

Living Room

Living Room is an ongoing inter-disciplinary research project exploring how we can turn a(ny) room into a room that can host and support a performance, facilitated by a better understanding of theatre scenography (staging/set/lighting/sound). How can we use the arts to improve the way we use the spaces we work in?

Living Room brings together a range of academics and practitioners from the humanities and science who are all interested in exploring how and where they perform: teachers, a surgeon, a puppeteer, a High Court judge. Performance is understood in its widest context, so from performing a play to performing an operation, a teaching event, or a court case. The room might be a studio theatre, a classroom, a doctor's surgery, or any other room where we perform for others.

We ask: how can we turn a room into a room that actively supports our performance? We explore this question through a series of meetings and workshops led by highly experienced scenographers and theatre makers.

This resource contains materials gathered as part of a workshop, a public performance, and a panel discussion. Presented at Rose Bruford College, London, as part of the Being Human festival on Thursday 16th November 2022.

The panel members were:

Toph Enany, Performer.

India Jaye, Performer.

HH Peter Rook QC, Central Criminal Court.

Ellis Sareen, Barrister

Professor Roger Kneebone, Imperial College

Hansjörg Schmidt, Rose Bruford College

Living Room – performance

The panel discussion was preceded by a 10 minute performance, workshopped the previous day. Working with two performers and 6 local primary schoolchildren, we explored ways to adapt the room we had been allocated so it could meaningfully frame a performance of the *Banquo's Ghost* scene from Macbeth.

Tools we used ranged from a vinyl record player to a LED theatre light, a white board, windows and chairs.

