

Childhood Revolution!

A stimulating show put on by the Third Age Drama group from the Third Age Project to celebrate Camden's first Intergenerational week 2013

Wednesday 1st May 2013 from 4.30 pm—5.30 pm

Third Age Drama is a group of pensioners aged 69 – 99 years of age who meet each week on Thursday mornings in the Crypt Centre to rehearse a variety of community shows and a "Living History" project. They are members of the Third Age Project- a local older people's charity on the Regents Park Estate.

The audience totalled over 30 people and were mainly local children aged 6-11 years of age together with some of their parents who attend the after school clubs run by the West Euston Time Bank at the H Pod. There was also some local pensioners intrigued about the show and the venue. The performance was based on an idea of comparing and contrasting childhoods from the past as lived by drama members with those of today. There was a split stage area in which these differences were simultaneously highlighted by different sketches.

Topics addressed included 'washing of clothes'. Now we have washing machines to do all the work and all we have to do is load the machine with clothing. Once upon a time scrubbing the clothes by hand was a necessity with the aid of a scrubbing brush and wash board. 'Simple playing' was demonstrated with a game of conkers, compared to computerised games we know today. 'Mobile phones' were unheard of thirty years ago. Now it seems that just about everybody has one. We were also treated to a lovely rendition of an old classic 'Daisy Daisy' sung by Kathy (who will be 100 years old in August this year) alongside the fairly modern (in comparison) 'We will rock you'. A taste of music and song from the then and now.

An interesting twist to the story was the device of a crossover by performers as they swapped places in the second half entering each other's spaces. The resulting confusion threw up a lot of comedy moments as performers struggled to come to terms with a modern alien world they found themselves in.

The show was nicely rounded off with the singing of 'Que Sera Sera, just where the show had begun. The song had taken the performance right back to the beginning. After the show a discussion opened up with the performers engaging with the children in the audience. A lovely bit was impromptu performances by children from the audience getting up to do some popular modern pop songs and street dance styles. There was an interesting debate as to whether life was better back then? Or did we feel it was better now? This proved to be a thought provoking exercise with children opening up with their own views and comments about the topic and the show. Everybody thought the event was both fun and rewarding.

