

Human Right to Cultural Life



A Slice* about Aliens Play

* Over 20 different strands of work took place between March and October 2022 as part of Rights Made Real Phase 2. Each of these strands was situated under one of 4 Human Rights. This Slice offers a slice of insight into one of those strands.

HUMAN RIGHT TO CULTURAL LIFE

A Slice about Aliens Play

This strand of the Rights Made Real Project expanded from an original idea to offer a theatre performance for care home residents, into a collaborative project between Citadel Arts and Capital Theatres Dementia-Friendly Programme.

'Aliens' is set during WWII and shows how the friendship between wee Lizzie from Leith and her Scots Italian pal Gina lasts - despite the war.

People with lived experience of dementia were creative contributors to the development of the play script and performance, in enhancing the ways in which it could be dementia-friendly. This involved attending a play rehearsal and giving feedback to playwright and director, which led to adjustments to the script and sound-effects components in the play.

After the play there will be a musician on hand to encourage a sing-song, while the audience enjoy some gelato ice-cream.

The play took place in the Empire Rooms in Capital Theatres. The audience enjoyed some Italian cannoli and Sfogliatella pastries before the show began, to tap into the Italian flavour of the play. After the play a musician and cast led the audience in a sing-song while gelato ice-cream was enjoyed by all.

Creating Connections with the Right to Right to Cultural Life and the Principles from the National Care Standards

Some key elements of this opportunity connected with the right to cultural life and 'be included' were:

- Expanding opportunities for arts and community groups to explore incorporating dementia-friendly principles into their work
- A specific invite to care home communities to a cultural event; this had been the first such event for some residents since the Covid pandemic

What we've Heard

'The play was lively and the actors very clear'

'the play brought back memories and the songs were great'

'all looked happy and entertained'

'the music was great'; 'especially with the sing-song at the end'

'plenty of familiar material and songs'

'they all engaged and seemed to understand – a very good performance'.



Something you Might want to Ask or Think more About

What, from your perspective are some important considerations, when creating cultural opportunities for people living in care homes?

