



The Paper Birds

# Ask Me Anything

Video & Digital Scheme of Work

**FACILITATOR**

**NOTES**

# Ask Me Anything Facilitator Notes

Dear Facilitator,

Welcome to the **Ask Me Anything** video and scheme of work!

We have created 4 sessions:

1. Introduction to **Ask Me Anything**
2. Watch the show
3. Post show discussions
4. Practical workshop

There are no timings used within the sessions, this is so that each facilitator can run the sessions in the way that is most useful to them. Where there is a practical task or activity given, we say within the instructions: 'your facilitator will let you know how long you have to do this task', and you can decide on the time frame.

For this reason, you may find that you want to rework our 4-session format and spend more or less time on each session. For example, if participants are new to The Paper Birds, you may want to split session 1 across 2 of your own lessons with your group. Please do what makes sense to you and your group.

What we are advising, is that you do make ample time for discussion, support and safeguarding. The show deals with some very sensitive issues and whilst we have a suitability rating of 13+ and have included trigger warnings, please exercise your own judgement around the suitability for individuals within your group.

We really hope you enjoy the show and the accompanying sessions. We would love to hear any feedback that you or your participants might have, so drop us a line any time!

With love from



**The Paper Birds**



# Session 1: Introduction to Ask Me Anything

There are **15 pages** within this session. Below are descriptions of the contents of each page, with some additional facilitator notes.

## Page 1

**Title slide:** 'Introduction to Ask Me Anything'.

## Page 2

### **Who are The Paper Birds?**

Bullet points about the company plus a short video (1min 33 secs) by co-founders and co-directors Jemma McDonnell & Kylie Perry briefly introducing who the company are, what we do and why we do it.

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmncSKNY6Ts>

## Page 3

### **The History of The Paper Birds**

**Please note:** This material is particularly useful for participants who are new to the company or those studying the company. Please feel free to skip over this content if participants are already familiar with The Paper Birds work.

## Page 4

Bullet points on how The Paper Birds use **Verbatim Theatre**

## Page 5

### **Welcome to Ask Me Anything**

A short (2 mins 38 secs) video by Jemma McDonnell, director of 'Ask Me Anything' in which she introduces the show and why it was made, directly followed by the trailer for the show.

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/501689663/039483b47c>

## Page 6

### **From the Director**

A written re-cap of what the show is about, how it was made and what it stands for, by Jemma McDonnell.

## Page 7-9

**Dear Young People**

This is the original letter that the company sent to the groups of young people from 3 schools and 3 youth theatres across the UK. It was in this letter that we explain the idea for our show and ask the young people to write back to us with a question or a worry.

## Page 10

### Our research

As we were going to be 'agony aunts' within the show, one of the pieces of research that we undertook was to find out more about the history of agony aunts.

We were particularly interested in why they have seemed to die out since our teenage years. Link to 'Sex, Lies & Love Bites, the Agony Aunt Story' a BBC documentary on agony aunts.

The link takes you to YouTube where the whole programme is (59 mins, 4 secs) but we suggest participants fast forward to watch a smaller section of the program from 50.44 to 54.54.

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkKN8Hm-zhE&t=8s>

## Page 11-12

### Agony Aunts Through the Ages

Examples of real published problems and answers through 1970's, 1980's and 1990's.

## Page 13

**A list of Discussion Topics.** These can be considered individually or discussed in pairs or groups.

## Page 14

### The Letters

Here we share a list of some of the issues raised within the letters. This list is also to act as a trigger warning so that participants understand the type of issues that will be raised before they see the show and have time to approach their facilitator if they are feeling uncomfortable.

## Page 15

### Creative writing task

Here we ask participants to see young people through the eyes of a character from a different generation. An internal monologue, the participants can explore the stereotypes, misunderstandings, of the way the young generation is seen but others, but also, they can explore the stereotypes and misunderstandings of another generation, that of their characters.

**Please note:** Participants need to be given a time frame for completing this piece of work.

# Session 2: Watch 'Ask Me Anything'

There are **7 pages** within this session, below are descriptions of the contents of each page, with some additional facilitator notes.

## Page 1

**Title slide:** 'Session 2, watch the show'.

## Page 2

**Introduction video (42 seconds)**

This short video is by performer and company member Georgie Coles, who reminds viewers they are about to watch a show with some serious but important themes.

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/501194579>

## Page 3

**Trigger warnings**

**Please note:** This is an opportunity for any participants who do not feel comfortable or may be triggered by any themes within the show, to opt out of watching it, or to emotionally prepare themselves for these themes to be mentioned or discussed.

## Page 4

**Link to the show Ask Me Anything (1 hour, 20 minutes)**

This was filmed at Live Theatre, Newcastle in February 2020. The link should take participants to Vimeo and we recommend that viewers press the 'enter full screen mode' button in the bottom right corner (four small arrows pointing outwards).

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/396020510/4e10b83d5a>

## Page 5-7

**Helpline Contact Details**

**Please note:** These are UK based charities and all numbers were correct at point of publication in 2021. Please create your own local/ national charities database if these are not suitable, as we feel it's important to offer access to professional support if viewers have been affected by any of the issues raised in the show.



