

# Touch Base - Our Space

May 2011



## Standing Ovations at Creative Arts Events

The Places for People Scotland Care & Support Creative Arts Events for service users needed a collective name and service users thought 'Gaun Yersel' summed up the spirit of what we were all trying to achieve.

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Peter Ross of Pilton Video and theatre director Jenna Watt came on board to work with us in writing, developing and performing a play entitled '**Me, You, We**' and a short film called '**Zombie or not Zombie?**'

It was new to most of us, and great fun to learn new skills, and we didn't imagine at the outset that we would have audiences on their feet cheering, but that is exactly what happened. So, with the applause still ringing in our ears we have dedicated this edition of Touch Base Our Space to celebrate the hard work and achievements of everyone involved. We are particularly grateful to everyone who took part in our fundraising event which raised £1,026 towards our next creative arts event which will take place in the autumn.

When the idea for a Creative Arts Event was discussed as a replacement for our Annual Service User Conference there was a real enthusiasm from everyone to do something different. With the fantastic support service users received from the professionals Jenna and Pilton Video who created opportunities for everyone to learn new skills, make new friends and push themselves in new directions. Most of all it has been great fun. Hopefully our fundraising events will allow us to continue to be creative.

*I really enjoyed the film. The level of effort everyone had put in was clearly visible and resulted in a great production.*

**Tim Packer, Commissioning Officer CEC Services for Communities**

*That was one of the best events for a long time on Friday. What a buzz seeing how much the service users got out of it all. The film is great, the documentary too, so all round everyone's done a great job, hats off to the group, learning and creating something very good.*

**Graham Fitzpatrick, Pilton Video**

*It was brilliant and I didn't think I'd be able to do it and I would get stage fright, but I didn't.*

**Fraser Munro, Actor**

*People would pay to see that film.*

**Donald Sutherland, Staff member**



## Zombie or not Zombie



Our short film, **Zombie or not Zombie?**, was written, filmed and performed by service users, under the direction of Peter Ross of Pilton Video. It takes a tongue in cheek look at the perceptions of others, about people who are different, and the result is an entertaining comedy horror. The World premier took place at SPACE Theatre and was followed by a documentary by filmmaker Sitar Rose charting the film making process entitled **Shooting Zombies**.

*The making of the film was such a positive experience in my life I would love everyone to have a similar experience. We all felt exhausted but in a good way, happy in a way that I have never felt before, and bursting with confidence. I'm telling anyone who will listen that I have just starred in a Zombie movie. When you have a disability like mine you don't often feel these feelings. I have never felt like that before. I couldn't have managed to feel these feelings by myself I required some support to make that happen. It is a great transgression on the part of the government that they don't fund more projects like this one. I now have memories like everyone else, memories that are not filled with pain. I don't remember feeling sore that whole weekend!* **Caroline Barr, Actor**

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*It was great! Excellent! Me and my Mum enjoyed it* **Alan Paterson, Actor**

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*Brilliant and good fun.* **Fiona Luke, Service user**

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*I would definitely do it again but this time I would like to do more of the acting.* **Stewart Brechin, Sound and Film**



# ME, YOU, WE

Service users took centre stage when the curtain went up on the premier of **'Me, You, We'** at SPACE Theatre in Craigmillar, and some extraordinary talents were revealed as Kirsty Hamilton sang a beautiful version of My Heart will Go On, Maria McFarlane sang an Italian wartime song and George Lovell gave a poignant rendition of his poem The Black Rose.

Drama expert Jenna Watt who worked with the cast to produce the play said "This has been a real journey for everyone involved, and great fun along the way. We began with the idea of exploring discrimination towards people with disabilities and how this could be overcome.

After a few weeks of getting to know each other and using drama skills, it became apparent that the cast wanted to celebrate who they were, rather than analyse how others react."



*It was such good fun, my friend came and thoroughly enjoyed it.*  
**Kim Scott, Service user**

*I really enjoyed making people laugh and I liked being able to swear and get away with it, because it was part of the show. I was really nervous on Tuesday and wasn't going to go, but I'm glad I did as my nerves went as soon as I walked on stage.*  
**Tam Lang, Actor**



*It was really good, funny and interesting.*  
**Colin Campbell, Service user**

*Personally I loved it. All of it. It was amazing.*  
**Kirsty Hamilton, Actor**



*Everyone's commitment to the projects was fantastic, giving their time, energy and something of themselves. I think particularly in the play that they were speaking their own words and therefore giving their own feelings which can be harder than giving someone else's. The journey analogy seems a bit corny, but I can't help using it when you look back at the start of both processes and see how far people have come.*  
**Andy Egerton, Staff member**





# Gaun Yersel'

please donate

Name

Email

Amount

Gift Aid  
 yes  no

Cheques should be made payable to Places for People Scotland Care & Support and sent to:

PfPSC&S, Jennie Stansfield, SPACE, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT



## Putting the fun into **FUN**raising

On Sunday 10th April staff and service users took part in 'Under your own Steam' a fundraising event for all abilities that linked all the company's

service locations from East Lothian to West Lothian. If you would like to make a donation please complete the coupon on the left.



*We all had high expectations of what we wanted the play and the films to achieve. The journey we had together, which included unbelievable creativity, team spirit, hard work and far too many laughs, produced something that we're all immensely proud of and want to share with as many audiences as possible until the next burst of creativity leads onto something else. **Rhona Murray, PfPSC&S Director***

**Places for People Scotland Care & Support is exceeding Care Commission grade targets, with 92% of results at Grade 6 and the remainder at Grade 5.**