The School of Dentistry, in partnership with The School of Performance & Cultural industries & Theatre of Debate, presents a pilot play ...

don’t smile by Judith Johnson

stage@leeds, University of Leeds
5.30pm Drinks Reception
6.15pm Introduction to Cohesion Pilot & Curtain
Carriages around 7.30pm
Tickets are limited. Please RSVP to Box Office stage@leeds.ac.uk

The Cohesion Pilot: Collaborative Hub 4 Engagement across arts and Science to aid Impact and Dissemination
Katie Maddison ~ Maisie
Katie has just finished her three years studying Theatre and Performance at the University of Leeds. She has a real enthusiasm for theatre in education and has experience working in prison and pupil referral unit environments. Her aspirations include working as an artist in primary schools and making the curriculum creative.

Harry Duff-Walker ~ Georgie
Harry is an English Literature and Theatre Studies student at the University of Leeds. Most recently he played Johnny ‘Rooster’ Byron in Open Theatre’s production of ‘Jerusalem’ and has also appeared in Big Egg’s ‘The Mayor of Everywhere’, Sensefit’s ‘Damned’, and Walfisz & Grimshaw’s ‘After the End’.

Katie Mahon ~ Grace
Katie is a second year BA Hons Theatre and Performance Student. Her most recent work involves setting up her own company, Bloomin’ Buds Theatre Company, aimed at tackling the issues surrounding the class divide and how it limits access to opportunities for young people. Her performance experience also includes ‘Alice in Alice in Wonderland the Pantomime’, Bet in ‘Oliver the musical’ and Norma in ‘Be My Baby’ at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2012.

Lily Craig ~ Mum
Lily is currently coming to the end of her MA in ‘Applied Theatre and Intervention’. During this time she has worked in various contexts using theatre and participation to engage individuals who do not have access to the arts. These include theatres in Sweden, international schools in Shanghai and a Big Lottery funded project that aims to reduce social isolation amongst the elderly.

During her undergraduate BA in Theatre and Performance, Lily has been involved in numerous performances, activities and social organisations.

In addition to her studies Lily was also granted a year aboard where she attended Shanghai Theatre Academy, China.
With Special Thanks to...

Lucian and Kevin Cuming, our patients at Leeds Dental Institute with Amelogenesis Imperfecta and members of the SMILE AID Patient Public Involvement Forum - Who shared their dental experiences and brought the patient voice central to the development of the play.

The Staff and Pupils of Batley Girls’ School, especially the enthusiasm of David Cooper.

The Staff and Pupils of Carlton Bolling College, especially the enthusiasm of Jane Girt.

Steph Weller, Theatre of Debate

Delia Muir
Delia is a Wellcome Trust Engagement Fellow with a background in the arts and is interested in innovative ways of facilitating patient public involvement. She has taken a keen active interest in the delivery of the Cohesion Pilot and participated in script development workshops and rehearsals of the play.

School of Dentistry & Faculty
Jenny Boards, Rachel May, Ruth Kayman, Ian Smith, Chloe Woodcock and Karen Ogier

School of Performance & Cultural Industries
Alice Clarke, Sarah Short and the stage@leeds technical team

Freddie Brook
For his valuable contribution during the script development workshops.

Charlotte Haigh, Alexa Ruppertsberg & Marina Crowe
The Team for Public Engagement with Research, University of Leeds for their encouragement and signposting for financial backing for Cohesion. The team have responsibility for public engagement with research and support academic staff in embracing public engagement. This involves dissemination to the public but also co-enquiry and co-creation of knowledge which can lead to research which has a greater impact on society.

Jonathan Barber & Carreen Dew
The STEM Educational Engagement Team for encouragement, signposting for financial backing for Cohesion and advice on School selection for the dissemination of research to schools and the Don’t Smile tour.
“DON’T SMILE”
by Judith Johnson

“Don’t Smile”
~ A pilot short play & debate ~

Theatre of Debate – making the complex and challenging, meaningful and engaging

A collaborative pilot theatre production and debate about oral and dental health.

Discover how theatre practitioners, patients, clinicians, students and scientists can work together to publicise oral health knowledge and research findings.

