



Take part in a theatre play at Leeds Playhouse

ABOUT THE PLAY - OUR PUBLIC HOUSE

Your Round. Your Say.

In a city just like yours, a whole community spoiled their ballots and cast no vote. Now, as a storm rages outside, landlady Sanjana, Scott the guitar-playing regular and some unexpected guests are stuck together in their local. Tensions rise, love sparks, secrets spill out and everyone starts speaking their minds.

With live music and the real words of people across England, **Our Public House** is a funny and big-hearted show about change, set in a pub where anything can happen.

From award-winning **Dash Arts** in association with **Leeds Playhouse**, writer **Barney Norris** (“of grace and luminosity” – The Stage) and director **Josephine Burton** (“immersive ingenuity” – The Observer). With music by **Jonathan Walton** and lyrics by Jonathan Walton and **people across the country**.

All performances are **captioned**, and one performance per venue will be **BSL-interpreted**.

<https://www.dasharts.org.uk/our-public-house>
<https://www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk/event/our-public-house/>



ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Our Public House is inspired by speechwriting workshops **Dash Arts** ran across the country and all the amazing people and speeches we've met and heard.

We want to work with the people of Leeds and surrounding areas, and welcome your voices to be heard in our play at Leeds Playhouse!

Each performance of Our Public House will involve a group of local participants who will perform in some of the scenes of the play, alongside professional actors. You will watch the show from the auditorium in the first half, and then move to audience seating onstage in the second half.

You will be involved in a couple of scenes, either delivering a **speech developed in one of our speechwriting workshops**, or joining the company in singing a **song we will teach you**, or **both**.

What is the commitment?

Date	Activity
<p>Friday 20 March: 4pm - 8pm OR Saturday 21 March: 11am - 4pm</p>	<p><u>Speechmaking Workshop</u> You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be given the skills and structure to create a compelling speech about a topic of your choice • get introduced to a song, and get a digital version to practice to • receive online support to keep refining your speech and practice the song post-workshop • be served sandwiches & snacks
<p>Session 1: Mon 20 April: 12 - 2pm OR 6 - 8pm Session 2: times tbc during 13 - 19 May</p>	<p><u>Rehearsals</u> to practice the scenes with your speech & the song</p>
<p>14th - 23th May 2026 (please note 14th and 15th have rehearsals of the full show, which will also include the community cast)</p>	<p><u>Performances:</u> we ask that people commit to 2 or 3 shows each but have some flexibility. Show duration is 2.5 hours. Show times can be found at www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk.</p> <p>Each performance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 people doing their speeches • another 6 joining everyone in singing a song <p>Call time will be 2 hours before the show starts, for a warm up & refresher for each group on the day of their performance, and dinner is on us.</p>

LOCATION:

Performances, workshops and rehearsals will take place at Leeds Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UP.

EXPENSES:

You will receive:

- 1 complimentary ticket for the performance you are taking part in
- a meal for any sessions lasting longer than 4 hours.
- travel support is also available.

INTERESTED?

Please contact Cristina at Dash Arts at participation@dasharts.org.uk to express interest. **Please write "OUR PUBLIC HOUSE - LEEDS" in the subject line.**

ABOUT DASH ARTS / SPEECHWRITING WORKSHOPS

Dash Arts are a performing arts charity based in East London and working nationally. For 20 years we've made bold, award-winning theatre, events, and digital work bringing together artists, communities, and audiences to reveal hidden stories and spark conversations about our times.

Our Public House is one of our projects, born out of our belief, proven time and again, that anyone has the potential to write and deliver a powerful and persuasive speech. We start with a simple question:

What would you do today that could change tomorrow?

To date, we've supported over 600 people of all ages and abilities to write with confidence, speak up, and be heard. We have a clear, practical approach to structuring arguments and drama techniques that help participants deliver their speeches with power, persuasiveness and presence.

Participant feedback:

"10/10! I felt very empowered"

"[the experience] will allow me to approach things with less reservation and more play. It will allow me to assure myself that I can be just me:-)"

"Really, really revealing, interesting, enriching. Strong civic experience."

"I will now be much more confident and active in political matters"

