

Report

What is the most _____ thing you could do with SDUK?

Max Barton, 16 February 2015

This is an exercise nicked shamelessly from Lee Simpson, who in turn nicked it shamelessly (and a little vaguely) from Phelim McDermott who got it from some book. Whatever its provenance it's awesome. Here it is.

Several questions are asked about what the most _____ thing you could do with SDUK is. It was an ever-changing group of willing idea-offerers. I am just the messenger (for the most part).

What ideas do you already have for SDUK?

- Negotiating fees
- Helping with contracts
- Sorting royalties
- Legal advice
- Act as a union
- Carry out surveys
- A trip advisor for venues/producers
- Categorising different directing types in contracts, such as devising directors.
- Creating a network of directors
- An Equity Dep meets co-op style peer system of representation.
- A regional programme
- Educating young theatre makers

- Getting pay for prep
- Improving access for diverse directors.

What's the most fun thing SDUK could do?

- Sessions on bouncy castles
- Resurrect the spirit of Ken Campbell
- A séance
- Stop talking about contracts
- House style – comic sans for all contracts
- Include ridiculous riders in contracts
- Compulsory fancy dress
- Improvisation sessions with Equity
- Film night
- Go to the theatre together
- More collaborative and open conversation between directors (ie more open space)
- More diversity in the room (both within directors and including non-directors)
- Put gags on people who talk too much
- Form a choir/band/football team
- Alcohol/substances on entry
- Sessions where we read out our bad reviews and laugh/cry.
- Sessions where we relate particularly bad experiences and laugh/cry.
- More pirates
- A disco
- Christmas party
- Music at meetings
- Make a show together

- Games and workshops
- Through-sung sessions
- Away days together
- More children around.
- Blacklist people and venues
- Have children with each other.
- Go on strike.

What's the easiest thing SDUK could do?

- Do nothing
- Disband
- Just moan
- Keep it in London
- Keep it in the UK
- Keep it secret
- Ask obvious questions
- Unite people in moaning
- Leave it at one meeting
- Let Piers do everything
- Compile surveys
- Change legislation but nothing broader
- Be a stats depository
- Keep it to just directors
- Blacklist venues/people
- Share contracts
- Put childcare in budgets

- Base outside London
- Funding awards for emerging directors
- Everyone to tell friends and peers about it

What's the fastest thing SDUK could do?

- Disband
- Share contracts
- Talk about it on social media
- All talk to venues we work at
- Log how much prep we do.
- Take ourselves seriously/less seriously
- Emigrate
- Protest outside the Jerwood space
- Go on strike
- Get info from venues about budgets
- Update website
- Organise another meeting
- Provide information
- Talk to other organisations with similar aims
- Do sessions with those in training
- Blacklist people

What's the bravest thing SDUK could do?

- Attempt to be a compulsory union for professionals
- Blacklist people

- Have a crèche
- Get childcare in budgets and refuse to work without it.
- Protest outside parliament for more arts funding
- Strike
- Become a political party
- Flash mob in parliament square
- Direct each other
- Be honest about our practice
- Refuse to perform in some venues
- Introduce quotas for diversity
- Be a producing house
- Introduce a Rate Your Director scheme
- Allow anyone to be a member
- Grow big enough to offer face-to-face advice
- Take German funding model as the ideal
- Attempt to break down a cultural divide.
- To eradicate racism in theatre
- To put an end to bullying directors
- Share contracts
- Agree a minimum fee
- Acknowledge directing is political
- Never do show with unpaid actors
- Change the world
- Putting our names to the venues we blacklist
- Open a venue

What's the most provocative thing SDUK could do?

- Blacklist people
- Base itself outside London
- Rate my actors
- Naked sessions
- Heckle shows at blacklisted venues
- Make state pay for babysitters
- Refuse to do plays written before 2000
- Ban Shakespeare for 25 years
- Demand to take over organisations
- Provide our own versions of budgets to venues
- Strike
- Send hate mail to blacklisted venues
- Print theatre's annual budgets and freely share.
- Send in invoices for prep time
- Hourly rate deducted from the people within venue whose job you are doing.
- Disrupt your own show
- Cast no default men
- Make all performances relaxed/extra-live
- Be an agent for members

What is the stupidest thing SDUK could do?

- Disband
- Strike
- Blacklist people
- Fees for the audience

- Production swap – directors take over each other's shows half way through
- Comic sans as a house style
- Refuse to do show with less than 4 months rehearsal
- Be a producer
- Fund productions
- Refuse to use a script
- Charge commission
- Exclude directors from being members
- Rate your director
- Fund development
- Polo necks compulsory
- Knitwear compulsory
- Auction directors to the general public for vanity projects
- Burn down blacklisted theatres
- Director of the month award
- Be an agent for members.

Tags:

directors, ideas, Stupid, Brave, Provocative, Directors together, fun, Fun, Exercise, brave, Ideas, Directors, SDUK