# Session 3: Post-Show Discussions

There are **8 pages** within this session, below are descriptions of the contents of each page, with some additional facilitator notes.

## Page 1

**Title slide:** 'Session 3, Post-Show Discussions.'

## Page 2

### Introduction Video

A short video (1 min 12 secs) by director Jemma McDonnell introducing the third session.

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/502239274/e13ec40a7a>

## Page 3

### Writing Notes

Participants are asked to write down some notes, thoughts, questions or observations from the show. This is some time for participants to reflect and think about the show before they watch the post-show discussion.

**Please note:** Participants need to be given a time frame for completing this piece of work.

## Page 4

### Q&A Video with the cast and creatives (30 mins 16 secs)

A video hosted by The Paper Birds senior creative producer, Charlotte Kalantari-Gregory, in which she asks questions to some of the cast and creative team.

Questions asked include:

- To Jemma Mc Donnell- **Director**. *Why did you choose to make a show about this subject?*
- To Georgie Coles- **Performer**. *How did you pick which letters to respond to?*
- To Rebecca Wood- **Set & costume designer**. *How were the costumes used to help create the style of the production? Were the costumes successful at communicating the style of the production?*
- To Kylie Perry- **Performer**. *Can you describe the style of acting used in Ask Me Anything and what do you do as performers to communicate that style to the audience?*

#### Q&A Video with the cast and creatives (30 mins 16 secs)

- To Rebecca Wood- **Set and costume designer**. *Can you talk about how you arrived at the final set design?*
- To Rosie Doonan- **Composer, songwriter, and performer**. *Why is the music in the show? what function does it serve within the piece? How was the writing process? Have you ever worked in a devising process like this?*
- To Joe Price- **Lighting designer** -*How did the lighting contribute to creating the style of the production?*

VIDEO LINK: <https://vimeo.com/502323901/a7192d4cab>

#### Reviews of the Show

Three professional published reviews of Ask Me Anything from:

The Stage (\*\*\*\*)

The Times (\*\*\*)

The Guardian (\*\*\*\*)

For the participants we have not included the star ratings so they can focus on the content and the way the reviewers describe the work.

#### Written Task

Brief for participants to write their own review of the show in which they can consider and articulate the story of the show, what the show achieves, its strengths and weaknesses, as well as possibly pulling in some of the information they have learnt from also watching the post show Q&A.

**Please note:** Participants need to be given a time frame for completing this piece of work.

Ask Me  
Anything

# Session 4: Workshop

There are **8 pages** within this session, below are descriptions of the contents of each page, with some additional facilitator notes.

## Page 1

**Title slide:** 'Session 4, Workshop'.

## Page 2

### Exercise 1- Scripting Siri

A short video (3mins, 4 secs) by Kylie Perry who introduces the workshop. Within this video Kylie then shares a clip of the AI character in Ask Me Anything 'Bridge It' (she shows 8.05 - 8.43 within the show) and gives task for participants to write a script between a character and an AI.

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/503079763/e09ba21799>

## Page 3

Written recap of the bullet points of **Scripting Siri**:

- Consider all the functions that an AI has- to play music, tell you the time, weather, what is the character doing/ asking/ needing help with?
- Think about the relationship between the two- is the AI purely fictional or does it have a personality?
- You are now going to script a conversation between the two.

**Please note:** Participants need to be given a time frame for completing this piece of work.

## Page 4

### Exercise 2- Staging Sitcom

A short video (5 mins) by Kylie Perry who introduces the second exercise. Within this video Kylie shares a clip of the sitcom within the show 'Teenage Kicks' (she shows 22.36-25.02 within the show) and gives task for participants to turn a real life memory from their childhood into a sitcom scene that they can film.

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/503093391/9c15fc6e39>



### Page 5

Written recap of the bullet points of **Staging Sitcom**:

- Start by writing a memory of something trivial or embarrassing that happened to you when you were younger; for example, not winning a competition or having an argument with a friend, or falling over in front of a person you fancy.
- You are now going to turn this event into a sitcom scene. Think about how to talk to the camera, to explain or re-live the situation. Try to use set and props, camera angles to enhance the drama.
- Perform and film your scene.

**Please note:** Participants need to be given a time frame for completing this piece of work.

### Page 6

#### Exercise 3- Writing advice

A short video (3 mins, 40 secs) by Kylie Perry who introduces the last exercise. Within this video Kylie shares a clip of the issues raised within the show (she shows 1 hour 4 mins- 1 hour 6 mins within the show) and gives task for participants to write a letter replying to the young people.

**VIDEO LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/503100809/d055c1bdca>

### Page 7

Written recap of the bullet points of **Writing Advice**:

- You are now going to write a letter to reply to the young people who wrote to us. You may have one person or letter in mind that you really connected with, or you can write to the young people collectively.
- What do you want to say? What advice would you give?

**Please note:** Participants need to be given a time frame for completing this piece of work.

### Page 8

End slide. Saying goodbye, we hope you enjoyed the show and supporting work and please keep in touch via our social media channels or website.

Note – you can also listen to the soundtrack on all streaming channels!

Search: SUGAR BOX – ASK ME ANYTHING

@ThePaperBirds

[www.thepaperbirds.com](http://www.thepaperbirds.com)