



ANNA

DAUGHTERS OF FORTUNE

A Mind the Gap Production



Anna: Daughters of Fortune - Online Exploring Learning Disability and Parenthood

Anna is an online interactive Forum Theatre workshop that explores a series of true-life scenarios that are experienced by learning disabled people when they become a parent. We explore:

1. Informing family and partner of a pregnancy
2. Visiting the midwife for the first time
3. Being assessed by a child social worker

We find out about the barriers, how Anna is feeling, how boyfriend Tony is coping and what Anna's Dad/Mum think.

This two-hour interactive workshop is led by a team of three professional learning-disabled performers and a facilitator; together we will explore if we can improve the outcomes for Anna.



Forum Theatre is an interactive workshop format that can be described as 'a rehearsal for real life.' The performers present short scenarios and then audience members have the opportunity to step in to see if they can change the outcome. It provides a safe, supportive environment for individuals to explore complex situations that often have no 'one size fits all' answers.

Advocacy and Safeguarding: Learning disabled parents, medical experts, geneticists, social workers, council officers and advocates have been involved in the development process for Anna. All scenes presented are based on real life experiences of the many parents we have interviewed.



"Anna is a brilliant conception of a very important production. It was acted with power and sensitivity and deserves a huge audience." **Sarah Bennett, Midwife**

"Thought provoking and inspiring. An excellent way to challenge current issues and illustrate better ways to manage situations. Thank you!!" **Ursula Wood**

"An excellent production that really made me think differently about learning disabilities and how people access services when they have a learning disability." **Mary-Jane Steiger**

"Having worked with parents with LD for a number of years, I felt this performance reflected many common issues parents experience. Also the actors were fantastic!" **Julia Faulkner**

Workshop Information

Length: 2 hours
Dates: 18th May from 11.30am to 1.30pm
Aimed at: Health and Social Care sector professionals and students. Age 16+

Format: The workshop will be hosted through MTG's website. A private link will be sent to participants in advance of the workshop. Participants will watch a short pre-recorded film of the scenarios to be explored, and then participate in an interactive workshop via Zoom. MTG performers and facilitator will be working live in the MTG Studio responding to suggestions and interventions from participants.

Technical: Participants need access to appropriate computer or tablets with wifi connection.
Please note - The workshop session will be recorded for future promotion of Anna: Daughters of Fortune online.



Daughters of Fortune: The Family

Daughters of Fortune is a multi-output, multi-artform project exploring learning disability and parenthood: <http://www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/projects/daughters-of-fortune/>

In order to reach people far and wide, Daughters of Fortune has a range of outputs:

- Anna: A live interactive forum theatre workshop. Toured 2016-2020: www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/productions/anna/
- Mia: A touring small-scale theatre production. Touring since 2016-2018: www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/productions/mia/
- Zara: A giant outdoor theatre event, which appeared at Piece Hall Halifax and Outside Imperial War Museum London, in April and May 2019: www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/zara
- Paige: Researching and sharing real life stories from parents with learning disabilities across the UK: www.mind-the-gap.org.uk/projects/paige-daughters-of-fortune/

Training Package & Other Resources

<http://pc.rhul.ac.uk/staff/K.Theodore/index.html>

In collaboration with Dr Kate Theodore, Royal Holloway University, we have created a series of arts-based resources for health and social care professionals to accompany Anna:

- PAIGE Photobook
- Research report
- 5 short films

"If we get the right support from the beginning, we'll get to keep our kids".
Learning disabled parent