

53two

*Working
in the
community*



Who are 53two?

53two is a Manchester-based theatre, bar and arts charity 'renowned for its support of local writers, quality shows at affordable prices and plugging the gap between smaller fringe venues and the larger theatres of Greater Manchester.' (Confidentials, 2020).

We exist to support disadvantaged and underserved artists to share, create and play whilst also hosting events and shows in our 100-seater theatre. Open 7 days a week for artists to meet, greet, share and grab a beer or coffee, it's unique, subterranean feel allows patrons to escape the humdrum and kick back. We are proud advocates of equal opportunities; the venue itself designed with access at heart with it's lowered bar, accessible performance space and adaptable seating as well as BSL training for all staff. 53two are also active users of the Anti-Racism Tourism Rider. We are a space for everyone and we're creating a community of inclusion for all to create in.

Headed up by actor/director Simon Naylor and actor/producer Alexandra Maxwell, the site is best placed to support independent theatre and hospitality, championing theatre-makers across the region. Currently in development, the 80 seater theatre, cinema and events space is set to grow to a 150 seater and 300 standing capacity venue - this truly will be one of the finest performance spaces in the city.



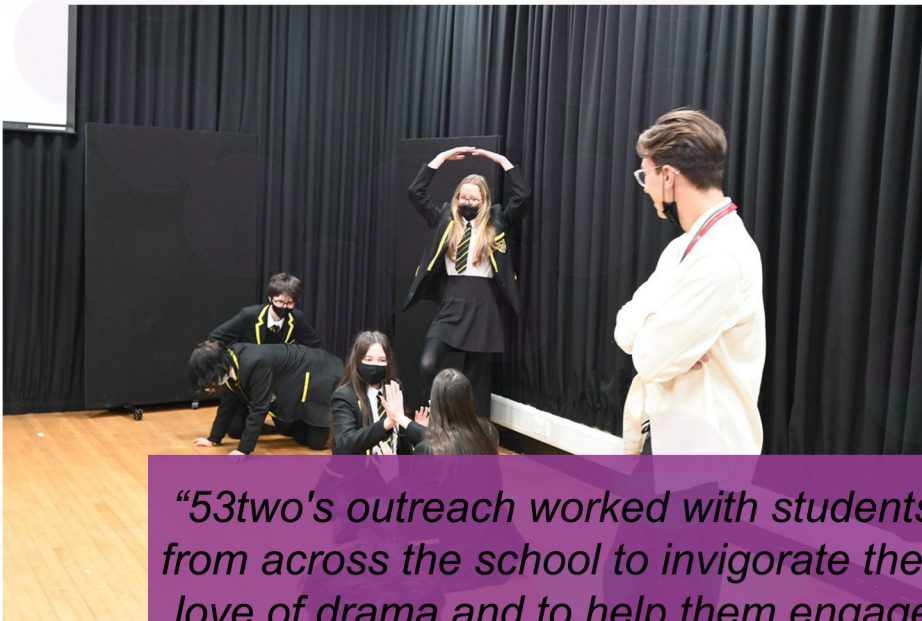
What do 53two offer?

From an outreach perspective, 53two have two strands of delivery.

1) Theatre Arts & Performance

The first strand is theatre, arts and performance delivery. We collaborate with schools and support their students' creative practice(s), allowing them to craft and perform a theatre show of their making.

We run arts-based activities and engagement games to stimulate the creative thinking process, referencing other performed works from international theatre companies and analysing their processes. We work towards a collective goal of staging a performance and ensure everyone takes part in the process, owning and understanding their



"53two's outreach worked with students from across the school to invigorate their love of drama and to help them engage with topics and themes we do not cover."

These sessions are usually embedded into the existing school day, typically run for around eight weeks. Some schools prefer longer options of ten weeks, or shorter month-long sessions. We are happy to discuss this with you.

This option is incredibly popular with schools on reduced arts budgets, whom feel that an external arts organisation would support the practical element of the GCSE Drama or Performing Arts courses. Alternatively, they can be useful as precursors to school shows.

2) Theatre in Education

We specialise in four topic areas for 2021/2022:

- Black Lives Matter (BLM)
- LGBTQ+ Rights
- Mental Health
- Women's Rights

For **BLM**, we study patterns of crime and the uprising through history, using real stories as our narratives and agreeing as a collective what we can do to support marginalised communities and individuals.