“The Cohesion Pilot offers an exciting new way of working to build innovative theatre and pioneer new partnerships. It brings patients, dentists, scientists, dental students, performance art students and theatre practitioners from Theatre of Debate ‘in an artist in residence-style’ approach together to develop an inspired piece of theatre that is also a vehicle to debate oral health and dental research.”

http://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/news/article/921/dont_smile

http://www.pci.leeds.ac.uk/news/the-cohesion-project/
School of Dentistry in partnership with School of Performance & Cultural Industries & Theatre of Debate: Supported by Wellcome Trust ISSF, Research Councils UK Catalyst Seed Fund (CSF) and The University of Leeds STEM Educational Engagement Programme.

Theatre of Debate
Recently described as ‘one of the most successful and high quality projects in the Wellcome Trust’s Engaging Science portfolio’ by Lisa Jamieson, Head of Engaging Science at the Wellcome Trust, Theatre of Debate works by bringing thought-provoking questions around science and human health to schools across the UK. Theatre of Debate’s unique model has to date involved over 60 scientists and 200 theatre professionals, collaborating to create performance led engagement reaching over 1 million young people. See www.theatreofdebate.co.uk for the company’s previous projects.

Nigel Townsend (Founder and Artistic Director, Theatre of Debate)
Before this, from 1989 -2014, Nigel was founder and Artistic Director of Y Touring theatre company, an award-winning young people’s touring theatre company, dedicated to exploring contemporary issues through theatre and drama. Y Touring (in partnership with organisations including the Wellcome Trust, the DfEE, the Nuffield Council, the BBC, Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, and the National Theatre) produced 33 national and international tours of plays with workshops and online resources for over a million young people, teachers, youth leaders, health and science professionals and members of the general public, Before that, Nigel was an actor, playwright and director, working for companies including: Coventry Belgrade Theatre in Education, Humberside Theatre, Cockpit, Greenwich Young People’s Theatre, Young Vic, Battersea Arts, The Unicorn, the BBC.
Judith Johnson (Playwright)

Judith has been writing for over 25 years and has written a number of plays for stage and radio, including BBC Radio 4, Razed Roof inclusive theatre company and the National Theatre. Her TV work includes Grange Hill and the feature film Strawberry Fields. For Theatre of Debate she has written seven plays exploring issues of health and science, including Every Breath (about the use of animals in medical research), Nobody Lives Forever (stem cell research) and Starfish (clinical trials.) Judith is also Creative Writing Tutor for Ideas Store Tower Hamlets and Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow at Greenwich University.

Lauren Buckley (Company Manager)

Lauren is the Company Manager and facilitator for Theatre of Debate having most recently toured the play ‘People are Messy’ by Judith Johnson to schools all across the country. Lauren studied Drama and Theatre Studies at Royal Holloway and since graduating has worked in stage management, producing, education and acting. She has over 5 years of experience as a Stage Manager with open air Shakespeare company, Principal Theatre Company and has also stage managed at The Pleasance, Islington and The Old Red Lion.

“Don’t Smile” is part of the COHESION Pilot - a collaborative pilot theatre production and debate about oral and dental health. It is an exciting new partnership between the, School of Dentistry, School of Performance and Cultural Industries and nationally acclaimed Theatre of Debate (formerly known as Y Touring) during April and June 2016. After successfully securing funding through the Wellcome Trust ISSF, Research Councils UK Catalyst Seed Fund (CSF) and University of Leeds, this innovative collaboration will generate a pilot, quality but simplified, theatre production to showcase the University’s health research.

An integral part of the project will involve touring to local schools and aims to discuss the impact of having a healthy smile alongside other oral health issues.

Professor Sue Pavitt, Professor in Translational & Applied Health Research and Director of Dental Translational Research Unit, School of Dentistry said,

“The Cohesion pilot is a trail blazer for how we want to deliver the high quality dissemination of our research at Leeds - triangulating patient involvement, public engagement and educational outreach into an affordable package that might appeal to NIHR, MRC, Wellcome Trust and other funders. It has enhanced the educational experience of our postgraduate students many of who are now planning to incorporate this into their NIHR Fellowship applications.”

