



THE GARAGE

Name: Rose Coppard

Role: Teacher in Charge of Drama, Northgate High School

Time involved with The Garage: 6 years

Activities: Bronze and Silver Arts Award advisor and delivery support, qualification moderations, theatre trips

“The Garage is the only venue in Norwich whose programming is focussed solely on young people and contemporary performance. I know it is a safe bet to arrange a trip to The Garage and the young people are always enthusiastic about the performances they see”

Rose first became aware of The Garage six years ago when she set up delivery of Arts Awards in her school. Recently she has organised many trips to The Garage to bring her students to see professional theatre performances programmed with support from the National Lottery. She says:

“The Garage is really forward thinking. Its programme brings performances straight from Edinburgh and London that would not normally be accessible to young people from rural areas. It enables me to bring groups to see up and coming, cutting edge theatre instead of traditional shows which may have toured for many years. It's important there is the opportunity for young people to see the new work coming out of the bigger cities here in Norwich now, instead of waiting years for it to trickle through”

Rose explains that seeing live contemporary theatre provides learning opportunities for young people including writing reviews for course work, discussing examples in exams and developing ideas for their own performances. After each performance the students are able to speak to the performers and Rose feels this is important. Many of the performers are recent graduates themselves so they can talk about performing arts careers and their experiences. It makes it more real for the young people and helps them to see how careers in performing arts can be developed themselves.

Affordability is a really important factor in Rose choosing The Garage as many of the students at the school are from low income families. The subsidy provided by the national Lottery means that all of the tickets are £5 for under 25's so it's affordable and

many young people get to see a live performance, often for the first time. It also means that instead of one visit, the school can often arrange numerous trips throughout the year providing students with a range of different experiences. Rose says:

“All of the performances we have seen at The Garage are excellent. I know it is a safe bet to arrange a trip to The Garage and the young people are always enthusiastic about the performances they see there. Seeing work like this not only helps with their school work but also enables helps them to broaden their horizons and explore different lives, issues and situations that they may not have thought about before. It encourages empathy and helps them to develop as young adults”

As well as performance trips, some students participate in other activities at The Garage outside of school such as theatre classes and workshops. Rose tells us that she can see the positive impacts with students achieving better results in school.

Importantly, Rose feels that The Garage is a really welcoming and accessible place for young people. *“The website is easy to navigate and suitable for a digital generation and there are great places for young people to meet like the café bar”*. She also thinks that the support for teachers is excellent and that providing show content ratings for performances, digital and paper risk assessments upfront and plenty of fliers to schools for example, is a real help for teachers.

