

CRTA is one of 34 rural touring schemes in the UK an overview of rural touring nationally can be found on the National Rural Touring Website [www.ruraltouring.org](http://www.ruraltouring.org) .

Rural touring schemes operate all over the UK in regional coverage. We are the regional organisation in Cheshire and we are partnered with Spot On rural touring in Lancashire as an Arts Council NPO organisation. A rural touring scheme works with and manages a network of venues in their area, each venue is run by a volunteer promoter , who chooses a performance for their venue twice a year (spring and autumn). The promoters receive a curated menu of shows from the scheme, from which they choose their shows for a season. Promoters will choose 1 or 2 shows a season.

We have around 30 venues on the CRTA and typically programme around 40 performances a season with most companies doing 2-5 dates with us. The promoters are dedicated people who are very engaged in the whole process of hosting professional performances in their communities. Their role is to select, sell and run the evening of performances. Venues for these performances are Village Halls (mostly), but also schools, community centre and small arts centres. The venues each have varied technical facilities available. Promoters look after the touring company at their venue, providing a meal and often promoters will also offer to host the company for an overnight stay after their performance if the company wish it (this happens in many cases but is not compulsory). Companies are contracted and paid by the CRTA. On the CRTA we offer a range of work each season that covers theatre , music, dance, literature and family shows. We aim to programme the very best quality work for small scale venues and are committed to programming a diverse programme in terms of content, artists and subject matter. We have an open submission policy so companies and approach us with work at any time during the year. We also go out and see work of interest and go to showcases and festivals (Edinburgh etc) to find new work. Our promoters also go and see work on our behalf during the year. We also like to support new work and emerging companies and to support artists new to rural touring. We work closely with other rural touring schemes in the north and nationally to work together on joint projects, commissioning opportunities. We also work with international companies to bring over new work to the UK. We also have a strand of work called Cutting Hedge, which is a one show each season which is a bit different and artistically challenging to our audiences.

CRTA are part of a northern consortium of rural touring schemes, which is 6 rural schemes from Shropshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, North Lincs/West York's and Northumberland, who work together closely on joint programming and projects. So often we share dates between the northern schemes to enable a company to have a more strategic tour plan.

So that is us in a nutshell, please feel free to ask any questions about any of it.