



Warwick 2065: Graduate Theatre Companies Since 2000



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This research is focused on Warwick graduate theatre companies, with a specific emphasis on those which have emerged from the university since the year 2000. Over the course of the twenty-first century, Warwick has become particularly respected for the quantity and quality of companies formed by its graduates in the early stages of their professional careers, and this research represents a sincere attempt to respond to that reputation in an academic sense. I have pursued two key areas of research; namely, researching the specifics of those Warwick graduate theatre companies since the year 2000, and subsequently conducting research into whether and what the lines of connection between those companies – in terms of artistic influence and ethos – might be.



At the beginning of this project I sent a questionnaire to those Warwick alumni I was already aware of with involvement in graduate theatre companies. By asking them not only about the details of their own companies, but about any companies they could remember having formed in years above them, I was able to begin tracing a line from today back to 2000. It became apparent that the ideal form for the articulation of this research would be an **archival resource** of the fourteen companies I investigated. This resource makes up one of the two products of my research.

The second product is a **written report** drawing conclusions – on the basis of qualitative interview data – regarding the conditions at Warwick which might promote shared sets of artistic values between students going on to make theatre as graduate companies. To successfully complete this report I decided that it would be necessary to interview members of as many of the companies as possible, and to assimilate this information appropriately in written form.



Archival Resource

- ✓ Database featuring the fourteen post-2000 Warwick graduate companies
- ✓ Relevant information on each
- ✓ Able to cross-reference data



Written Report

- ✓ Based on interview research and questionnaire answers
- ✓ Draws tentative conclusions on relationship between Warwick and its alumni companies
- ✓ Acknowledges anomalies appropriately



Conclusion

It is my hope that these two separate products offer differing but helpfully compatible views on the plethora of graduate theatre companies to emerge from the University of Warwick since the year 2000. The archival resource will be made accessible online and will hopefully prove useful and insightful, both to other researchers and to those interested in the contemporary British theatrical landscape. The resource will also provide the inspiration for an artistic response – a “family tree” of the companies – to be featured in the Warwick Arts Centre as part of the upcoming Emerge Festival. Though the written report could have benefited from being informed by a greater range of interviewees, it remains a worthwhile document in providing speculative answers to questions which have been raised not only by Warwick students and alumni, but by theatre writers in the national press.