

Welcome to Mortal Fools' When This Is Over Resource Pack



Introduction to When This Is Over & the Resource Pack

Mortal Fools Youth Theatre were BACK ON STAGE, presenting their version of When This Is Over on Saturday 29th January 2022 to two big (nearly sold out!) crowds at Gosforth Civic Theatre. It was the first time they'd performed on stage AND been in the same room all together for just over two years!

And they did fantastically! 🔥

When This Is Over was co-created over the course of 8 months by children and teenagers standing on the brink of an uncertain future, alongside professional artists. Devised by Mortal Fools in association with Company Three. Performed by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

Featuring three brand new short plays and interactive installations created by MFYT and Young Leaders, When This Is Over was a celebration of possibility, hope and the power of stories – capturing the extraordinary, funny and surprising moments that can change our lives forever.

The purpose of this resource is to enable the young people you work with to explore the contemporary ideas and themes, that underpinned the project and performances, with the young people and groups that you work with or connected to.

Across When This Is Over and the devising process, our young people were able to explore what has happened to them in the past, who they are right now, and who they want to be in the future – the potential story of their lives, individually and collectively. This resource will help you support your young people to do the same.

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

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.

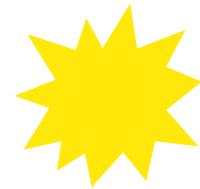
You can find out more about Mortal Fools on our website www.mortalfools.org.uk and social media channels (@mortalfoolsuk)

GETTING STARTED WITH THIS RESOURCE

Some handy information before starting:

- We will tell you what resources you need at the beginning of each task, so you can prepare.
- We have phrased the task instructions so you can use them exactly as they are with the young people you engage with, or you can rephrase them to suit your setting.
- The tasks and the films explore themes surrounding growing-up, the future, memories, expectations, wants, needs, climate emergency, social action, friendship and making sense of the world. We encourage you to remind any young people you are using this resource with, 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.
- You can request an easy read, text only and/ or large text version of this resource by emailing Rachel.Horton@mortalfools.org.uk

DIGITAL CONTENT



We would suggest watching these digital shorts with your young people before starting the tasks.

The film shorts and animations are end pieces, from groups of young people that Mortal Fools working with, made across several weeks exploring the themes underpinning When This Is Over.

What Kind of World do You Want to Live in?

by Mortal Fools' Young Leaders' Group

A poem written and performed by Mortal Fools' Young Leaders, featuring original music and animated by Lauren Bennett.

> Watch here

Accessibility Information

Under 3 minutes and captioned.

When This is Over Flashback Reel

Fly Girl Film captured the experience of When This Is Over live performance in January 2022 from the perspective of our young people performing, Mortal Fools facilitators and our live audience. Featuring live performance snippets for all three Mortal Fools Youth Theatre groups.

> Watch here

Accessibility Information

Under 7 minutes and captioned.

Look To My Future

by Mortal Fools' Youth Theatre

Spoken word written and performed by Stage Two Tyne Valley (7-11yrs) featuring original music and animated by Sheryl Jenkins.

> Watch here

Accessibility Information

Under 3 minutes and captioned.

When This Is Over Community Responses

Our live performance attendees and online community, were invited to respond to four provocations linked to the themes of When This Is Over. We received 150+ responses, selected a few and asked Sheryl Jenkins to animate them.

Click on the hyperlink below to watch each:

> Animation #1 - What are you grateful for?

> Animation #2 - In a hundred years from now, what does our future look like?

> Animation #3 - When you are gone, what do you want people to remember you for?

> Animation #4 - What kind of world do you want to live in?

Accessibility Information

Each provocation response animation is under 3 minutes.

Our Tomorrow

by Mortal Fools' Youth Theatre Stage Two Ashington

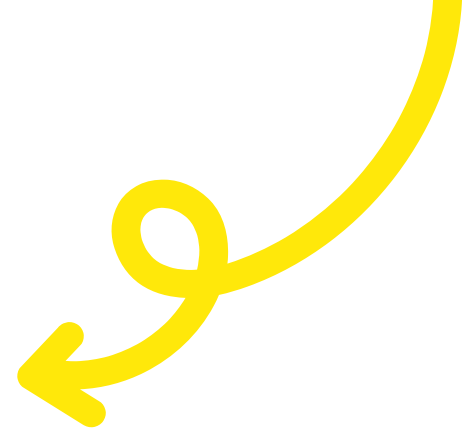
Spoken word written and performed by Stage Two Ashington (7-11yrs) featuring original music and animated by Kathryn Robertson.

> Watch here

Accessibility Information

Under 2 minutes and lyric video (words part of the visuals).

WARM UP



Today I feel...

If we asked your best friend or close relative about you - what do you think they'd say?

What are you grateful for right now?

What's the best thing to happen to you so far this year?

Tomorrow I want to...

If I ruled the world, I would...

When starting any Mortal Fools' Youth Theatre sessions, we begin with check ins and prompts; they help everyone to get thinking, warmed up and ready to start sharing their ideas and thoughts.

You can use these prompts to get creative thoughts flowing at the beginning of your session.

We give everyone a minute to think about prompts before sharing...



TASK #1

TIMELINES



We suggest for each part of the task below – you come back together after each bit is completed to share the next part of the task, as opposed to sharing Part A, B, C... all in one go.

PART A

This task is about exploring your past, present and future, and starting to think about the story of your life – what you want to tell people about your life so far, where you are right now and what you'd like the story of your future to be.

What you need for this task:

- Large piece of paper
- Comfy quiet space
- Pen or pencil
- Coloured pens/pencils to draw & highlight
- Magazines/newspapers for collage
- Scissors and glue for cutting out
- Instrumental music to help you think and concentrate

For this task, we want you to think your life as a journey and a linear timeline.

