

Welcome to our come on in resource!

This resource is to complement our *Come On In* project and is for anyone working with young people 7-18yrs old, youth workers, theatre practitioners and parents/carers to help them explore the theme of home.

'Home' isn't always a place, is it?

It's being surrounded by the familiar
- the sounds and the smells.

It's the memories - a feeling of comfort and connection.

It's the people - past, present and future.

Home can be wherever and whatever you make it; it just has to feel like home.

Taking inspiration from Northumberland author and illustrator Charlie Mackesy's beautiful book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, Mortal Fools' Youth Theatre worked together across Spring and Summer 2022 to create 5 interactive, immersive performances.

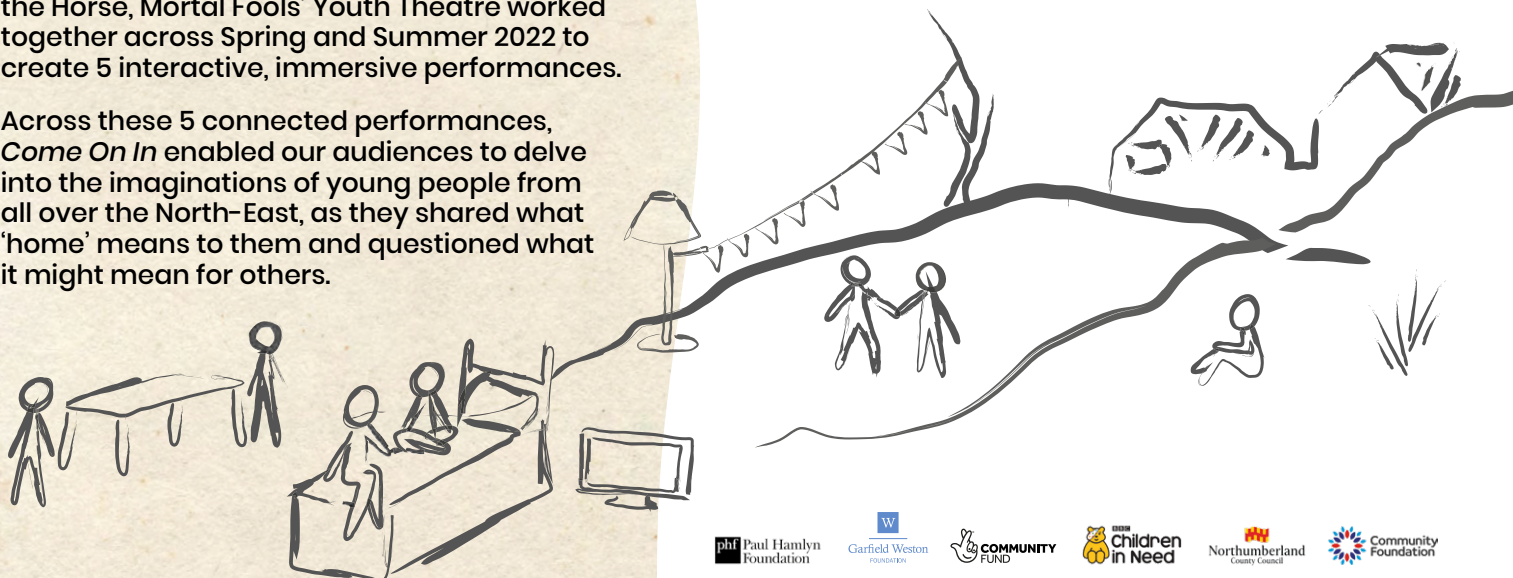
Across these 5 connected performances, *Come On In* enabled our audiences to delve into the imaginations of young people from all over the North-East, as they shared what 'home' means to them and questioned what it might mean for others.

Mortal Fools is a theatre, drama and creative learning charity based in the North-East.

We are a company of participatory artists and practitioners who co-create compelling, dynamic, socially relevant and high quality theatre and creative projects with children and young people.

We work with 1000s of young people every year across the North through co-creating theatre, creative projects and developing digital content and resources to meet the contemporary needs of young people.

You can find out more about Mortal Fools on our website www.mortalfools.org.uk and social media channels (@mortalfoolsuk)



At **Mortal Fools**, we are all about sharing and we thought it might be helpful to share some of the provocations and questions, our practitioners used in Youth Theatre sessions with young people to kick off the co-creation process for **Come On In** whilst exploring the theme of “Home” more deeply and creatively.

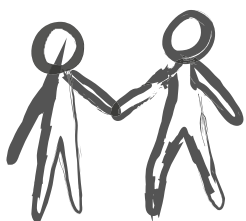


To start off...

