



Arts & Dementia Master Class

Background and expertise: Over the past five years Collective Encounters has amassed considerable experience working in the field of arts and dementia. We have delivered a long-term programme of creative arts workshops with people with dementia and their carers in community and care home settings; toured performances in care homes; developed performance work to be used in a training context for health care professionals and delivered a training programme for carers in how to use the arts more effectively in their work. We have supported this practical work with an extensive research programme that began with a full literature review of academic and grey literature dealing with best practice and the benefits of arts and dementia. Publications include: *Arts and Dementia: a summary report*; *A pocket guide to arts activities for people with dementia* and a series of advice sheets for artists.

Background to the training day: Co-facilitated by Collective Encounters' Artistic Director and Creative Producer, this is a full-day training session introducing experienced artists to working with people with dementia. Training methodology will involve tutor presentation, group discussion and action learning sets. Participants will be provided with high quality materials to take away with them to support and remind them of their learning.

By the end of the day participants will have developed:

- An enhanced understanding of dementia
- An understanding of person-centred care and relationship-centred care, and the ability to apply this to their own arts practice
- An understanding the potential benefits of using the arts with people with dementia
- Increased awareness of the unique creative potential of people with dementia
- An awareness of a range of arts initiatives run successfully with people with dementia as case studies
- An understanding the particular challenges of working with people with dementia, and
- A set of creative approaches to overcome these challenges
- An understanding of the challenges of working in a care home setting, and guidelines to make this process run more smoothly
- Confidence in their ability to run creative workshops with people with dementia

The training day will be enhanced by a range of resources for participants to take away including Collective Encounters' policy and procedure documents, a bibliography for further reading, and support materials from the day.