For **LGBTQ+ Rights**, we look at history and the equality marches of the 1900s to present day. Referencing the different laws across the world and exploring the entire spectrum of the community, we generate discussions on what we can do to help and what needs to change.

On **Mental Health**, we look at the current discussion and narratives around the more documented associations of mental health (depression, anxiety, stress etc.) and explore methods to cope with and improve our health.


Lastly, on **Women's Rights**, we look at movements such as everyone's invited, women's marches and the rise of feminism. How can men improve the experiences of women in society and what opportunities exist to support each other for equality?



This line of delivery is often useful as an additional body of PHSCE or to support a whole-school focus. We are open in our approach to supporting schools with their requests and the subject areas can be flexible.

Our practitioners will plan sessions prior to their delivery and engage in pre-workshop discussions with our artistic team, to ensure that their session aims and outcomes are consistent and maintain the high standards of 53two. Practitioners will teach as duos, and will typically be accompanied by a workshop assistant.

All of our freelance team are DBS checked and have experience teaching or working in education and/or the arts industry.

A photograph showing a woman with dark hair, wearing a black and white long-sleeved top and black pants, leading a group of students in a workshop. She is smiling and has her arms outstretched. The students are wearing school uniforms and face masks. They are standing in front of a black backdrop. The floor is wooden. There are some black bags on the floor in the foreground.

'The professionalism and flexibility of the team made the whole experience worthwhile for the students and well worth the money.'

The Team at 53two?



Connor Goodwin
Lead Practitioner

Connor Goodwin is a theatre practitioner, director and dramaturg based in Manchester.

Born in Salford, he is a leading force on the independent theatre scene, supporting young and emerging artists to navigate the art and culture scene. He has strong connections with youth-oriented theatres across the North of England and uses his wealth of experience to generate ground-breaking workshops to educate and empower others.

As a multi-award winning theatre-maker, he is well respected for his dedication to supporting marginalised and under-represented groups in the local community. Connor frequently works on TiE projects across the country as a freelance practitioner and dramaturg, collaborating with multi-disciplinary artists to assist their artistic vision(s).

His recent works include: Empty (2019), It's All About Rodrigo (2021) and Toxic (2021). He is soon to complete a project with Hester Chillingworth and an R&D for new work, Millennium.

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Xsara-Sheneille is an actress of British Caribbean descent, born and raised in Birmingham.

Since graduating Manchester School of Theatre in 2019, she has performed at The Royal Exchange, HOME Theatre and LIVE Theatre in Newcastle. Dabbling in TV, she has had her debut on Sky Atlantic's Tin Star and the BBC.

Xsara-Sheneille has also worked on a number of TIE productions touring the country. Teaching people of all ages about the acting craft and the importance of bringing stories alive and creating a cathartic experience for the audience as well as the actor.

Passionate about history and black culture, Xsara-Sheneille is an aspiring writer particularly interested in telling stories of her cultural origin; stories handed down over generations that need to be told.



Xsara-Sheneille
Pryce
Freelance Practitioner

Simon trained in London in Meisner and the practices of Uta Hagen, Stanislavski and Boal.

Simon also taught at Italia Conti, writing the Foundation and Improvisation courses which still run today and left as Head of First Year and The Foundation Course. Since moving back to Manchester, Simon has set up Manchester Actors' Platform, providing professional services at affordable prices for underserved creatives as well as MAP Productions, with projects in London and Manchester. He is now Creative Director of theatre and venue, **53two**. Focussing on new writing and accessibility, the venue is the only accessible, city-centre independent theatre in Manchester. In 2018 it won Small Theatre of the Year in the Northern Soul Awards and was named 'Best Small Venue' by North West End in 2019. In 2021, the venue was nominated for a National Diversity Award.

Simon has directed in London at the Chelsea Theatre, Avondale Theatre and Etc Theatre and at The Oldham Coliseum, The Waterside and **53two** with projects receiving nominations from the Manchester Theatre Awards and Northern Soul Awards. Simon has also taught acting at The Arden School of Theatre and ALRA North.

Alongside directing, Simon is still an actor, working on stage and screen.



Simon Naylor
Creative Director
53two

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Contact 53two?



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