Drama in Dementia Education

Sandie Woods
Objectives

Discuss the integration of drama in dementia education
Outline how ‘Grandma Remember Me’ was incorporated into the allied health curriculum
Review the student evaluations
Outline developments in arts based approaches within the curriculum

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Grandma Remember me?

A beautiful story told through a mix of puppetry, drama and storytelling. It is written from the perspective of a young child, Lilly, whose Grandma develops Alzheimer’s disease. It explores their changing relationship from Lilly’s initial recognition that there is something wrong with her grandma, through the unfolding challenges and final acceptance and understanding of the disease.

https://az2btheatrecompany.wordpress.com/grandma-remember-me/4570230878/ Last accessed 21/03/17
Grandma Remember Me

The play highlights the importance of relationships and memories for both carers and individuals with dementia, tackling a sensitive issue in a thought-provoking storyline based on a young girl's experience of her grandmother's dementia.

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Az2b Theatre presented dementia awareness play 'Grandma Remember Me' to an audience of 400 LSBU students from the School of Health and Social Care (SHSC). Starting in 2014, the SHSC delivered Dementia Friends sessions to all new HSC students as part of their University induction. The SHSC aims to support the national strategy for dementia-friendly communities in addition to effectively preparing our students to care for people living with dementia.  

http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/about-us/news/grandma-remember-me-play  last accessed 21/03/17
Haven’t seen a play that is so excellent and conveys how it is to go through dementia. Student NL Sue

Really helpful to help families who are in the process to be able to talk, what we are experiencing.

Fantastic play! As a carer I never had an idea of what the families were going through prior to admitting their relatives to the home. Thanks for opening my eyes.
2015 Student feedback 05/10/15

Hard hitting show, excellent performing
A very good play, which helps improve understanding of family members/clients with Dementia. Well done for all you are doing!!

My nanny has end stage dementia very like the Grandma in the play – as a family we deal with this by finding the funny side but the play made me realise what a big thing we dealing with even if we don’t’ talk about it. Thank you!

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Emotional, eye-opening & educational. Thank you for sharing this with us. I won’t forget it! An invaluable source of education about dementia. This should be shown to as many people as possible. My granddad died of vascular dementia and his mum died of Alzheimer’s. The more compassion and understanding and awareness of support networks that people can have, the better. Long may “Grandma Remember Me” continue!!!!

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2016 Inter-Professional Module

Concepts of Inter-professional and Collaborative Practice: Approximately 180 students
BSc(Hons) Chinese Medicine Acupuncture
BSc(Hons) Diagnostic Radiography
BSc(Hons) Occupational Therapy
BSc(Hons) Operating Department Practice
BSc(Hons) Therapeutic Radiography
Dip HE Diagnostic Imaging
Dip HE Radiotherapy Practice

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TOT_4_010

The module introduces students to inter-professional and collaborative working in health and social care. It aims to support the development of communication, partnership working and reflective practice skills to meet the needs of clients/carers and diverse populations at the centre of inter-professional health and social care delivery.

Week 6: AM: Play Grandma Remember Me
PM: Learning Sets (facilitated)

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Learning sets: AHP-4-010

Worksheet:
What were your first impressions of the play?
What do you think were the key messages?
In the light of your profession specific role can you think of a situation where dementia might be a challenge?
Why do you think it is important for all professionals to have an understanding of the issues around dementia?

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Worksheet continued:
We may have experiences of family or friends living with dementia. How do you manage when your personal and professional life overlaps? Reflect on learning from the experience today. How might this topic link to your formative presentation?

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2016 Student feedback: Strengths

Very creative
Grandma was brilliant, felt quite real
All actors had personal experience
Honest did not shy away from the issues
Human reactions
Humour was a large part of the play
Great way of creating awareness
Sadness associated with dementia was well portrayed
Showed how illness affects whole family

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2016 Student feedback: Strengths

How people cope with change in different ways

The play was a good way to get information across about living with dementia from different perspectives (person and family members)

Enjoyed the use of puppets and engaging style of delivery

Useful having information included about services (for example dementia cafe)
2016 Student feedback: Strengths

The home context was really helpful for staff who are clinically focussed to think about
The play was multi-layered and could be viewed in different ways
The actors really put their hearts into it
The post play discussion
2016 Student feedback: Limitations

No sense of a time line/timescales. Lily did not age but the storyline was over a period of time in relation to grandma and the family
Made it appear that it was straightforward to get respite care and residential/ nursing care which does not accurately reflect service provision
Did not fully explore the need for support for the family and the challenges (particularly employment for the son and support for Lily)
2016 Module Leader/ Facilitators

Strengths:
Lots of discussion was generated in the afternoon session and we used the worksheet to structure the session

Limitations:
Some thought it was challenging but others thought the issues were treated too lightly and did not convey the real stress of the situation

Overall: All in all a very productive day

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Social Work

The play is always very well received, emotional for some but always generates some good discussion and comment. We build it into a day on dementia and that works really well and is always very positively evaluated.

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Module formative presentations

For your formative presentation you need to work together to create a presentation on one of the following:

Team working and team roles
Leadership styles
Communication
Professionalism

Your presentation also needs to relate to service user perspectives and the roles and relationships of Health and Social Care Professionals.

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2017 Az2B: What do you see?

A companion piece to ‘Grandma Remember Me’ it follows the next stage in dementia, exploring issues around care homes and end of life palliative care. It looks at the importance of life histories within person centred care, challenges taboos around death and shows the possibility of choice and the empowerment advance care planning brings.

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What do you see? Performance

18th May 2017
Evening performance
Students
Staff
Peoples Academy/
service users
Practice educators/
managers

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Moodle site- a starting point

Dementia (n_RES_SSS_005_site)

Welcome to the dementia care site which has been set up by an inter-professional group of academic staff in SHSC. This site is a resource for staff and students who are interested in high standards of care for people living with dementia and would like to share resources and information.

Arts based approaches to education, assessment and research

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