



WELSH LANGUAGE / LANGUAGE POLICY

Overview

Tin Shed Theatre Co (TSTC) is dedicated to exploring language to enhance the accessibility of their work. Our ambition is that our work should not have barriers to accessing it, and therefore communication and language will be key to reaching out to new audiences.

TSTC are committed to supporting Newports Welsh Language Strategy 2022 - 27 by developing bilingual arts activity & creative outreach provision across Wales, with particular focus on outdoors, public locations & spaces with rich Welsh Cultural Heritage.

TSTC operates on principles of inclusion and equal opportunities and acknowledges that Welsh is an official language of Wales and as such, should receive the same status as English. Below are key statistics that help us identify need and provision:

- In Newport the Annual Population Survey in June 2021 revealed just 20.3% of Newport residents can speak Welsh – below the Wales- wide figure of 29.2%. (Census 21/22)
- There are 4 Welsh Medium Primary schools and 2 High schools in Newport, with a total of 2616 pupils being educated through the medium of Welsh in 21/22. (Newport Welsh Language Strategy 22 -27)
- According to the 2021 census, 94 languages are actively spoken in Newport. (Census 21/22)

To address this, TSTC aims to devise and implement additional strategies in an aim to provide a bilingual service to the community and to further reach and attract Welsh Language and global language audiences.

Our Aims

- To Widen the inclusive approach to languages. Based on our current research, we aim to continue to develop this strategy in-line with information updated annually and directly represent this in our work.
- To grow our partnerships with Welsh language specific organisations, such as Menter Iaith Casnewydd, Arts provision delivered by the Urdd Eisteddfod, and

an annual festival Gwyl Newydd that celebrates Welsh Language and Culture. Allowing these new partnerships to influence the reach & potential of the work we make.

- To Continue developing ways in which we communicate with our audiences in relation to language both verbal and non verbal, and offer preferred language of communication.
- To continue to regularly interrogate how we interact with our audiences, participants and partners - both digitally and physically, considering and embedding accessible ways to connect.
- To champion and embed the Welsh language at TSTC's core and throughout our public communications. We must also acknowledge, make space and champion other global languages regularly spoken & better understand the company's & work's capacity to adapt and change depending on the location and its form of delivery.
- To Ensure that at the very least, 1 member of core staff are fluent and first language Welsh Speaker.
- TSTC will deliver a Welsh language specific Creative Curations, artists in residency Programme (established in 2020 by TSTC) Supporting local artists to develop confidence in creating/delivering bilingually.

Examples, our work with language

Heuldro (2021)

A Welsh language, outdoor art collaborative event, interrogating landscape, ritual, and the celebration of archaeology through creative interpretation in partnership with CADW and funded by Arts Council Create. The community development of the project and event took place across Anglesey with resident Welsh language artists at the collaborating venues Galleri Caernarfon & Oriel Mon. 2 Skill Share placements [Please see video](#)



Y Bont - Our Bridge (2020 - 2024)

A large-scale, international site specific residency linking culture, language, celebration, Oral history & place making. To date the project has developed work in multiple languages both verbal and non, using sign, physical theatre, welsh, english and french to convey a number of stories told and discovered at the sites.

The Project to date has been supported by Wales Arts International IOF, Newport City Council, Communauté d'agglomération Rochefort Océan, Compagnie Pyramid including a host of international artists and community groups. Its plan to move to Spain for 2023 is currently in development.

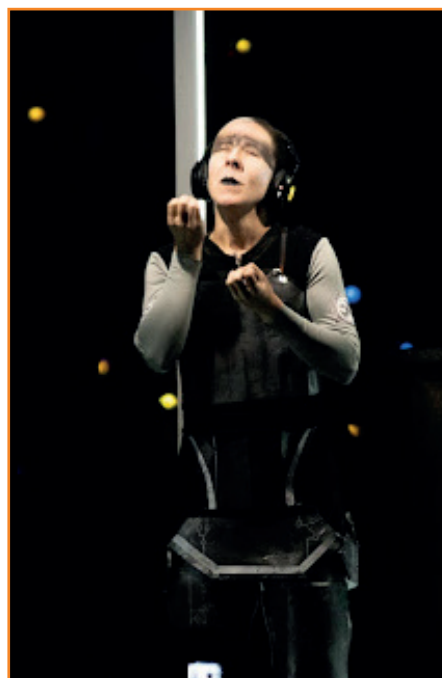
[Please see video](#)

Rocket Launch Blaenafon (2019)

Rocket Launch Blaenavon was a multi-platform blended theatrical experience of digital, site specific, documentary/mockumentary film and immersive storytelling.

A fully integrated audio description and British Sign Language was embedded into performance.

The project aimed to positively profile Wales, its landscape, its physical and cultural heritage, art, and communities.



Connected with 112 community participants bilingually, 2 paid Skill Share Scheme positions that gave paid positions to local people aged 18 and over, 8 community cast members. Culminating in 22 workshop sessions.

The creation of 'The Space' - A community hub in the heart of the high street in Blaenavon with a total of 260+ visits.

[Please see video](#)

Forwm Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, Lle Creu (12 - 16 years)

Tin Shed Theatre Co, in partnership with The Riverfront Theatre piloted and created Lle Creu.

A Welsh language, Creative taster workshop for young people to investigate the opportunity to explore skills in the elements of creation. 12 regular participants attended, providing a Safe creative space to come and be creative through the medium of Welsh. Whether you are a first language Welsh speaker or a Welsh Language learner, this is a space to create and explore together.



This has now formed part of the developing welsh language specific bid Bwrlwm Creadigol Cymraeg for 2023.

In close connection to TSTC developing 'Future Generations Forum' at St Woolos Primary, we intend to pilot a Welsh medium branch of this with our Welsh language YP group LLe Creu. The group, co-created and YP led, will meet monthly. They will act as a welsh language advisory group with a particular focus on arts and creative activity.



Creative Caffi Cymraeg

@thelacnewport, a monthly meetup, will explore Welsh themed activities with The People of the Place (Volunteers), The Public Theatre, Local Artists, and the general community accessing 'The Place'. Exploring and questioning cultural heritage, place, identity & different methods of language learning.

A pilot workshop in February 2023 brought 15 people together as a reflection of the multiculturalism & cultural diversity of the local community in Newport, with a multitude of languages spoken, this resulted in many conversations responding to language, physical and verbal and its place in cultural identity. We intend to explore this further in this project. This Pilot identified need & helped shape the project focus what a Welsh Language Project, Bwrlwm Creadigol Cymraeg would look like.

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DATE: 16/01/2023

Signed on behalf of the board of directors by Naomi Underwood

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