



From advocacy to agency

creative performance and older people

Human Rights & Older People

Barriers to access

- widespread negative perceptions and misunderstandings surrounding human rights
- a lack of information for older people and those that work with them about human rights
- difficulties faced by older people accessing justice and making complaints (AgeUK 2011)

Rights as ‘protection from’, rather than ‘access to’

Arts & Older People

Frameworks

arts as need

arts for therapy

arts for well-being

arts as right

Arts & Older People

Overview

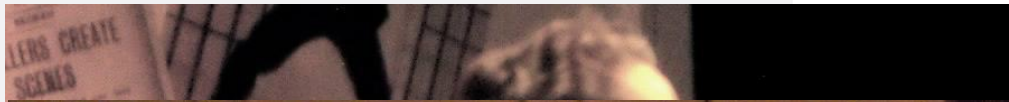
- Reminiscence
- Advocacy
- Participation
- (Co-) creation

Reminiscence

Remembering when

- Collecting oral histories
- Creating performance
 - Multiform
 - Verbatim
 - Flexible
- Road testing
- Post-show discussion
- Prolonging the remembering

Reminiscence Theatre Archive [online]



Advocacy

Speaking for

- Reconnaissance
- Oral interviews
- Creation of performance
- Getting to the public/agencies



Participation

Getting involved

Impact on the Individual

- Mental wellbeing
- Physical wellbeing

Impact on communities

- opportunities for meaningful social contact, friendship and support

Impact on society

- 'positively transform attitudes to older people'

Mental Health Foundation 2011: 3-4

(Co) Creation

Spring Chickens Programme

- *Spring Chickens* (2009, 2011)
- Over 8,000 older people across N. Ireland have participated in at least 1 project, since 2007
 - Strengthening Voices
 - The Shows
- 40% of activity takes place within the top 20% of the most deprived areas in N. Ireland
 - Golden Gangs
- TOM (Targeting Older Men)

- **5 Theatre productions**
- **1 Night**
- **5 Theatre venues**
- **Total cast – 322 older people**
- **5 Regional Directors**
- **Audience**
 - **95% seated audience**
 - **Web streamed live to...**
 - **3,312 people**
 - **from 68 cities**
 - **in 14 countries**
- **Age NI – Age Awareness Week 2009**



- **20 Cameo performances in unusual places**
- ***Images of Ageing*, imagining solutions to issues faced by older people**
- **Total cast – 175 older people**
- **29 groups**
- **5 Regional Directors**
- **And... to 183 pupils (16+) from 17 post-primary schools throughout N. Ireland.**
- **In conjunction with – The Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's, 2011.**



Strengthening Voices



Webs of Intrigue (2012/13)

- Do
- m
- 24
- 3
- 40
- 8
- 7 community performances



- *'I thought it was a very well structured devised piece which made us all react emotionally to it. It was inspirational to hear the old ladies talk about their stories after the performance. We could see that times now are very different but the feelings of love and sadness are still the same.'*
- **210 pupils (14+) attended a 60 minute professional performance of the pieces**
- **Post Show discussion attended by the script writers**
Sean aged 16, Ballymoney

Golden Gangs



Machinations (2015)



Invisible People Touring Photographic Exhibition





Arts and human rights

The right to self-definition

"I think they also enjoy being defined **as a creative person** rather than as an older person, and the social aspect is very important. But these people are amazing and running this programme has definitely enhanced our lives. Seeing another person as fully human is a prerequisite for respecting their rights: this is what art can do."

Gillian Wolfe, Director of Learning, Dulwich Picture Gallery

References

Readings & Resources

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