To help them create their own version of *When This Is Over*, participating groups will receive extensive resources and support. These will include a **'Blueprint'** of ideas, activities and exercises based on Company Three's work on the play so far, as well as access to a **community of practice**, connecting all of the groups who are also creating their own production of *When This Is Over* – attending workshops, sharing their discoveries, and forming links which will sustain beyond the project. Participating groups will also have the opportunity for their young people's stories to be recorded in an interactive online archive.

All interested groups are invited to sign up now to create their own production of *When This Is Over*, for a participation fee of £100 (plus VAT where applicable) per company. For further information, and to sign up, visit <https://www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/plays-to-perform/when-this-is-over-get-involved>.

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QUOTES FOR EDITORS

Ned Glasier, Artistic Director of Company Three, said:

'*When This Is Over* is a play and a campaign, all wrapped into one. It's a play that we hope will create space for young people to be heard in their local communities. And it's a campaign that will gather all their stories together so anyone can read, listen to and watch them.'

'Company Three have never worked like this before - sharing methodology before we've finished a project. But the last 16 months have demonstrated that global challenges demand that we are more responsive and more collaborative, so we're laying open our process and practice. We hope this is the future of youth theatre: working together to amplify young people's voices in a way that really makes adults think and act.'

Matt Applewhite, Managing Director at Nick Hern Books, said:

'The work of Company Three is always invigorating and inspiring, so it's an honour to collaborate with the company once again in making its work available for other companies around the world to perform. *When This Is Over* promises to be an exciting and important project, harnessing the creativity of young people, and amplifying the voices of a generation, at this pivotal time for our planet and the lives of all of us who share it. I hope many schools, colleges and youth theatres everywhere take part.'

A spokesperson for participating company Caerphilly Youth Theatre said:

'Working on *When This Is Over* has encouraged our young people to share stories of what has shaped them and what matters to them, both now and moving forward. It has made them feel valued and empowered, tapped into rich, unexplored seams of creativity and most importantly of all, allowed them to develop their own voice, individually and as a collective.'

A spokesperson for participating company Make/Sense Theatre said:

'*When This Is Over* has unlocked so many life moments that our neurodivergent young cast had put away, forgotten or didn't have the words to express. It has given them a greater understanding of themselves and of others whilst empowering them to own all their stories - tragic or wonderful, life-changing or fun. This project has given them the outlet to recuperate a strong sense of identity and belonging after feeling so at sea in lockdown. We can't wait for them to share their work!'

A spokesperson for participating company Mortal Fools said:

'Mortal Fools are incredibly proud to be partners on *When This Is Over*. The themes of the piece offer such an exciting insight into what young people care about right now and who they hope to be in the future. We can't wait to see what our young people continue to develop for this project in the Autumn!'

ABOUT COMPANY THREE

Company Three is one of the UK's leading youth theatres creating work through long-term, intensive collaboration between young people (aged 11-19) and professional theatre-makers.

They give teenagers the power to tell their own stories and make their own change; to be listened to, understood, and celebrated. They develop their practice through deep-rooted relationships locally and share their practice globally to impact teenagers everywhere.

For further information, visit www.companythree.co.uk.

ABOUT NICK HERN BOOKS

Nick Hern Books (NHB) is the UK's leading specialist theatre publisher and performing rights agent.

They're home to many of the most exciting and renowned UK and Irish writers working today, as well as leading playwrights from the USA, Australia and elsewhere.

NHB also publishes practical books by a range of highly renowned and respected practitioners, teachers and performers, on topics such as acting, singing, writing, directing and more.

For more information, visit www.nickhernbooks.co.uk.

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