



## #Getting Back Outdoors

Meeting notes: Insurance, Health & Safety

Online session 26/06/20

Session looking at the National Association of Street Artists (NASA UK) health & safety checklist (in progress), the impact of Covid19 and current thinking around insurance provision.

**Mel Stevens, [NASA UK](#) representative and Director of [Aim to Fly UK](#)**

- The National Association of Street Artists is a membership organisation run by artists for artists with 107 individual members, performers, designers and makers.
- During lockdown some artists had been performing in their local neighbourhoods providing / delivering social arts services to their communities. As the work developed it was felt that advice and guidance was needed relating to risk assessments and health and safety pertaining to their activities and what might be appropriate in the current situation.
- Resources in the form of a health and safety checklist was developed by Mike Herbert in association with NASA UK and supported by OutdoorArtsUK.

**Mike Herbert (Herb), Director of [Showsmiths Ltd](#), Event Safety & production Services**

- Through various conversations with artists and producers, and in association with NASA a discussion/guidance document is in development for those trying to get back out and working again, taking in to account the ongoing issues and everchanging government guidelines around Covid19.
- A health and safety checklist, which includes pointers for producing risk assessments and contains information about the virus, how it's transmitted, and the environments where it's more likely to be transmitted.
- A springboard or series of discussion points for anyone from a busker on a street corner to a highflying aerialist in a public park, from production to audience participation. A document that will need updating regularly as government guidelines shift and change.

*Thoughts on producing work and measures taken to protect artists, production crew, event staff etc and then, the relationship with audiences and the crossover there – how some companies are proposing to manage the audience? Where does the onus lie - the festival or the performer / show?*

**Mel Stevens**

- Working both in the sports active department and as a performer with input from equity, I'm looking to ensure best practice for both environments.
- Equity are saying that the producer, festival or whoever is paying the bill will have to take responsibility for all health and safety measures to protect both performers and the public ensuring there is no crossover, and therefore no risk of contamination.

- Toilet facilities for artists should not be for public use and must be managed with stringent hygiene and distance rules. Performers have the right to ask for their own toilet facilities.
- Disinfectant spray is a standard industry sanitiser for use on all surfaces, and more particularly door handles, push buttons, handrails - any surface in regular contact with the public.
- Anyone doing acro has to live in a household bubble, otherwise off the menu.
- Aerial or any activity performed at height currently has an 8-metre distance rule due to the dispersal of airborne droplets
- Designated one-way accessible walk systems/walkways must be provided and staffed to maintain social distancing. As a performer, you shouldn't have to think about what the audience are doing.
- Rigs and equipment advice from equity regarding – where possible one person to erect, if more than one person is required full PPE should be worn including gloves and that in-itself has safety considerations.

**Chris Squire, Director [Impossible Arts](#) and [Watershed Arts Practice](#)**

- As freelance performers and presenters working within events it is important to recognise that the public is the event organisers responsibility, and we are dealing with our rehearsals, travel and personal safety at work.
- The grey area is around any public interaction, when that can happen, how it can happen, if it can be enabled - an evolving situation, and a particular area that needs focussing on, as it is integral to, and the bread and butter of many shows and performances. What are the aggravating circumstances and how can they be mitigated without denigrating artistry and integrity?

**Steve Sadler, Director of [Rees Astley](#), Insurance for Performing Arts**

- The insurance market is huge, and there are wide variations in schemes and policies, but in relation to Covid19 the insurance industry as a whole has taken the view that in 98% of cases, they are not going to be covering the pandemic.
- A group of 8 insurers have agreed with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to bring a test case to the courts and - verdict due at the end of July. There will then be some guidance from the courts, as to what will be needed to prove whether a claim is possible under business interruption/loss of profit. Currently it's mainly larger organisations with premises that insure for loss of profit, as smaller companies and individual artists haven't felt as vulnerable to it.
- Public Liability – a good insurer won't put onerous conditions on or add Covid19 related exclusions, though there are some markets that have added requirements and provisos. Every policy does have a 'reasonable care clause' that could be activated, but only if you are deemed to have acted recklessly with total disregard for health and safety. It has never been used in the history of Insurance.
- Employer's Liability – currently no Covid exclusions, with the proviso of reasonable precautions.
- Cancellation/events Cover – additional cover for infectious diseases used to be available but not anymore.