

Human Right to Participation in Cultural Life



A Slice* about Buff & Sheen

* 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 PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL LIFE

A Slice about Buff & Sheen

The 'Buff and Sheen' opportunity took place in 6 care homes in Dumfries & Galloway & Ayrshire. The Buff and Sheen show involved two bumbling window cleaners arrive in a flurry of colour, humour, dance, ladder acrobatics and a healthy dose of slapstick. The show took place in a socially distanced way with the performers outside. The work explored touch without touching, leveraging the power of dance and imagination to permeate the glass barrier.

Care homes were also able to invite nearby nursery/primary school group to the show. This was an important element of this opportunity, in terms of re-connecting with the local community after a period of time when this hadn't been possible due to Covid. Residents and children enjoyed post-show creative workshop 'together' decorating opposite sides of the window pane: safe, playful, intergenerational fun.



Poppy Kohner (1st and 3rd image) and Sophie Brierton (2nd image)

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

Some key elements of this opportunity connected with the right to cultural life and care standards principles were:

- Intergenerational component which brought lots of liveliness and laughter
- Opportunity offered to locations (Dumfries & Galloway) that might not ordinarily have access to a range of cultural shows as urban areas
- Promotion of physical activity through 'window-washing'
- Novel aspects of the show, accessible to everyone while being something different

What we've Heard

Activity Coordinator said: "That was absolutely fabulous. I laughed the whole way through. The residents laughed a lot and engaged with the performers. It was daft, entertaining and very professionally carried out. "

"...Our residents, they do engage with things but because of varying levels of dementia sometimes the actions have to be quite pronounced in order to get their interest. So they were able to understand what you were doing and it just gave them a lot of pleasure."

Residents engaged by laughing, blowing kisses, waving, commenting throughout the show, dancing with performers, mirroring and dancing bum to bum with performers against the glass.

Residents commented:

"That pleased me immensely! "I hope you're paying them lots of money - they've done a great job."

Another activities coordinator said she had never seen anything like this and that it was wonderful.

"During the window cleaning, children and residents cleaned together and threw suds at each other against the glass. Residents seemed to particularly enjoy using the window cleaning props and got some exercise by reaching to squeegee high and low windows playfully with the children. Children were jumping up to try reach as high as the residents".

Nursery nurse said: "the kids used to come here before covid. Since then we did Facetime for a while but the kids lost interest. Recently they've been writing letters as pen pals. So when we told the kids we were coming here today they were so excited - even without knowing they were going to see a show. Hopefully this can be the beginning of getting back here more often - even if only to clean the windows again - they're loving it!"

Something you Might want to Ask or Think more About

What do you like in what you read in the comments above?

Is there anything you would like to explore more with others, about approaches to cultural life activities, based on what you read?

