Should I Stay or Should I Go?

A collaborative forum for imagining paths forward as a community

CONFERENCE GUIDE

Friday January 25th, 2021 | 2PM-5PM

part of

NEXT STAGE
COMMUNITY
BOOSTER

the
CREATIVE INNOVATION
studio
at FCAD

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TORONTO
FRINGE

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CONFERENCE OUTLINE

1:45PM	Meeting Space Open
2:00PM	Welcome and Orientation
2:15PM	"Past" | Large and small group discussions
2:45PM	"Present" | Large and small group discussions
3:25PM	BREAK
3:35PM	"Future" | Large and small group discussions
4:55PM	Final Takeaways
5:00PM	END OF EVENT

WORK SHEET

PAST

What is your backstory?

Reflecting on your own career, what was working for you in the past and what wasn't?

Pre-COVID-19, what do you think was working in the industry and what wasn't? For whom? Were these affordances and disadvantages distributed or experienced equally? *See Appendix A.*

NOTES:

PRESENT

SELF:

How has COVID-19 affected you and/or your career?

What do you need that you don't have right now? (List up to 5)

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 How might you get it?

 What conditions would allow you to stay in your creative career? (List up to 5)

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INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY:
In the current moment, what opportunities have been created and what aspects have broken, and for who?

 NOTES:

FUTURE

I. Future Arcs

- **Continuation** is a kind of future in which everything and everyone keeps climbing/growing within status quo: population, production, consumption...
- **Collapse/degradation** is a kind of future in which life as we know it has fallen – or is falling – apart. System degradation or failure modes as crisis emerges.
- **Discipline** is a kind of future in which things are carefully managed by concerted coordination, perhaps top-down
- or perhaps collaboratively. Behaviours are adapted to growing internal or environmental limitations).
- **Transform** is a kind of future in which a profound historical transition has occurred, whether spiritual or
- technological in nature, in which new technology, business, or social factors that change the game.
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These arcs do not denote a specific future scenario; rather, they indicate a broad trajectory or category of scenario — a "plot type" rather than a particular narrative. Countless scenarios might be imagined as playing out under each of these generic umbrellas. (Based on the work of [Professor Jim Dator](#) on "generic images of the future" at the [Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studio](#)

II. Rapid Brainstorm: Decline

Thinking out a decade, what's the worst that could happen? Don't hold back, put as many possible answers on the page as possible in the time provided.

SELF:

What would keep you from being able to work in the industry, or keep you from returning to it?

INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY:

What would prevent the theatre industry from reemerging? What would collapse look like?

III. Rapid Brainstorm: Opportunity

Thinking out a decade, how could things get better?

SELF:

What new opportunities could there be for you, within your chosen career? How can you grow, or evolve to meet external changes? How can you drive those changes?

INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY:

What would it mean for the theatre industry to emerge post COVID stronger than before? What would that look like? What would that require?

NOTES:

IV. Ideals and Charter

IDEALS:

What do you want the future of independent creation to look like?

How do we get to that desired future?

CHARTER

Choosing one Key Issue (See Appendix A), respond as a group to the following:

Issue: _____
We believe the theatre industry should be: _____
To achieve this, as individuals we will: _____
As a community, together we can: _____

To this end, here are the actions we will take:
Continue: what should we keep doing?

Stop: what should we stop doing?

Start: what are the things we need to start doing?

Appendix A: Key Issues

Human Dignity, Wellbeing, Accessibility, Equity

Infrastructure and community

Business models, Funding sources and Intellectual property

New technology/formats, and reaching (changing?) audiences

Career Sustainability, Returning to the Industry, Education

What are issues that we've missed?

Appendix B: Zoom Guide

Using Zoom

- You can download the Zoom desktop client [here](). You do not need to create an account or sign in to be able to join the meeting.
    - Click "Join a Meeting"
    - Enter the meeting ID number
    - Enter your display name
- You can also join a Zoom meeting from your browser, by either going to zoom.us/join and following the same steps, or clicking on the direct joining link that you've been sent. You will be prompted with a pop-up window to "Open Zoom Meetings", you may need to ensure pop-up windows are not being blocked by your browser.
- All attendees must ensure their display name matches the name submitted on the registration form. To change your name once in the meeting, click on the 3 dot icon beside your video square and select "rename".
- If you've never attended a Zoom meeting before, [this link provides an overview of all of the attendee controls that you will see in your window.]()
- We recommend setting the view to gallery view, so that you can see as many of the attendees as possible. You can toggle between gallery and speaker view by clicking on the view options in the top right corner. To see everyone who is attending, scroll through pages of up to 25 attendees at a time by clicking on the arrows at the sides of your screen.
- There will be an Administrator in the meeting that you can reach out to privately in the chat at any time if you require assistance in troubleshooting technology.

Etiquette and Conduct

- You are invited to have your camera on for this event. We miss everyone's faces, so much!
- In the large group meeting room, please keep your mic on mute when you are not speaking. In Zoom when two people talk it cancels the other out so no one is heard, it is important not to talk over one another.
- Cues to know when someone wants to speak can be different in Zoom: pay attention for when someone has unmuted their mic, or look for a yellow box that will outline their video when a person is about to speak or is speaking.
- The chat function can be used by all participants at all times. In the large groups, the moderators will do their best to monitor it for questions; we advise using the Raise Hand function to ask or answer questions. Find this function in your bottom menu bar.
- The chat transcript will be saved so that notes from it can be included in the post-conference follow up report (notes will be included anonymously, not ascribed to individuals in this report).
- Please note that private messages sent between participants will be saved in the chat transcript that is exported by the Administrators.

- The Toronto Fringe is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, violence, and harassment, where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, can contribute fully, and have equal opportunities. This safe space commitment extends to the digital spaces we produce. When you registered for this event, you agreed to abide by this commitment with us, and as such understand that any conduct that is construed by the Toronto Fringe to be discrimination, violence, or harassment will not be tolerated.

Meeting Moderators

- Staff of the Toronto Fringe and of Ryerson University will be in the Zoom room as moderators
- There will be a moderator placed in each breakout group to take notes and to help keep the discussions on track, ensuring everyone has a chance to share.
- You can reach out to any moderator privately in the chat at any time if you need to report any discrimination, violence or harassment that you witness.

Tips for an extended Zoom session

- This micro-conference is scheduled for 3 hours – this is a long duration, for even the Zoomiest. You are encouraged to do what you need to do in order to be comfortable and able to participate. Set your computer or device up in a comfortable location that doesn't cause physical strain or eye strain. Having snacks or beverages nearby is recommended.
- We would love to see your faces, meet your pets, see children, partners, house plants, roommates, so feel free to be free in your own spaces and keep your cameras on. But if you prefer to turn it off we understand that too.
- There will be a firm 10-minute break midway, but please stand up and stretch, step away to get refreshments or snacks, or what you need at any time. If you do step away, please be courteous and ensure your mic is definitely on mute!
- If watching so many videos, including yourself, becomes overwhelming, you can turn off "self-view" to minimize some distraction.

Appendix C: Interactive Jamboard

You can add thoughts, ideas, questions to this collaborative digital whiteboard, anytime:

https://jamboard.google.com/d/19h1z8ElKXZlurMW_cHxXMPyp60eeOsi_zt4nBx-j5RA/edit?usp=sharing