

Interning with Reckless Sleepers - Claire Chapman

What I learnt...

If I could take one word away from my time spent with Mole, Leen and Kevin, that word would be “play”. Play from the moment you step into the first rehearsal, and keep playing, through devising, through rehearsing and bring that play into the season with you. On my first day the first note I wrote in my notebook was “play = performance.”

But within this play create a logic and set of rules to play by. These rules will help create the content for the show. Some of my direct notes “Rules + logic – can’t escape it.” “Rules, rules, rules à crucial to the development of the show.”

“Articulate the show”. Always recapping, and usually adding as this happens. One steps out and watches, gives feedback, then switch. I very much like the approach as it often hard to know if something is working on stage.

Get a camera and record it! This makes the devising process easier because a) you can see what works/looks good and b) if you forget what you did – it’s all recorded! I usually hate watching myself on camera, but I can see this is something I am going to have to get over. Particularly useful to see the ‘images’ created in the piece.

That even artists who have been doing this for 30 years still get frustrated, still get stuck and still get over it. Although not always fun for the company, it was very reassuring for me to know that even the professionals get stuck!

To be flexible. Even if you think you have just created the best piece of theatre in existence there is always room for improvement (and this improvement usually comes from play!).

Why? Why did that come on? How does it go off? Do we need it? What’s its purpose? Everything happens for a reason, everything has a consequence (unless it’s the big fan – that just gets to stay on ha ha).

After creating a scene or sequence, especially if it’s good, let it sit and breathe. It’s easy to get frustrated and over it. Come back to it in time.

Lastly (I know it’s corny) but have fun! Enjoy what you’re doing – otherwise why are you doing it?!

Claire is a creator and collaborator of theatre, performance art and live work. Originally from Wollongong Australia currently based in London.

In 2017 Claire was awarded the BBM Youth Support Award for Drama. For more info [BBM Award](#)

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