

PROJECT PORTFOLIO



YOUNG CARERS
SHARING STORIES
SHARING SUPPORT



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
RECLAIMING EVERY
DAUGHTER



**ASYLUM SEEKER AND
REFUGEES**
CREATIVITY GROUP

PLAYBACK THEATRE SOUTH WEST

MIRROR MIRROR & TARTE NOIRE



Who are we?

Established in 2005 by Amanda Brown and Alison Fairlove, Playback Theatre South West (PTSW) is a charity organisation that comprises two performance companies: Mirror Mirror (est. 2005) and Tarte Noire Women's Playback Theatre Company (est. 2007). We have worked extensively with refugees, women who have experienced domestic violence, young carers, people with mental health issues, people with learning difficulties, NHS, Adult Social Care, British Psychological Society, young people with behaviour, social, emotional or mental health needs or excluded from school, amongst many.

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What is Playback Theatre?

Playback Theatre (www.playbacktheatre.org) is an internationally recognised method of spontaneous theatre created by professionally trained practitioners in collaboration with audience participants. Someone (from the audience) tells a story from their life, chooses actors to play different roles, and then watches as their story is immediately recreated and given artistic shape and meaning. Facilitated by a conductor, Playback Theatre brings people together as they see their common humanity through the enacted stories. Through Playback Theatre, our mission is to reach disenfranchised people and build cohesive communities of understanding.

Our Projects

For the past decade, we have been running workshops and participating in cultural and creative events organised by local welfare and community focused agencies. We have three main projects for three different marginalised groups:

1. Sharing Stories Sharing Support

Target: Young Carers

PTSW has supported young carers throughout the South West in partnership with Cool Recovery, Young Devon, and Torbay Young Carers since 2012. We offer Playback Theatre as a safe social group opportunity to explore what it means to them to be a young carer. It empowers the group to be the agent of their own personal development. Hearing the stories of others reduces the feeling of isolation as they realise they are not alone in their experiences. Moreover, it strengthens moves towards change. This unique experience is both stimulating and enabling.

2. Reclaiming Every Daughter

Target: domestic abuse survivors

PTSW have successfully offered Playback Theatre sessions as part of pattern changing courses run by Bridge Social Enterprises – a small locally based not-for-profit organisation providing services for those affected by domestic violence and abuse. Since 2008, we have supported victims to understand their experience as part of a learning programme offering tools and techniques in order to move on in life, forming healthy relationships and positive futures. It gives women a wonderfully unique way to celebrate the ending of their pattern-changing course, run by BSE, and all their achievements. It is a powerfully affecting experience, which

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PTSW strengthen communities by enabling the respectful sharing, witnessing and honouring of individual's stories of lived experience, both within and across social groups. This promotes social inclusion, equality and diversity. Thus, we contribute to both bonding and bridging social capital

offers the opportunity for everyone to come together and be strengthened by sharing feelings and stories.

Our performances have received very positive feedback. Not just from the participants themselves but also from the organisation working with the victims.

3. Women's Creativity Group

Target: asylum seekers, refugees, black, and ethnic minority women

Since 2008, PTSW has been working actively with asylum seekers, refugees, black, and ethnic minority women from countries that include Iraq, Kurdistan, Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Liberia, Somalia, Nigeria, Sudan, Albania, Eritrea, Malaysia, Pakistan, China, and Ghana. Our approach promotes social inclusion, equality and diversity in all our projects where every voice is actively invited and welcomed. It reframes issues and situations that participants put forward, enables change, develops and strengthens relationships. It is a cathartic and fun way to promote social inclusion equality and diversity, both within and across social groups fundamental for the women who are relatively new to living in the UK.

Participants acquire new awareness and skills – speaking and listening in English language which grow their communication skills. Participating in the group each week enables them to grow in confidence and integrate more successfully into life in UK. They become able to navigate “the system” better, their support networks are strengthened, they have a greater grasp on opportunities for employment through volunteering. Their children will have better outcomes as a result of all of these. They gain insights into the day to day lives of British families. Our work also opens up beginnings of processes of healing helping to reduce risk of developing long term mental illness through the shared consciousness raising and new access to resonances (through others' stories) our work facilitates.

What's next?

In 2018-2019, our initiatives aim to continue supporting vulnerable people in Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Teignbridge. We will work with partner organisations: START for our project with refugees and asylum seekers, and Torbay Young Carers for young carers. We are currently expanding our links with new support organisations for our project with women who have experienced domestic violence as Bridge Social Enterprises are currently unfunded.

The total cost of £63,450 that we are aiming to raise will enable us to deliver 70 workshop and performance sessions to involve approximately 250 asylum seekers and refugees, 50-60 young carers, 30-50 women survivors, and 100 professionals.

