

Mentoring - flagging it up that this needs to be worked on, gap for funding, harder for women

Mentors come in all shapes & sizes and are invaluable in offering advice and support to enhance career prospects.

A good mentor will be honest, reliable, challenging, generous with their time and knowledge and will help you carve out the best possible path for your practice. These ones are hard to find and in the arts world often come in the guise of an old family friend or a person who trained at the same institution as you. This can leave working class creatives at a disadvantage based solely upon your network.

As a working class female in the arts I think it is super important to have mentors who can guide you and advise you. Mine are my mum, Margaret Connell as well as Claire Bigley and Elinor Randle from Tmesis Theatre Company. I'm really lucky to have three powerhouse women who I can always turn to for advice and I wanted to create a list of potential mentorship opportunities for working class creatives, think of it as a who can help guide to hopefully advance your practice.

First up - ME, I have been lucky to have wonderful mentors who've guided my career and I believe in paying it forward, I have capacity to mentor one or two creatives in the next year or so, if you are a working class creative who wants advice, a friendly ear, or just someone to run your ideas past then drop me a line siobhannoble@me.com

Tmesis Theatre - Wicked Women, Creative Development Course

<https://www.tmesistheatre.com/train-with-us/wicked-women-creative-development-for-young-women/>

Open Door People, for help with applying to drama school - <https://www.opendoor.org.uk>

The Womens Organisation - <https://www.thewomensorganisation.org.uk>

Blackburn House - <https://www.blackburnehouse.co.uk>

Heart of Glass - <https://www.heartofglass.org.uk>

Jerwood Arts - <https://jerwoodarts.org>

Arts Emergency - <https://www.arts-emergency.org>

Not Too Tame - Path-maker Webinars <https://www.nottootame.com/artist-development>

Rising Arts - <https://rising.org.uk/our-work/young-creatives/mentoring/>

Believe in yourself and if you see something in another artist that you admire, don't be afraid to ask them if they would be interested in being your mentor. The worst they can say is no and 9 times out of 10 you will get a useful conversation from this kind of interaction.

This list is not complete by any means and I will try to add to it as I comes across new organisations. I believe as a working class artist it is a duty of mine to make sure I pass the baton backwards as much as possible. Share your knowledge and opportunities with other artists and let's get some more working class voices in the room.