

Ex Memoria

AWARENESS AND DEBATE 2005/2006

BACKGROUND

In 2004, Missing in Action Films received funding for the production of a short film addressing the subject of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Based on experiences with his grandmother, writer and director Josh Appignanesi's film immerses viewers in a face-to-face encounter with someone living with the disease. The film reflects the experiences of patients and their families, and is both a thought-provoking piece of cinema and an educational resource for the health and social care community.

To ensure the film gave an accurate portrayal of the effects of such a disease in a way that raised the right kind of questions for further discussion, the script was developed in collaboration with academics at the Bradford Dementia Group at the University of Bradford, a centre for the development of teaching, education and research in the field of dementia care.

OUTCOME

The film premiered in London in April 2006, receiving positive feedback from both film and care professionals as well as scientific reviewers.

The film premiered at several prestigious film festivals, including London, Edinburgh, Melbourne, Los Angeles and Montreal, and was shortlisted for the Kodak Short Film Awards. It was nominated for Best Short at the 2006 British Independent Film Awards.

HOW IT'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Mia Bays, the film's producer, has embarked on a series of activities in collaboration with the Bradford Dementia Group to disseminate the work to the public and health and social care professionals.

Three thousand DVDs of the film and accompanying guidance notes are being distributed to care homes across the UK for training purposes, as well as to the Alzheimer's Society, specialist media and other sector academics and professionals.

The producers are in discussion with Film Education, the educational outreach programme that promotes film in schools of all levels nationally, in order to create a schools education programme around the film.

A website – www.exmemoriafilm.co.uk – offers information on the film and the education programme.

REFERENCES

www.exmemoriafilm.co.uk

WELLCOME TRUST GRANT

Society Award, 'Ex Memoria', 2004, one year, £80 000.

Highlight produced September 2006

The Wellcome Trust is a charity registered in England, no. 210183. Its sole Trustee is The Wellcome Trust Limited, a company registered in England, no. 2711000, whose registered office is 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.



Above:

Sara Kestelman, the lead actress in the film

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