



YONDER CLOUD THEATRE

ACCESSIBLE LIVE PERFORMANCES
ONLINE AND IN PERSON



- Who are Yonder Cloud Theatre?
- Analyse Thou
- Partners

CONTENTS

- Addressing mental health issues
- Adapting for Zoom
- How can we help you?
- Quotes - what our partners say
- Quotes - what our audience had to say
- How to get in touch





OLD FIRE STA

Vote
SNP



WHO ARE YONDER CLOUD THEATRE?

Yonder Cloud Theatre was founded in 2020 with the intention of performing plays based around health or social care issues.

From the outset, we have been keen to develop scripts in conjunction with partners working in the sector, reflecting their first-hand experiences via writers' workshops and research gathering sessions.

We also wish to address local needs, employing individuals recommended by our partners where possible, and empowering them with core skills to ease their transition back into the workplace.



ANALYSE THOU

Yonder Cloud's first production, *Analyse Thou*, put Shakespearean characters on the therapist's couch, examining their motivations and possible mental health issues.

The performance featured a modern-day Juliet who has taken to self-harm, an Othello plagued by PTSD, and a Katherine from *Taming of the Shrew* suffering at the hands of her Narcissistic footballer husband.

We performed the show over Zoom as a means of reaching isolated people who were unable to attend theatre due to ongoing mental health concerns. The project was funded by Arts Council England, Society for Theatre Research, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council.





WITNESSES

PARTNERS

For *Analyse Thou* we partnered with two mental health organisations – Response and Oxfordshire MIND.

PARTNERS



response

MIND
Oxfordshire

Key to the success of our initial project was a series of writers' workshops, in which a small group of service providers and service users could put forward ideas relating to characters and situations taken from the Shakespearean canon, supplemented by accounts of their lived experience, to add that extra layer of authenticity. Response and Oxfordshire MIND also provided advice, guidance, and general support throughout the project.

Additionally, Response was able to recommend a service user for whom we could offer short-term employment as a project assistant to facilitate their re-entry into the world of employment.



ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Some people rarely leave their house due to mental health fears – agoraphobia, OCD, social anxieties, depression, with many of these fears heightened by the pandemic.

Some can simply not step outside their front door, let alone go to a theatre. Yonder Cloud intends to reach these audiences and bring theatre into their homes, a theatre that reflects their needs and lived experiences.

Going forward we wish to reach other marginalised groups – those limited by social isolation, low income, cultural barriers. What started as a short-term solution for producing theatre during a pandemic has developed into an alternative medium to make live theatre accessible to everyone.



ADAPTING FOR ZOOM

The pandemic of 2020 saw the phenomenal rise of Zoom as a means of online communication.

It had already been picked up by big business the previous year, but by the end of the second lockdown, friends and families up and down the country were talking to each other via this new and exciting platform.

Theatre companies were quick to adapt to the trend, utilising what had up until now been a business technology tool as a means of producing theatrical content to make up for lost box office revenue and discovering a new art form in the process.

Despite its obvious shortcomings (it wasn't live!), it soon became apparent there were significant advantages – you could broadcast the show to anyone, anywhere, at any time. Similarly, actors, directors, stage managers – all could be based in different locations, bringing together disparate talent.





HELP YOU?

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Yonder Cloud is now offering a bespoke service to mental health and social care organisations around the country.

We offer writers workshops, drama sessions, and live performances (including Q&As with professionals working within the sector). All our sessions take place over Zoom. We will also offer short term employment to individuals seeking to gain a foothold back in the workplace.

We are open to any other propositions and can also offer one-off drama or writing workshops. If you have ideas on how we can help your organisation fulfil its remit, we would love to hear from you.



HO
WI

QUOTES

WHAT OUR PARTNERS HAD TO SAY:



It enables several of our service users to express themselves via the creative writing element, while others found workshop discussion therapeutic, it helped them access the arts and make meaningful contributions of their own volition independently from workers... it was rewarding for them to have been involved

– Max Wright, Oxfordshire MIND

The project has allowed our service users to meet new people and discuss issues around their experience with mental health. As the project provided a safe space, it also allowed professionals to have more of a genuine discussion with service users around how they receive their care.

For example, what makes a good therapist. As a senior staff member, I found the workshop helpful for new staff members to be involved with to understand more about mental health difficulties from the service user... the project has also turned out to be therapeutic and reflective of mental health and mental health treatment issues...service users who don't usually engage in activities came along and watched the show.

– Laura Boone, Response



TES

QUO

WHAT
HAD TO

"The acting by Otto was excellent,
it really conveyed what he was going
through well and the different masks he wears
for the therapist and his friends"
– anonymous audience member

WHAT OUR AUDIENCE HAD TO SAY:



"I was shocked as to how much
I had accepted the narcissistic
gaslighting that happens
in *The Taming of the Shrew*!!"
– anonymous audience member

"I learned (in my field of work as a counsellor in mental
health) that I need to follow up on my research in the
areas of solutions in dealing with trauma and PTSD.
The second act was particularly excellent in focusing
on this, and it identified and explored the some of the
problems associated with the condition. It followed on
nicely from the first act which also identified PTSD"
– anonymous audience member

"Accessible, engaging, unusual"
– Gaye Poole, Human Story Theatre

ENCE



HOW TO GET IN TOUCH



You can contact us on
yondercloudtheatre@gmail.com
or call Jeremy Allen
on 07883 684506

