

## Did you know:

- that **Age Exchange (AE)** provides reminiscence support for older people and schoolchildren through a range of theatre and other activities at the Bakehouse Centre in Blackheath village and by visiting hospitals, nursing and residential care homes, charities, schools, libraries and museums throughout the community
- that, in addition, our **Reminiscence Centre** opposite Blackheath station provides a very popular meeting place for people of all ages with its memorabilia, shop, café and regular exhibitions. It attracts 25,000 visitors each year
- that the benefits of reminiscence work are well documented. Many local residents will have seen for themselves the effect of **AE** activities on their relatives and friends
- that these benefits include:
  - for older people, teaching them new skills, restoring lost self-confidence, helping them to feel appreciated by the younger generation (often for the very first time) and countering loneliness
  - for schoolchildren, giving them a new interest in and respect for older people
  - for the professionals who look after our older folk, helping them to respond better to the needs and personal feelings and anxieties of those in their care
- that there is hardly a family in London which does not include in its number, members over the age of 65 and/or children at school. All could benefit from AE's reminiscence work. Currently less than 1% do
- that **AE's** future is under threat. We will only survive if we get better funding
- that better sustainable funding will only be achieved from local authorities and the NHS. They have so much to gain from our work
- that, with public sector budgets so constrained, local authorities and the NHS now only back charitable organisations they can see are highly valued by and have the support of the local electorate
- that you can help us demonstrate to them the degree to which our work is valued by the joining the 250 local residents we have recently enrolled as AE sponsors and contributed a one-off donation of, on average, £100
- that to do this simply complete the form provided with this programme and send it with your cheque and gift-aid donation to Suzanne Lockett at the address provided. £100 is the guidance figure. If you can afford more, give more; if you can only afford a smaller sum, give less
- that it is **AE's** survival which is at stake. Nothing less.



**CARE**

Age Exchange presents 'Care'  
- a series of works by artists Tanya Kaprielian and Tim Sutton that explore the issue of care across the generations

For 6 months working alongside carers across London the artists conducted projects and interviews with older people, carers and healthcare professionals. These works reflect the artists' personal experience of the project, and the emotive subject of what it is to be a carer or to be cared for

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND  
LOTTERY FUNDED  
Greenwich Council  
age exchange



# To Care For

PROGRAMME



# To Care For

## CAST

Bernie Arigho  
Pauline Barr  
Cicely Blaine  
Lee Cooper  
Sahara Cousins  
Kitty Finch  
Ralph Gooding  
Iris Gooding  
Chloe Harbour  
Malcolm Jones  
Stephanie McAuliffe  
Milli Moss  
Lil Murrell  
Eileen O'Sullivan  
Joan Pearce  
Chelsey Sampson  
Mary Scott  
David Savill  
Finlay Shillabeer  
Doreen Whitter

With the greatest thanks to all the interviewees who shared their memories with us in over 44 reminiscence sessions in care and community settings and the 42 people who have been filmed which produced the material for these performances.

## SCENES

1. The Geriatric Hospital
2. Joan's nan – part 1
3. Doreen's momma – part 1.
4. A life in the Salvation Army
5. Misdiagnosis
6. Living with guilt
7. Iris's grandmother
8. Whose job is it to feed the patient?
9. Shall we dance?
10. Ralph's grandmother

### Interval

11. Husbands with Alzheimer's
12. Pauline's mother
12. Goodbye to Billy Flynn
14. Neighbours who care
16. Joan's nan – part 2.
17. Doreen's momma – part 2.
18. Eileen's grandmother at the seaside

Written and Directed by  
David Savill and Malcolm Jones

Set Design: Deborah Ashforth  
Costume Design: Deborah Ashforth  
Stage Manager: Margaret Glenn  
Lighting Design: Gerry Amies  
Projections: Simon Purrins  
Pianist: Derek Downes  
Transcriber: Jodie Byrne  
Publicity design: Melanie Jones  
Photography: Rado Klose

### With thanks to:

Simon Robertson, Ivan Riches, Ben Thomas,  
Davinia Thompson, Suzanne Lockett, Meg Hamilton,  
Sue Rolfe, Sir Ian Mills,  
James Haddrell and all the staff at Greenwich Theatre

“To Care For” is a unique intergenerational theatre production focussing on the subject of care for and by older people from the pre war period to the present day. The play has been devised from first hand reminiscence of family, community and institutionalised geriatric care. “To Care For” is not an attempt to reflect comprehensively the national experience of care but to tell faithfully the stories of the people who have taken part in this project.

Over the last 12 months 8 projects have been carried out in care settings across London as well as 44 filmed individual interviews, each exploring the theme of care. The resulting recorded material has contributed to the theatre production as well as a touring arts exhibition. The recorded interviews will be archived with the British Library for future study.

Each year Age Exchange works in many care settings across London and the wider UK, supplying arts and reminiscence activities for older people, providing training for care staff and hosting residencies and intergenerational workshops.

The idea for this project came from talking with many frail older people in day and residential care, hospitals and hospices. When reflecting on the care they are receiving they frequently shared memories of how parents and grandparents were cared for before the advent of the NHS. Equally important and insightful were the memories they shared of parents and grandparents as carers for others within neighbourhoods and communities. This project represents an important opportunity to reflect on the history of care for older people at a time when services and care institutions struggle to improve the services they provide and are under scrutiny. Giving neglected older people the opportunity to share memories, to reflect on personal experience of care through creative media, aims to enable us all to learn from their experience while raising the issue of improving standards and looking to the future of person centred creative care.

This project aims to underline the intrinsic importance of linking all care to valuing and understanding the individual's life experience, and to

making the case for the necessity and importance of reminiscence arts as an art form that speaks with and for the 'people'. By involving younger people and arts and health professionals in the project we aim to disseminate findings and practice through enjoyment of the arts, ultimately with a view to improving opportunities for people to learn about care and with a view to improving future standards of care in London.

## Some Statistics

- In 1908 Lloyd George created the first Old Age Pensions Act providing older people over the age of 70 with a weekly payment of 1 shilling and 5 pence (if their income was less than 12 shillings a week). Lloyd George determined to 'lift the shadow of the workhouse from the homes of the poor'.
- Before 1908 60% of the workhouse population were over the age of 60.
- In 1929 the Government finally abolished workhouses and the Poor Law Authority
- In 1900 life expectancy for women in the UK was 49 and 45 for men
- In 1948 life expectancy for women in the UK was 70 for women and 66 for men
- In 2008 life expectancy for women in the UK was 82 and 78 for men
- 'Two thirds of general and acute hospital beds are used by people aged 65 and over.' Source: Age Concern
- 'Six out of ten older people are at risk of becoming malnourished, or their situation getting worse, in hospital.' Source: Age Concern
- 'In 2007, of people staying in hospital who needed help to eat, 20% said that they did not get enough support. This shows a decline since 2002.' Source: Age Concern
- 'Patients who are malnourished stay in hospital for a longer time, require more medications, and are more likely to suffer from infections.' Source: Age Concern