

OPPORTUNITIES



We adapted *The Pearl* because we think that it is a story that is important and relevant to today's society. We always strive to make the highest quality theatre possible and aim to give our audiences a good night out. We offer several opportunities to allow the audience to take part in and around the show, and we would love to talk to you further about how we can implement these ideas in your venue.

Audience Book Club:

Taking inspiration from *Dialogue* at BAC and *Talk Show* at Camden People's Theatre, in Leighton Buzzard we are going to be facilitating a book group after the show in conjunction with the local library called *The Audience Book Club (ABC)*. The Library will be ordering in extra copies of the novella, and we will then invite people who have read the book to engage in an hour long discussion after the show hosted by the director and cast.

ABC will be appropriate for venues that have an existing relationship with their local library or would like to develop more of a relationship. It will be a way of accessing audiences that are part of the local community - through library activities and groups that use library services, but don't necessarily go to their local theatres.

This will be more informal than a post-show discussion, and at the same time more focused.

We plan to get bookmarks printed up alongside our flyers to give to libraries that take part. We will also work with libraries to allow them to make displays to advertise the opportunity.

Pearls of Wisdom:

To enhance the quality and depth of our post-show discussions, *Pearls of Wisdom* will invite local speakers to talk in conversation, considering the issues of the play.

The Pearl explores themes of wealth, class, and materialism. It poses big questions: What do we value most? When does aspiration become greed? How far would we go to fight for what we think is right, or rightfully ours?

We will ask local speakers - academics, journalists, campaigners, and other community voices - to respond to *The Pearl*, discussing ideas of social justice, morality, and the role of money in society. We hope these talks will enrich the audience's experience of watching the play.

The Pearl is about community and society and we would love to allow local people's voices to come through in response to our piece of theatre.

This activity is not one-size fits all - it will need to be tailored for each venue. It will be appropriate for venues that are already engaged with community action groups and charities. It will also be appropriate for venues that have links to educational institutions and attached academics, as well as venues that serve vibrant communities and have interesting social histories. We are keen to engage people that aren't ordinarily theatre-goers, but who are likely to respond to the ideas in the play.



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Workshops

As a Steinbeck adaptation, *The Pearl* is attractive to schools. We are offering several workshops from company members who are extremely experienced workshop leaders.

We can offer workshops for all ages on **ensemble**: What does the word ensemble mean? How do ensembles work? How can playing help the acting and devising process?

Devising: Where do you start? What tools can you use to make theatre? How can you hone and refine your ideas?

Adapting or Page to Stage: How do you go about adapting something for live performance? What questions do you need to ask yourself? How do you choose what to include and what to leave out?

Steinbeck: What themes does Steinbeck touch on in his work? Where do these themes feature in *The Pearl*? How do these themes work in performance?

The style of performance is one that breaks the fourth wall, so the audience feel throughout that they have been made part of the play (although there is no specific audience interaction during the performance), so these post-show activities will build on the relationship that we establish with the audience in the theatre. We would love to talk to you further about ways that we can engage audiences around the performance, so if you would like to talk to us further about any of these ideas, please get in touch.

