



Opera Circus



UNDIVIDED LAUNCH IN WEST DORSET

SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2016

18:00 - 20:00

BRIDPORT TOWN HALL, UK

Following a series of creative pieces, developed and performed by young participants of earlier workshops led by Riva and Malaika from Cardboard Citizens, these are the thoughts and ideas that members of the community had voiced in an open discussion at Bridport's Town Hall.

REFLECTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

- 1) The need for optimism, hope and working together is stronger than need for any other political force or outcome.
- 2) Young people, in their performances and during discussions had formed and expressed their own opinions so that they could move on with the discussion, rather than just relying on uncertain statistics and rhetoric.
- 3) Through their expressive pieces, and unlike the mainstream media, there was no blame or element of revenge. The message that young people want to move forward and build a good future with positive relationships was clear.
- 4) Young participants understood and highlighted the different levels of knowledge - and gaps of knowledge - that the media, wider society and politicians have demonstrated before, during and after the referendum.
- 5) It was noted that fear is a major factor in decision-making on all issues in British politics, this is accelerated by the media and their agendas (often as a means of survival, especially for print media)
- 6) Not enough young voices are being listened to; the platform for discussion is often occupied by party politics or older people. The UK Youth Parliament is an example of a youth platform that is often ignored or undermined.
- 7) It was agreed by many, young participants and older members of the community members alike, that this vacuum of uncertainty following the referendum is an opportunity for young groups to set the agenda and put things right.
- 8) Themes within the performances and in discussions following highlighted the need for young people to be cultural ambassadors abroad, to rebuild relationships with communities and societies that the UK has abandoned, ignored or insulted.