Wartime Memories

A drama and history project focusing on children and young people’s experience of World War II

Participants:
European Reminiscence Network
University of Greenwich
Greenwich Pensioners’ Forum
Meridian and Charlton Manor Schools
This is a Europe for Citizens Project

• “Remembering the Past – Building the Future”
• Coordinated by Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V
• With partners in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Macedonia and the UK
• From autumn 2015 to spring 2016
Collecting and dramatising memories

• Members of Greenwich Pensioners’ Forum
• 6 meetings to record their memories as a group: May Wellard, Joan Plant, Olive Williams, Jean Wilkins, Ann and John Webb, Joan Harbottle with Pam Schweitzer and Heather Lilley
• A further period of improvisation and rehearsal putting memories “on the floor”
• Two public performances in the University Theatre and in the History Department
An Open Day on Reminiscence Greenwich Pensioners’ Premiere!
John Webb acts out a memory
May Wellard (aged 98) remembers the air-raids and life in the shelters, with children and older relatives leaving London for safety.
Performers pull it off and are feted!
The Mayor invites us all for lunch in the Town Hall to mark the occasion
Greenwich Drama students present a play based on memories in the archive.
The students explore using verbatim text
School students from Dresden perform their grandparents’ memories
“Work in progress” but the exchange Dresden/London was a great success
An intergenerational drama workshop with school students from Dresden
Exchanging stories and playing them out with Greenwich Pensioners
Powerful stories from both sides were exchanged through improvisation.
Social time together in a London pub and in Pam’s house
A real bond established between young and old, past and present, to be valued.
A student work placement on TIE

Charlotte Price-Stevens is attached to Pam and Reminiscence Theatre Archive in March 2016. She creates a participatory play about wartime evacuation for primary school children with four 3rd year Drama colleagues.
Joan demonstrates a gas mask and tells how she was evacuated from this school.
The 9-year-olds engage with the content and enter into the spirit.
And so do the students
They wave goodbye and set off on the bus for the safety of the countryside.
Dear mum, I live with a nice family but the train ride was long and I ate nice food but I miss you and London hope you are well. What is it like now? I will return and I will see you again xx xx xx xx xx xx xx xx

lots of love
Tianu.

Charlton Manor
Primary School
Indus Road
Charlton Sezzer
London
Applied Drama course Autumn 2016 on Reminiscence Theatre & TIE
The students meet real-life evacuees and learn from them all about it.
They learn about spending childhood in war-torn London, with shelters and rations.
The students develop TIE plays for children or reminiscence theatre for older people.
Two shows play to 9-year-olds in Charlton Manor school
The older people contribute as witnesses
The children listen to the older people’s stories and then enact them
Jean tells of her happy time in St Ives
The students play out other stories from the pensioners and from the archive.
History students on placement follow the play-making process and record it.
They work on a new book of stories & photos generated by the project

The book of wartime memories is launched today 9th December
This has been a great project
Many thanks to all involved

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