……“The Cohesion project will drive innovative routes for dissemination and engagement of the University’s world leading science to local Yorkshire audiences and beyond. The enthusiasm and appetite is there, we need to build on this momentum.”
Alice O’Grady, Head of School of Performance and Cultural Industries said,

“The Cohesion project provides an innovative opportunity for our students to gain experience of working in an interdisciplinary context to generate high quality theatre and enhance cross faculty working across the University. It will lay the blueprint for future collaborations between academic units and external partners.”

Rebecca Collins, Teaching Fellow in Contemporary Performance added,

“This presents an excellent opportunity for our students to work with a professional theatre company and turn medical research into a dynamic and engaging performance.”

Nigel Townsend, Artistic Director Theatre of Debate, said

“I have been totally impressed by the standards of the student actors and commitment of the dental students working in close partnership to shape the content and accuracy of the play material. We would definitely be up to do this again – it has been an exciting pilot project and forged a strong collaborative link with the University of Leeds.”

Postgraduate Dental Students: Who shared experiences from their dental specialties to inform the script development workshop and fed back to the theatre practitioners and actors to ensure accuracy of the dental components of the play

Sophy Barber
Sophy is a National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Doctoral Research Fellow and dentist specializing in orthodontics. She is studying a PhD in patient and parent priorities in decision-making for treatment of hypodontia (developmentally missing teeth)

“Don’t Smile’ has been a fascinating project to be part of. The documentary of the making of the play will be a great legacy that I can build on when I need to spread the word about my PhD research. It’s good to start thinking early how to achieve this”.

Wendy Thompson
Wendy is a General Dental Practitioner. She is also doing a PhD in the School of Dentistry, University of Leeds on improving antibiotic prescribing behaviours in emergency dental services.

“Theatre of Debate is an approach that I would like to use for disseminating the results of my PhD research about reducing antibiotic prescribing in dentistry. Participation in Don’t Smile was an invaluable opportunity to become immersed in the process which will help shape my dissemination strategy as my project develops.”
Kate Kenny
Kate is a Lecturer and Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry, School of Dentistry, University of Leeds. She is a Paediatric Dentist and so only treat children and teenagers. Her special interest is in the area of dental trauma [injured teeth]. She is also passionate about teaching and is involved in teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

“It has been fantastic to be involved with Theatre of Debate and meet with students and experts from such a different discipline to Dentistry. I learned a lot about the creative process but it also reinforced to me how valuable involving performing arts experts can be to disseminate key public health messages and research findings. I look forward to many more collaborations in the future!”

Jenny Owen
Jenny is a Tutor with the Programme of Dental Hygiene & Therapy in the School of Dentistry, University of Leeds.

“I feel that this experience has opened my eyes to a whole new world of patient education. The inventive combination of science and drama allows us to explore novel ways of working alongside our patients and communities to improve oral health.”

Kara Burrows-Gray
Kara is a post-graduate research assistant in the School of Dentistry, University of Leeds. She is a psychologist by background and her research interests are in the determinants of health behaviour and health behaviour change. Currently, she working on a preventive intervention for parents and children to reduce the level of dental caries in young children.

“Working with Theatre of Debate has been an invaluable experience. Such collaboration opens up novel and exciting avenues to disseminate research to a wider audience; and is an opportunity I would be keen to explore further with future research”

Media Specialist:

Timothy Zoltie
Tim is head of Medical Illustration & Photography at the School of Dentistry. He has extensive experience of documentary making and short films for medical research.

Ben Douglas:
Ben (Burnt Bongo) - Is a media student from Dundee, Scotland. Specialising in documentary projects. He was involved in the Cohesion Pilot as part of work placement and enjoyed it so much he came back to help finish the documentary in his vacation.

Contacts:
If you would like to find out more about the Cohesion Pilot please contact:
Professor Sue Pavitt s.pavitt@leeds.ac.uk 0113 343 6985
Dr Alice O’Grady A.OGrady@leeds.ac.uk 0113-343-8715
Nigel Townsend nigel@theatreofdebate.co.uk