



Proposal by Kevin Fegan for a site-specific community play in Belper in Summer 2021

I am looking to create a promenade show over four sites in the town, allowing for safeguarding issues and manageable numbers, that audiences can walk to and access quite easily. I will be applying to The Arts Council Project Grants for the cost of the project. I am initially looking for key partners locally who would be interested in supporting the project. Some of the sites I am considering include the Memorial Gardens and the Market Place, which I understand both fall under your control. Would Belper Town Council consider allowing me the use of these sites for a community play in September 2021?

I am not looking for funding from the Town Council, but rather support in-kind with regard to the sites. Please let me know if I can include the Town Council in my application to The Arts Council as supportive in principle of the project?

The production will be in two stages:

Stage One – R&D and Pre-Production

If the application to The Arts Council is successful, this funding would allow me to identify other partners and venues that would support the production and establish a local steering group. We would collect a register of individuals and groups who would like to take part in the production. There is clearly lots of talent in the town I'm hoping we can draw upon. The production will be led by a professional experienced team of theatre-makers who will support participants to achieve their full potential and create a high-quality production. The criteria for involvement of participants is simply the desire to take part. If you want to be involved, we will find a role for you. No one will be rejected by the project. The creative team will help participants identify the role they would like to play in the production – from performers through to technical team and administrative team.

This period would also include my research and development of the content of the play and how it will work as a site-specific production. It will also include preparation for a second application to The Arts Council for the cost of the production, which will be in the region of £50,000.

Stage Two – Production.

If the application to the Arts Council Project Grants is successful the project will move into the production phase. Firstly, this will include time for me to write the script and appoint the Creative and Technical Team. We will seek to involve local and regional professional theatre-makers where possible. There will also be a series of “taster” workshops, led by the Creative and Technical Team, to help participants identify the role they would like to play in the production. And there will be an official launch. During this time the evaluation process will begin.

Secondly, we will move on to the rehearsal process, part-time over three months. Finally, there will be a technical and dress rehearsal week immediately before the performances of the show. I am thinking of one weekend of performances in Sept 2021, but this is negotiable with key partners.



Following the production, there will be the conclusion of the evaluation of the project and a discussion about the possible legacy of the project, looking forward to other potential events in the future.

Timetable

By 30th Sept 2020: submit ACE Project Grants application for Stage One.
6 weeks for decision by 11th Nov 2020.

Stage One: 11th Nov 2020 – 11th Feb 2021 three months R&D.
11th Feb 2021: submit ACE Project Grants application for Stage Two.
12 weeks for decision by 11th May 2021.

Stage Two: 11th May – 11th Sept 2021 - four months production including writing of the script, “taster” workshops and part-time rehearsals from 11th May – 11th Sept 2021.
11th Sept – 17th Sept 2021 – technical and dress rehearsal week.
18th & 19th Sept 2021 – weekend of performances of the show.
20th Sept – 30th Sept 2021 – complete de-brief and evaluation and discussion about legacy of the project.

Kevin Fegan

I moved to Belper five years ago. I was born in Shirebrook in Derbyshire. Most of my adult life I have lived in Manchester. I have worked professionally as a Playwright and Poet for over thirty years. As a playwright, I have written to commission over fifty produced stage plays for a wide variety of theatre (including several award-winning plays). I have also written plays and drama serials for BBC Radio 4 and worked as a Storyline Writer for “Coronation St”. My theatre plays include several community plays and site-specific plays, some of which I have also produced.
Please see my website for more information about my work: www.kevinfegan.co.uk

Two examples of my site-specific community plays in the region:

In 2017 I wrote and produced “Down The Line”, a site-specific community play for Barrow Hill Railway Roundhouse near Chesterfield. The show included the stage debut of the world’s most famous loco, “The Flying Scotsman”. It was a £70,000 project which was funded by The Arts Council and National Heritage Lottery. I was responsible for drafting the budget, raising the funds, employing a team of artists and delivering a quality production on time and within budget.

In 2012, I wrote and co-produced “Not Much Matches Mansfield”, a site-specific community play which took place over five sites in Mansfield town centre, commissioned by Mansfield Palace Theatre. It was a £50,000 project funded by The Arts Council.