

WORKING FOR NEW PERSPECTIVES

New Perspectives has been touring high quality professional theatre into the villages and market towns of the East Midlands for nearly thirty years, during which time it has gained a reputation with critics and audiences alike for the energy, imagination and theatrical flair of its work.

In common with many regionally-based touring theatre companies we reach new audiences by taking much of our work into non-theatre spaces. This means that, in addition to the usual set/props/costumes, we tour with a full technical kit including staging, LX/sound equipment etc. so that we can transform the spaces we visit into performance venues for the night. It also means that we work with community promoters to publicise each of our performances, and in turn that the audiences we attract, although obviously slightly different for each of our shows, are generally large (we averaged 82% last year) and as diverse as the rural communities we visit.

Actors new to rural touring often comment that a New Perspectives tour is unlike anything they've experienced before – the 'up close and personal' challenge of playing in a studio space but coupled with the kind of warm welcome that sometimes makes it feel more like playing in someone's living room – we think that it has a lot to do with the fact that we're usually the 'guests' in a space that our audience are already very familiar with – it's hard work but very rewarding.

More recently, in addition to working in non-theatre spaces, we've also started making work that can play in arts centres and theatres, and many of our productions in the last couple of years have played longer runs in regional theatre spaces and/or toured nationally.

We operate with a small core staff team – artistic director, general manager, production manager, admin/marketing officer and finance officer – and employ freelance creative/technical teams to work with us on each production.

As many as thirty writers, directors, designers, composers, choreographers, actors and stage managers contribute to our

programme each year, with most of our creative teams featuring a mix of new faces and established New Perspectives collaborators.

We are a friendly but professional company – we treat everyone who works for us fairly, value the creative input of everyone involved in the process of making our work, and always make space to listen to any concerns that our core staff or creative teams have – equally we expect very high levels of commitment from anyone who works for us, the maintenance of a professional working environment and respectful working relationships at all times, and conduct on tour that contributes to the development of the company's excellent reputation and public profile.

Generally we rehearse at our company base in Nottingham, which combines our offices with a studio-scale rehearsal space, green room etc. Typically we'll rehearse a new production for four weeks, with technical rehearsals and preview/press performances scheduled into the fifth week.

Once a show is 'on the road', our touring usually includes a mixture of venues within the East Midlands, with travel to/from company base each day and journey times of up to 2 hours, and venues outside the East Midlands, which sometimes involve longer journeys and overnights stays away from base, in which case we always arrange and pay for suitable hotel/B&B accommodation. All travel on tour is in the company's striking new Mercedes Vario van (fully converted to carry set/props/costume/technical kit and up to seven passengers) and/or additional vehicles if a touring company is larger than seven.

So, a typical day on tour with New Perspectives will start with a call at company base (or overnight accommodation if touring outside the East Midlands), followed by a journey to the day's venue, 'all hands to the pump' to unload the van and get-in (n.b. we're always sensitive to the strengths/weaknesses of each company member!); then a break, quite often with food laid on by our promoter when we're in a community venue; warm up, into costume and the performance; short break, and it's 'all hands to the pump' again to get-out, pack the van, and then travel back to base (or on to the next night's accommodation outside the East Midlands), sometimes with a stop at a pub to round off the evening if there's time.

Our touring pattern is generally made up of 'one night stands' in the East Midlands, and a mix of one night/two night/split weeks/full weeks when we're touring nationally.

A typical touring week will include one, and more often than not two days free of any calls, and we always endeavour to ensure that these free days are consecutive.

Because of the nature of our rehearsal/touring pattern, most freelance artists and technicians who work with New Perspectives retain accommodation in Nottingham through most of their time with the company, and we have an extensive list of reasonably-priced digs that previous company members have recommended.

We understand that freelance artists and technicians sometimes need time off to attend auditions/interviews for future work and, whilst not always able to make such time available, do all that we can to make this possible.

We are members of the Independent Theatre Council and operate a contract based on the Equity/ITC terms – available on our website.