

- **Was it a crucial moment for the That Theatre when the lockdown was applied?**

It came when we had 9 days left of a very successful world premiere production called THE VISIT. Based on a true story about HC Andersen's 5 week long "weekend" visit to Charles Dickens in 1857.

Krudttønden has an audience capacity of 100. We had sold 600 of those seats for the last 9 shows.

- **Did it financially or in any other way damage the theatre?**

Financially it obviously hurt us, but I was very happy by the response of our audience. I wrote to each person individually & offered them refunds on their tickets. Only 150 wanted their money back, the rest either donated their ticket money to the company, or will use their tickets for future productions. Have to say that this response warmed the cockles of my heart and that I received many e-mails of support and encouragement for the quality of our work.

- **How are you coping financially/ any state support?**

Lack of real State support is an old wound – we benefit from the fact that students under the age of 25 and in groups of 6+ can buy tickets for kr.40.00 and then the Arts Council makes up the difference for the full ticket price for students. Which is kr.115.00. After moms is deducted each student ticket is worth approximately kr.88.00. 50% of our audience are students.

- **What does it mean for the That Theatre being closed at the moment?**

Our next production isn't until Oct/Nov so it hasn't affected us by not being able to perform at the moment. The concern is focused on guidelines for audience capacity bearing in mind "social-distancing". I've heard that we might have to reduce capacity to 50 and remove seats. Of course a lot depends on what happens over the next few weeks now that Denmark is relaxing the lock-down. If there's a spike in Covid-19 fatalities I'm sure that will affect all theatres for the foreseeable future.

This uncertainty makes it difficult to advertise our productions with total confidence that we'll be able to play, but we will be sending out newsletters etc before the summer holidays to people on our mailing lists.

We also have educational material on our website for most shows. This is free to use and I know that teachers & students refer to it.

- **Many of the art events turned online, did you do something like that?**

I didn't send out filmed versions of old productions on Facebook because a) we'd have to get clearance from the writer's agents and pay a royalty and b) because unless the shows are filmed decently they look pretty poor, quality-wise.

- **Any particular/interesting moment during this period you would like to share?**

I have been impressed by the way most people have behaved during the past 10/11 weeks. Apart from the panic buying on that 1st night I think the city has coped very well. I'm particularly happy about the cooperation shown between empty hotels offering schools space as they begin to reopen. Sadly the UK doesn't seem to have the imagination or the will to collaborate in this way.

- **Did you receive any reaction from your audience (support or dissatisfaction with cancellations)**

Like I said earlier most people were very supportive. Of course there had to be 1 person who was livid that they'd gone to the theatre to find it closed. I doubt if we'll be seeing him again.

- **What are your future plans/ productions for the rest of the year?**

We hope to get the go-ahead in the near future and to start rehearsals in September. There's a talented Irish writer based here in Kbh and we've decided to produce 2 of his plays. Oct/Nov 2020 and then Feb/March 2021. I'll send some PR in the e-mail. Very excited to work with Fergal O'Byrne. He'll be joining us in the rehearsal room and has offered to give informal talks at gymnasiums, schools and colleges. I'm certain that this is the start of a grand collaboration.

- **Do you have any guidelines on how the theatre is going to operate when it opens?**

This will be made clearer the closer we get to the playing dates. I'm in close contact with the management at Krudttønden and together with the official guidelines we'll try our best to make our audience and ourselves feel safe.

- **How does the future look like for you?**

Same as it does for all theatres I imagine. We're trying to be as positive as possible that we'll be doing our job of telling good stories. I think we have a strong base of an audience that will continue to support our productions. (Touch wood)
We also hope to tour THE VISIT around DK and further afield. We actually filmed this production properly with a good camera on 3 separate evenings, so we have that in the can and a shorter edited version to show potential buyers. Possibly at a later date I'd be happy to share that with people on YouTube & Facebook.

I hope this gives you an idea of where we are right now.

I'd be happy to meet in person, if you have any follow up questions.

Take care,

All best,

Ian