

Session 1 - Room 10

How are the touring producers developing work with national impact and how are they supporting diverse talent to develop?

Each member of the group gave a short intro to their work

We discussed some of the work currently being produced by those present e.g. [ensemble's] large-scale intercultural collaborations. The group discussed the potential for their future plans to collaborate with musicians from Pakistan and Bangladesh to be of interest to organisations beyond Birmingham/West Mids e.g. [organisations]

It was raised that there are no distinct national touring networks for jazz, but perhaps potential for groups of JPN venues/promoters to join into networks to develop projects/tours and support artist/audience development. Also potential for JPN to facilitate this through centralised funding for touring which could specifically support diverse artist/audience development nationally.

It was noted that for many years we've benefited from cheap flights which have helped to facilitate international touring. This will change when the airline industry resumes post-COVID and in response to climate change and will impact considerably on the financial viability of international touring. New, more resilient models will need to be explored which make the most of international projects and spread costs e.g. longer residency-style projects rather than back to back tour dates.

The importance of networks was raised and how they are essential for artists and producers to get a foot in the door and make connections with venues and promoters.

We discussed physical distancing and the impact it will have on artists/bands developing audiences. Core jazz audiences tend to be older and will take a long time to return to live concerts, so audiences across the board will drop in age. Younger promoters and producers are the best placed to lead the way in testing new models and approaches to presenting live music.

At the end of the session there was some discussion around diversity and the necessity for much greater accountability than in the past in terms of what publicly funded organisations, particularly larger-scale established institutions, are doing and how their work is representative and champions diverse talent. The emphasis in the future will be not just on what they're doing but why they're doing it.