



International producing surgery: Family work

**Top tips and useful links
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The pandemic has redefined international touring, prompting new ways of working that are nuanced, creative and sustainable. Touring family work is a complex ecosystem and artists and companies need to adapt and evolve to the changing world.

This not a 'how to' guide for taking your show abroad, but a provocation to consider the challenging and changing terrain.

mobility

Don't take things for granted. Many working practices have changed and are shifting. Adjust your expectations and consider how, and in what ways, (new) factors such as travel restrictions, quarantine, funding structures, carbon footprint, social distancing and work permits might affect your work.

why and where?

Think about why you want to take your work abroad. Why now? Why you? Why that particular work? Where do you plan to take your work? Context matters. Don't make assumptions about your audiences, especially family work. What is relevant or appropriate in the UK, might not resonate with or appeal to another country. What is unique about your work that can value add to the country?

research

Taking a show abroad can take a long time, especially when many borders are now closed. Research the situation, risks, limitations, opportunities of the countries you intend to take your work to. It is an unpredictable time and the rules can change very quickly.

(re)start conversations

What are the additional costs? Who can you potentially work with (e.g. embassies, tourism organisations, theatre venues)? Can you find new ways of working without compromising the integrity of the work (e.g. directing/creating a show remotely with local artists)?

allies and partners

Consider partners beyond the usual. Connect with like-minded people (e.g. Theatre for Young Audiences sector) and creatives from adjacent fields (e.g. education, technology, health) who might offer new insights, expertise and perhaps even point you towards funding opportunities that you might not have thought about.

share and care

Unity is strength. Seek out artists, companies and networks who might be knocking on the same doors. Can you collaborate? Share resources? Find alternatives? If a project might not be suitable for you, can you pass it on to

another company? Coming together will build confidence and strengthen the relationship you have with your international partners.

finally...

Remember, there is no one-size-fits-all approach for international touring. Don't be intimidated by the challenges or feel that you need to replicate the working practices of a larger company. While the pandemic has brought about various challenges, it has also levelled the playing field in many ways. If you are a small company or collective with a simple production, be flexible about your requirements and connect with organisations who share similar interests or are looking to programme such work.

The consequences of the pandemic can be overwhelming and has affected people and countries very differently, so as we move forward, remember to always be kind.

useful links

[Small Size Network](#) – an international association dedicated to widening the performing arts for early years (0-6 years)

[The International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People \(ASSITEJ\)](#) - brings people together so that they can share knowledge and practice within the field of theatre for children and young people in order to deepen understandings, develop practice, create new opportunities and strengthen the global sector, on behalf of all children everywhere.

[International Association of Performing Arts for Youth](#) - networking, mutual learning, global gathering, and marketplace opportunities for creators and arts professionals dedicated to outstanding performing arts experiences for young people.

[Tanzmesse](#) – showcase and networking platform for contemporary dance. The largest professional meeting for contemporary dance.

[CINARS](#) – a large international performing arts conference in the world taking place every two years in Montreal, Canada.

[Festival TransAmériques \(FTA\)](#) - a festival of contemporary dance and theatre in Montreal, Canada.

[YPAM \(Yopam, Yokohama International Performing Arts Meeting\)](#) - one of the most influential performing arts platforms in Asia.

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