



Moments

A moving play exploring how news is broken when a baby is born with additional needs

Availability

Moments is currently available for short tours and occasional one-off events. Please contact info@womenandtheatre.co.uk for more information.

Introduction

From the day Tam is born Rita's knows that there is something wrong. No one tells her anything, only that her son will never be Prime Minister...

On the eve of her son Tam's 10th birthday, Rita thinks back to moments from his birth and childhood. Through flashbacks we see Rita after Tam's birth when she knows something is wrong but finds herself wandering around looking for a nurse in a whirlwind of emotions. No one will tell her anything and she is baffled by medical jargon.

The play follows Rita and her family as they negotiate their way around the medical system dealing with the barrage of questions from health visitors and doctors and test after test. There are moments when Rita feels like she can't go on but she keeps fighting for Tam to get the best deal she can.

Moments is of interest to everyone but particularly suitable for health professionals and parents. It has been performed at professional training events and conferences. As with all our health promotion pieces, the play is accompanied by a post-show discussion, allowing audiences to engage with the issues raised and receive more information

History

Moments was originally commissioned by West Midlands Portage Service and the Parent Group. It was created from the experiences of parents of children with disabilities and explores how parents, health professional and society communicate the news of their children's condition. The play was researched and produced by Women & Theatre in active partnership with the Parent's Group and Portage. The play aims to help facilitate communication between parents and professionals.

Writer's/Director's note

Researched with Portage in Birmingham and parents, Moments looks at how news is broken when a baby is born with additional needs. Moments loom up for Rita as she replays in her head key incidents in her son Tam`s life. Evocative music and dream sequences create an engrossing and very affecting performance. The audience is sat in the round and the three performers play a variety of roles from Mother in laws to consultants.

Janice Connolly, W&T Artistic Director

Outcomes

"You were wonderful. It was a really moving experience" Suzanne Mehta, Direct Services Officer, RNIB

"The play was superbly performed by Women & Theatre but the true power of the play lay in the fact that it drew directly upon experiences of the parents" Birmingham Early Years Development

Production Credits

Written & researched by: Janice Connolly

Guidelines for Bookers

What Are Suitable Venues?

This performance has a wide-ranging target audience and is relevant to both sexes, of all ages, across all cultures. The piece is interactive with on-going sharing of information, is inclusive, enjoyable and informative.

Performance detail

- The performance itself is 1 hour including the play and after show discussion and is performed in the round.
- We will need access to the venue and space 1 hour before the performance to set up and 30 minutes afterwards to clear away (ie. a total of 3 hours at the venue).
- Audience sizes are flexible. We advise any reasonable number of people as long as they can clearly see the action. Please advise us if you expect more than 50 people as this can effect the way we lead the after-show discussion.

Technical Requirements

- For our performance space we need a room big enough for a minimum playing area of 12ft x 12ft x 12ft plus the seating area.
- Ensure that all fire exits are clear when accommodating the above measurements.
- A ground floor room is preferable.
- The room must have a power source.
- We will bring our own sound equipment and someone to operate it.
- We need to unload as close as possible to the performance space and then park our van. Please let us know where we can park and whether there is a height restriction on the car park. If we need a parking permit please arrange this for us.

How much does it cost?

Please contact Women & Theatre with your requirements, including the number of performances, for a quotation.

**For more information or to make a booking please contact:
The Friends Institute. 220 Moseley Road. Birmingham. B12 0DG
Tel: 0121 440 4203. Fax: 0121 446 4280 Email: info@womenandtheatre.co.uk**