

# Oxfordshire Theatre Makers

## Amy Enticknap

### Human Story Theatre

**Co-Founder & Joint Artistic Director**

**Actor & Producer**

**Freelance actor and producer**

At beginning of lockdowns in March 2020 Amy was working full-time as a self-employed actor and Joint Artistic Director of Human Story Theatre (HST). Her work included roleplay, voiceover, filming, theatre and producing.



Amy's work as a freelance actor and role-player, aside from her theatre making work was also impacted.

“As Covid-19 and lockdowns started in March 2020, HST had an imminent touring production, *Happy Even After*, due to begin the week after lockdown was announced. We decided to apply for an ACE [Arts Council England] Emergency Covid-19' grant to adapt the play into a radio play and podcast series. Our grant was successful and so thankfully we were able to continue with our work and somehow try to make an impact, albeit online, in a different way and form.

As my freelance acting was frozen or was cancelled... I had time to create a podcast series based on a previous HST national theatre tour of *DRY* - about alcoholism. Our theatre tour for a new play about 'end of life', booked for September 2020, was postponed twice before we decided to cancel it and go back to the drawing board. We then produced a 'monologues to camera' project and posted it on our YouTube channel and shared it on social media. Another project for 2021, with a lot of ground work already carried out, also had to be cancelled.

I had to set up a voiceover studio at home and had to learn basic editing skills in order to continue my audiobook and other voice work. The 'studio' started off as several duvets and a ladder in a wardrobe, and as Covid prevailed, I upgraded and now have a proper voiceover booth to record in at home. All this tech was very helpful for making my HST podcasts.

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HST were lucky to receive the ACE grant to create the radio/podcast project; I was paid to produce this. I also received a personal ACE Emergency grant as a freelance producer. Match funding for a schools project originally planned for 2021 had to be given back, as that project was no longer viable. HST has had no other grant/income streams since and things look a bit bleak!

I had a baby in July 2020 and only returned to work part time in July 2021. Working part time is just as well, as there is barely enough paid work for part time hours at present.

My Co-Founder of HST left the Company for personal reasons related to the pandemic, so I'm using this fallow time to take stock of the Company and explore how we can keep in existence in this current climate and indeed with a sustainable strategy moving forward."

Photo credit: Amy Enticknap