

# Oxfordshire Theatre Makers – case study

## Doc Andersen-Bloomfield

**Playwright**

**Producer**

**Director**

At beginning of lockdowns for Covid-19 Doc was working full time as a playwright. She has taught theatre arts and directed for 40 years both in both the UK and the USA.

When Covid-19 hit and lockdowns started in March 2020, her thoughts were, “Okay, I’ll do it. It’s important and I’ll follow the rules. Otherwise, Ho hum. Get on with it.”

The impact on her work creatively in the first lockdown was minimal, she kept on researching and writing plays. However, as the lockdowns progressed, “I seemed to slow down, but I did still keep on working. Still am.”

The financial impact on her theatre making work during this lockdown was negated because she was paid for production, *In My Bones* ahead of time before the show went up. However, production was delayed for nearly two years from May 2020 and will open in Los Angeles in Spring 2022.

Doc connected with other theatre makers, throughout, “Zoom was an amazing saviour and streaming shows lit up my life, as I live in the country, and it costs a lot to travel into shows. I really love setting up my laptop with a glass of wine and watching live shows streamed.”

Now, in the Autumn of 2021 Doc says, “I miss physical contact with my fellow playwrights . . . some of them. The women mostly. As I’ve written with two fellow female playwrights for the past four years, three full length productions, London and Oxford, (although we each write independently—and have known each other over 18 years in Oxford Playwrights) it has been so wonderful to get together again these last few months.”

Her final reflections on the last 18 months. The due dates for forthcoming work help her to stay focused and motivated. She says,



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“I am still writing, still researching and still Zooming with two writers’ groups and two fellow female Oxford Playwrights Heather Dunmore and Catherine Comfort.

Oxford Playwrights has always produced two or three shorts each year, until the plague descended. We are now in the throes of planning our next show, hopefully, early 2022, which will be based in a fictitious Oxonian café/restaurant.”

Photo credit: Doc Andersen-Bloomfield