

Youth Arts Consultants promotional film - transcript

Hey you, not to be eh?

Are you someone who organises and runs arts provisions for young people? Ever wondered how you could make your provisions more accessible to young disabled folk?

Well we YACs at Birds of Paradise can make your rehearsal from looking like this (empty room) to looking like this (room with young disabled people looking happy).

“Thanks Birds of Paradise.”

No problem generic youth arts facilitator.

But you're probably wondering who or what is a YAC? No not that kind of yak (picture of the animal). A YAC is a Youth Arts Consultant. Say hello to the YACs. We YACs want to provide a service to all you theatre makers and arts organisations.

Have you ever woken up in a cold sweat during the middle of the night and thought: How can I make my arts facilitation venture more accessible to hip young disabled folk? If only there was someone I could ask? Well know there is because that's the entire point of this video. Just ask a YAC.

Ask a YAC is a new initiative that has been launched in response to a 2016 report that set out to identify and tackle the barriers to access for young disabled people in regards to accessing youth arts provision in Scotland. The report identified five barriers that prevented disabled people from getting involved in the arts.

1. Finding suitable arts provision (video of blind person walking past a sign to a drama workshop)
2. Failure for people to access information (video of a blind person not being able to get information from a computer)
3. Lack of provision for access and support (photo of disabled person playing drums on saucepans)
4. Travel & Transport Problems (video of disabled person counting pennies for their bus money)
5. Attitudes & Awareness of arts providers

“Listen Jack, your performing has been excellent so far but from this point your balance just isn’t quite up to the same standard as everybody else in the performing company. So I’m afraid we’re going to have to let you go”

“But why does it have to be on ice?!”

The purpose of Ask a YAC is to remove these barriers. Here at YAC HQ we work tirelessly to answer your questions. YACs work through the night to answer your questions, isn’t that right. A happy YAC is a busy YAC. Once you ask a questions we’ll get back to you as soon as possible. Along with their shared experiences YACs have received disability equality training from Birds of Paradise. With a wealth of knowledge to call back on, you know they’re reliable.

So how does it all work? It’s really rather simple. Once you’ve accessed the Birds of Paradise website, go to the menu on the top right and select ‘What We Do’. This will bring up another menu and you should select ‘Sector Questions.’ Here you can either ask a new question by clicking on ‘Ask Question’ button. Or you can scroll through previously asked questions to see if someone has already covered what you’re concerned with. You don’t have to log in but it makes it easier for you and others to track the answers given. The questions are flooding in. YACs can also provide accessibility

audits of websites, marketing materials and other services you are creating or developing.

So if you're involved in the arts and want to help young disabled people by improving your accessibility standards, we're here to help. Remember, have no fear because the YACs are here.

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Ask a YAC at the Birds of Paradise website now.

Thanks to: Jack Hunter, Amy McAinsh and Scottish Youth Theatre

BOP Photo credits: Robin Mitchell, Be-BOP; Eamonn McGoldrick, Mother Courage; Mihaela Bodlovic, The Tin Soldier

Birds of Paradise logo, Glasgow Life logo, Creative Scotland logo