



Artwork by Delaine Le Bas 'Damaged Goods Part 1' (2005) - copyright
Artwork photography by Tara Darby

CALLOUT: CAN YOU HELP US MAKE OUR GARDEN GROW?

Our garden will be made up of flowers gifted by the people of Leeds.

This August the Quarry Theatre at Leeds Playhouse will be transformed into a horticultural haven where a company of older artists will share their personal stories, visions and dreams of times past, present and future as they create the garden out of nothing before your eyes.

The 5000 Flowers Project is an invitation to craft a unique flower, created from natural fibres, for our beautiful garden. Whether you choose to use wool, scraps of material, intricate embroidery, glitter, sequins, paint, tissue paper or papier-mâché – we're inviting all you budding artists to create the flower you want to see this summer and share with others in our magical garden.

If you are more of a grower than a maker, your flower can even be real – a gift from your garden to ours. Anyone can get involved – in community venues, schools, colleges, day centres, care homes, neighbourhood networks, clubs or at home. If you are interested in contributing a flower but feel unsure of how to go about it, there will be people to help you.

The Promise of a Garden is a celebration of our creative city; a sharing of what nature has meant to us during the last difficult year and of what we mean to each other.

A Leeds Playhouse, The Performance Ensemble, Leeds Older People's Forum and Leeds 2023 co-production.

FAQS

What can I use to make my flowers?

- Please use materials that are 100% natural fibres, for example 100% wool, 100% cotton
- If using old clothes please check the label if unsure
- Natural fibres are inherently fire retardant and thus make it easier for us to use on the stage
- If you are able to do pop a photo of the label/ material info in with your flowers
- Avoid using hard, sharp items within the construction
- OK to use buttons or equivalents for centres
- At present we don't require flowers with long stems

What size do my flowers need to be?

Ideally flowers between 12cm & 15cm diameter but doesn't matter if some are a little bit larger.

Mostly flowers that are in full bloom, but if feeling adventurous some can be in bud.

Add leaves as you wish to.

Are there any instructions to follow?

You are welcome to use the step by step guides or watch the video provided or freestyle using any crafting skills you have for example crochet, knitting, felting, quilting. The flowers just need to be soft, but firm. You are also welcome to make other flowers in whatever format you wish to – sculpture, collage, drawing, painting – these will just not be able to be on stage but will be displayed in another format.

Unfortunately we won't be able to return any flowers to you.

When do you need my flowers?

Please ensure flowers come to us in a sealed container / package – labelled 5000 flowers project. We will then place these packages in quarantine for a few days before opening up.

We are happy to receive the flowers any time over the next couple of months. Last delivery ideally is on **6 August 2021**.

Where do I deliver my flowers?

In person:

You are welcome to drop off your flowers to us in person at the Leeds Playhouse Box Office during the Box Office opening hours. Check website for opening times.

By Post:

to 5000 Flowers Project, c/o Leeds Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, LS2 7UP.

Community Groups/Organisations:

If you have a large quantity of flowers then we are happy to arrange a collection – these would be from June onwards. Please do contact Lilly or Lucy on 5000flowers@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Let us know in advance – and we can do more than one visit to you.

Can I bring you a real flowering plant?

You may also donate real flowering plants for the show or FOH display. Please do ensure the plants are child-friendly – so no leaves, flowers that could causes skin irritations to touch.

We would ask that they arrive with us between **5 & 11 August 2021**.

What will you do with the real flowers at the end of the production?

We cannot promise to be able to return them to you but we will donate them on to local organisation at the end of the production. If you're wanting to donate real flowering plants then do contact Lily or Lucy on 5000flowers@leedsplayhouse.org.uk so appropriate arrangements can be made.

I have a question, who can I ask?

You can email the team working on the production on 5000flowers@leedsplayhouse.org.uk