We want you to draw on a big piece of paper, individually or with a partner, something that represents your life from birth – 100 years old. (Examples – could be a line with arrows, a river, a road, a mountain or something more abstract).

Then we want you to draw a representation of yourself including the year it currently is and how old you are on the timeline.

Take 10 minutes to draw something that represents your life timeline including you!


PART B

Themed Timeline

There are many ways to look at life and our journey through it – you might look at life through the lens of achievement, travel, family, big moments, Christmas, moments of joy etc.

We want each person to think about their life, using their chosen theme and add to their timeline of their entire life and choose 5 moments that link to their theme that would go on their timeline. These should be a mixture of memories and moments they'd like to happen at a particular time in their life in the future.

Take 10 minutes to think about above and add these moments to your timeline – you can draw, write, or use collage to represent those moments.



TASK #1

TIMELINES



PART C

Together Moments

Ask each participant to think of as many moments where people come together in our lives and write them onto a new piece of paper. Some examples might be sports events, to pray, Christmas dinner or Birthdays.

We want each person to pick one together moment from the past they'd like to add to their timeline and to write about it (i.e. Where was it? When was it? What did you do? Why did people come together? Why are you adding it to your timeline?)

When then want each person to think about and then add a together moment to the timeline for themselves at 40yrs old and then at 80yrs old. Exploring where it may be? When? What will people be doing at it? Why are they coming together? What do you think is different between a together moment now and then?

Take 15 minutes to think about your Together Moments and add them to your timeline – you can draw, write, or use collage to represent those moments. This prompt is great to start getting participants to think about their future in a way that is rooted into something that grounds exploration.

PART D

First and Last Times

Ask each participant to think of as many First and Last Times that they would do something in their life. Some of our examples were 'the first time they walked to school on their own' and 'the last time they played with the teddy bear they got when they were born' and "the last time they wore their wore a school coat before going to a different school".

We want each participant to add 5 first times and 5 last times to their timelines – with at least two in their future.

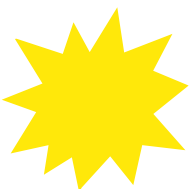
Take 10 minutes to think about First and Last Times and add these moments to their timeline – you can draw, write, or use collage to represent those moments. These ideas can be great to explore poignant moments in life whilst starting to create the story of their lives!

PART E

It's time to come back together and invite folks to share.

Knowing your group – it may be that you invite some to share, or you might invite everyone to look at each other's timelines, or you may invite each participant to share and give them 2 minutes to give some highlights.

To end this task – try to identify some common themes or stand out moments from the groups activity and bring it to a close and thank them for sharing.



TASK #2

THE PAST



Useful prompts for kick off discussion:

My parents met...

I used to love/hate it when...

I'll never forget the day when...

What made you who you are today?

20-30mins

Activity to try

GUIDED TOUR

Resources needed:

- Piece of paper
- Pen or pencil
- Space to perform in

Instructions for the task:

1. Think of somewhere (a space, location, building etc) from your past that is important to you
2. Write a list of as many things that would be in this place
3. In the space you're actually physically in – plan out where all those things might go, as if you are re-imagining the place from your past, into the present space you're in.
4. Take the group around the room on a guided tour of the place you're thinking of (show us where *everything* is!)

Something to think about:

What moment in your life made you who you are now?



TASK #3

THE PRESENT



Who are you right now?

30mins

Useful prompts for kick off discussion:

If you really knew me, you would know...

If I could change one thing about the world, it would be...

Activity to try

MAP OF YOU

Resources needed:

- Large paper (A3 size)
- Coloured pens or pencils
- Glue
- Scissors
- Magazines/newspapers

Instructions for the task:

1. Draw the shape of an island on your paper
2. Fill your Island with as many different areas that represent you. You might have a Music Arena where you can listen to your favourite music, or maybe a dark forest that represents your fear of the dark. You might want to draw them, describe in words or use collage to represent the areas visually.
3. Give your Island a name, label the different areas of your island and describe why you chose to include them.
4. Invite each participant to take the group on an Island tour and share their islands.


Something to think about:

What is the most important thing to you right now?



TASK #4

THE FUTURE



Where do you want to go next?

Useful prompts for kick off discussion:

I want to be remembered for...

I can't wait for the day when I...

Activity to try

BUCKET LIST STORY

Resources needed:

- Pen
- Paper to write on
- Music for creativity

Instructions for the task:

1. Write a list of what is on your Bucket List (things that you hope you will do one day).
2. Once you've written your list, choose one that stands out to you.
3. Write a short story without an ending that tells us what would happen in the moment you have chosen – What happens? How does it feel? Who is there? Where are you?
4. Swap your story with someone else's and add a few sentences to finish it – what happens at the end of that person's story, you decide.
5. Swap back and read your ending!

Something to think about:

What do you want the world to look like in the future?



THANK YOU!



Thank you for using our When This Is Over Resource Pack and giving the tasks a go...

These tasks are some of the activities our young people did together at the beginning of the project to help them explore their past, present, future and the potential story of their life from birth – 100yrs old.

Feel free to share any of your thoughts, stories, drawings, timelines with us on social media [@mortalfoolsuk](#) or via email info@mortalfools.org.uk

SUPPORT MORTAL FOOLS

Mortal Fools are a multi-award winning, theatre, drama and creative learning charity. We're growing every year, and we could not do what we do without the generous support of our partners, funders and wider Mortal Fools' community.

As a charity, we depend on this generous support, and we are always open to donations to help support our work with children and young people across the North.

Follow the link to see the ways you can support us:

www.mortalfools.org.uk/support-us

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