

## **Sensory Journeys Symposium**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**14:00 – 17:00**

### **Attenborough Arts Centre**

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I don't know whether Dawn's still with us, because I can't see. Is Dawn still with us? Sorry Dawn I might put you on the spot in a moment. So, because none of the artists could be with us, they've sent some amazing quotes that I'll just read out for you.

So this is from Sian Watson Taylor, who was the visual artist who did the last residency: "I've always believed that creativity has an amazing power to inspire and challenge, and allow children and young people to have control over their own lives. For me that is the main part in an amazing project as this has been. The fact that all people who have taken part in the residency have been given that power through creativity and exploring the arts, that young people and children with SEND can take the same risks as other children, the idea of taking control of their own choices in their creative journey, and to be able to challenge themselves equally as everyone else. To have the opportunity to judge and learn about their own capabilities and extend them, to be able to explore all the emotions which come hand in hand with challenging yourself through art-making. The wonderful frisson of excitement that happens when you are exploring and the unexpected moments that jump up and celebrate the experiences that are happening. One of the main themes for the residency that came out of the sessions was the idea of this importance of being able to push boundaries, to take risks and explore. This applied not only to the young people and children, but also to the teaching staff and myself. The power of creativity is a wonderful magical thing to see and take part in." So that was her quote.

And then Gabrielle who did the movements sessions, she was really moved by the experience of the workshops and spending time with the children. "I'm very much reassured about the power of non-verbal communication, and communication through touch and human interaction. Also impressed by the wonderful work taking place in

schools through staff every day, and how open they were to new offers.”

And Dawn, I'm sorry to put you on the spot. Would you like to share with us, just a little? Would you like to come up to the front? So Dawn is from Bamboozle, so that's been referenced quite a lot today, and you've seen a little bit on the film as well. So, sorry to put you on the spot.

**Dawn – That's alright.**

Well you sent me quite a lot of information, and I think it's important to share.

**D – It's always wonderful to work closely with schools. It's been a long time since I personally and Bamboozle had done such an intense amount of work with an SEN school, with students with more MLD, SLD. We work a lot with PMLD and ASD students now, and it was just a real privilege to go in, especially I think with Ellesmere, to go in for two days. We don't often get that opportunity to reside in a school in the way that we perhaps used to, so to go in and reside in the school for a couple of days and see the transformation from the students at the beginning, a little reluctant – understandably, they didn't know who we were – to at the end, jumping around with pirate hats on and coming up with loads of ideas was just really, really special and lovely to be involved in. And I'm always just massively impressed by staff engagement. When you go into a school and you ask staff to take on a role, or to sit back and just watch and let us – they don't know who we are – let us manage things. And the way that they did and took that on-board, that always really impresses me. So yeah, they helped to really make it work.**

Okay thanks Dawn, sorry for putting you on the spot. So the next steps. What's happening now? So we're in the process of pulling all the evaluation together to create our overall final report, to actually really sort of dig down and analyse that data and interpret that. Our intention is to submit another funding application to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to support a More and Better grant, which will hopefully enable this to become a more in-depth project, with the idea of Ellesmere and Ashmount being the two key SEN schools within the city and county that will lead on that. And the first year is about more CPD with INSET

training, and just bringing the staff and the parents and the pupils together, and really focusing on the communication, and trying to make and build that ethos of what we're trying to achieve, embed it within the school, within the staff, before we start to share as we have done. So keep your eyes open, I'm sure we will announce if we do get funding, it will probably be sort of 6 to 8 months from now. So, and if you are interested in being involved in the next phase then please do contact myself and Marianne (Pape). I think Marianne will be the best point of contact in this instance.

So I'd just like to thank you for attending, and its bang on 5 o'clock, and if you have any questions please feel free to ask me after.

Thank you.

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