

Evaluation Spirit Unleashed

This evaluation will address the aims in the original project proposal, determining whether these have been met, considering any issues that arose and providing recommendations for future projects of this nature. Feedback from all persons involved in the project has been considered and incorporated.

Description of the project

Spirit Unleashed was a site-specific multi media project based at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. It is the culmination of Dancing for the Spirit, a two-year project funded by The Bridge House Estates Trust Fund. Intended to be a project which not only brought two different styles of South Asian dance together but which did so with input from the patients/visitors/staff and hospital arts team at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. The idea was to bring artists together in the hospital environment to create something unique but which was part of the people who used the hospital in that they also contributed towards the final performance. The patients / visitors/ staff would use this project as a resource for creativity, self- development, physical and emotional well being, which would also be enjoyable, accessible and relevant. As well as enhancing the practice, understanding and appreciation of South Asian dance within an artistic, social and educational context.

Aims of the project

1. To create a site specific performance piece at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
2. To incorporate the ideas / material which have come directly from the patients during the half term workshops on the children's ward and other wards where the dancers and musicians will be working.
3. To create a piece which uses, dance, video, music, storytelling and visual art, these art forms will express the ideas and material created by patients.

Out comes of project

1. To enable patients within the hospital to experience a range of imaginative artistic events, incorporating dance, music, visual arts and video work.
2. To create a performance piece which will incorporate the ideas / movements of the patients and which will involve live performances and visual projections.
3. To give access to activities which acknowledge and represent cultural traditions for the many patients, staff and visitors of the hospital.

Issues Raised

Go over to see if aims were met and outcomes achieved

Music – too many drums / too much noise

Once it was known funders were coming to watch pressure on although this was exaggerated as from the out come it had been written that the performance was to be high profile and that it was to be of high quality

Aims Of the Artists (this section to go to dances and not funders as not relevant)

1. To challenge the artists creatively in the way that they Choreograph / Compose / create material / work with others.
2. To develop your skills as an artist.

Recommendations

Under resourced

Better planning of rehearsals and workshops on the wards

More condensed time given to rehearsals more time given to creating new work

More pre planning

More insight into the use of amplification should have checked out if audience was going to be able to hear music and speeches.

Expectations may have been too high for some of the artists to meet them

To clearly state at beginning of project what is expected and that there is a budget which is fixed

Music to use taped stuff in future as there were too many drums and musicians

Comments from the patients / staff / visitors / artists evaluation forms

Very interesting experience

I was reluctant at first to join in the visual arts but I was drawn in and really enjoyed myself

Fun to watch and join in the art work

Something very different

Parents commented on how much their children had enjoyed the dance workshops and wanted more the following day

A bit noisy but different

How wonderful it is, a shame more patients were not watching the rehearsals

Put in stuff from letters I have received

Numbers of people – Affected by Spirit Unleashed

There are three sets of figures; the first represents the week of workshops and the following two rehearsals, the second represents the two performances, the third are the participating dance students that were involved in the final performance.

Week of workshops / Rehearsals at the hospital

(These figures incorporate all those affected by the workshops and rehearsals, i.e. due to the layout of the hospital it is possible for people to see what is going on in the workshops / rehearsals and to take part if they want to)

Patients	Staff	Visitors	Artists Involved
200	300	400	8
Total: 908			

Performances (both on the same day, one in the afternoon one in the evening)

Patients	Staff	Visitors	Audience
100	150	250	700
Total: 1200			

Participating students / dancers of the choreographers

Students	Support workers
55	40

Total: 95

Total number of people affected by the project: 2203