...it may be helpful to **watch our Sparked videos** – our educational and practice-sharing video series about co-creation with children and young people. The series walks you through the experience of our young people co-creating new devised pieces of theatre, like *Come On In*, including some examples of activities that you might like to try in your sessions with young people. In the series we share elements of creative process – the tasks and activities we do to create new pieces of work – and the relational process – how we work together, and the environment we create. **You can watch our Sparked videos HERE.**

The following prompts and questions, enabled our young people and practitioners to scaffold positive open relationships and a creative environment, that was foundational to the co-creation of *Come On In*. We hope by sharing them, it may help you explore co-creation and/or the theme home in with young people you're connected to.

Let's go...



The starting point of our creative adventure on this project, was exploring the main prompt from Charlie Mackesy's book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* – “Home isn't always a place, is it?”

Some of the subjects and themes that come up by exploring “home” as a concept, may be challenging or uncomfortable – that is ok! We encourage you to remind any young people to only explore what they are comfortable exploring. We have listed some mental health support services in a resource you can **download HERE** which may be useful to sign-post young people to.

We asked our Mortal Fool Youth Theatre groups, if they individually and collectively agreed or disagreed with the main prompt and why? Our facilitators then posed the provocation: “Home to me means...” – we asked our Youth Theatre members to think of words, objects, items, people, pictures, sounds and share their thought with us and the rest of the group, however they felt most comfortable. Could be a piece of writing, pictures, poem, mood board, collage...

Our youth theatre participants have curated **a special playlist**, that you can listen to whilst you're reading this resource and/or exploring the prompts. You can **listen to the Come On In playlist HERE.**

To help our young people, dig deeper into the concept of home, we asked them to:

Think of somewhere you feel 'at home'...

- What can you see?
- What can you hear?
- What can you smell?
- What do you feel?
- Who is there with you?

Mortal Fools Practitioner Tip:

Senses can really help! Sense questions can help people build their concept of home layer by layer, creating a stronger mental picture for themselves.

After the first few sessions working together in our groups, key themes started to emerge of interest and ideas sprouted; this meant that each group started exploring home from an angle that interested them and made sense to them.

One of our Youth Theatre groups explored the concept of **home as one of your friends**.

This group explored the following prompts:

- What makes a good friend?
- How do they make you feel?
- What might they say to you?
- I love it when my friends...
- What makes your friends feel welcome in your home?
- What happens at your party *before* your friends arrive? How does it feel?
- What happens at your party *when* your friends arrive? How does it feel?
- What happens *after* your friends have been to the party? How does it feel?

Mortal Fools Practitioner Tip:

Understand and support your group! You can often use prompts like these as a way of supporting wellbeing in sessions – your participants are giving you a list of things that they need from the people around them to be themselves, use it to your advantage to support them!



Another Youth Theatre group explored the concept of **home as a place of familiarity and belonging**.

This group explored the following prompts:

- Places I'm frightened of...
- Places that I find beautiful...
- Places that make me feel calm...
- Journeys you might take
 1. Daily?
 2. Emotionally?
 3. Metaphorically?
- I love it late at night when...
- I don't like it late at night when...
- When you're far away from home it feels like...
- When you just want to get home it feels like...
- When does a house feel like a 'home'?
- If you could give somebody one thing to make them feel welcome, what would it be?
- I feel at home when...

Mortal Fools Practitioner Tip:

When asking participants to share ideas around moments of vulnerability, it is important to remind them that they should only share what they are comfortable sharing. If anything upsetting does come out of your discussion – make sure to set time aside to check in with that individual after the task/session.



Another group explored the concept of **home as your imagination**.

This group explored the following prompts:

- The boring moments at a housewarming are...
- Interesting but real life moments at a housewarming are...
- The most amazing moments at a housewarming are...
- I daydream of...
- Moments when I let my mind daydream...
- Moments when I can't stop my mind wandering...
- When I get lost in my imagination I like to think of...
- When I get stuck daydreaming, the only thing that brings me back to earth is...

Thank you for using our *Come On In* Resource Pack and hopefully the prompts were creatively helpful.

The creative outputs from these prompts became the foundation of *Come On In* and the 5 interactive, immersive performances co-created with 50+ young people and 10+ professional artists.

We hope by **watching our Sparked videos** about co-creation and by sharing the creative prompts we weaved into our **Youth Theatre sessions** for this project, that you'll feel more confident to give co-creation a go with the young people in your lives and explore the theme of home!

If you really enjoy the theme, we also have the option available for a Mortal Fools Youth Theatre practitioner to facilitate a *Come On In* drama workshop for young people – this is open to any young people's groups and to find out more email: Rachel.Horton@mortalfools.org.uk



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