



**LTG National Conference 2025**  
**Sunday 29 June Keynote Speaker**  
**Professor Helen Nicholson and Colleagues**  
**Inclusive Local Theatres: How theatres serve their local communities**

**Helen Nicholson, Anne-marie Greene and Kay Hepplewhite** will reflect on their research project on the value of theatres to their local communities. This research is investigating the challenges amateur, professional, youth and community theatres face, and the opportunities they offer to local people.

**Helen** will talk about the importance of LTG theatres' repertoire as well as how they are supporting local artists and theatre-makers.

**Anne-marie** will share insights from The Criterion Theatre's Springboard Festival which brings local people into the theatre.

**Kay** will add insights from her research in theatre in Sunderland theatre [HERE](#).

**Information on the speakers**

**Helen Nicholson** is Professor of Theatre and Performance at Royal Holloway, University of London. She is co-author of *The Ecologies of Amateur Theatre* (with Nadine Holdsworth and Jane Milling) and *Theatre in Towns* (with Jenny Hughes, Cara Gray and Emma Edwards). As well as an interest in amateur creativity, Helen works regularly with The National Theatre, the Young Vic, and The Royal Opera and Ballet on their education and community programmes.

**Anne-marie Greene** is Professor of Work and Diversity at the University of York, and Artistic Director of The Criterion Theatre, Coventry. She is co-author of *Clean Break Theatre Company*, Cambridge Elements (with Caoimhe McAvinchey, Sarah Bartley and Deborah Dean) and *The Dynamics of Managing Diversity: A Critical Approach* (with Gill Kirton)

**Kay Hepplewhite** is an independent researcher, currently investigating Local Theatre in Sunderland, formerly Senior Lecturer at Northumbria and York St John Universities UK. She is author of *The Applied Theatre Artist* (Palgrave 2020) and *Applied Theatre: The Key Concepts* (Routledge 2024).