GEN OLD

Participant Information Sheet

Coventry Group

Principal Investigator	Dr Natalie Diddams
Partners	Andy Barry; Amanda Dalton; the Belgrade Theatre
Institution	University of Warwick
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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in taking part in Gen Old. Gen Old is a participatory research project that explores how intergenerational theatre-making can help us to challenge and change ageist attitudes in society.

We will be recruiting two intergenerational groups, one in Coventry and one in Manchester. Each group will have fifteen members: five aged 18–39, five aged 40–59 and five aged 60 and over.

Each group will be supported by a creative team to devise original material drawing on experiences of ageing and ageism. Each session will include facilitated group reflection, and at three points in the project the Coventry and Manchester groups will come together online to share work in progress and reflect on the process. We will ask you to complete a short questionnaire about your attitudes towards ageing at the start and end of the programme, and to take part in interviews throughout, so that we can track change and understand which aspects of the project have the most impact.

The workshops will culminate in relaxed performances in both cities, for invited guests and members of the public.

Before deciding whether to take part, please read the information below carefully. If you have any questions or would like more information, please get in touch.

Who is organising and funding the study?

This study is led by Dr Natalie Diddams, Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Warwick, in collaboration with theatre director Andy Barry, playwright Amanda Dalton and The Belgrade Theatre.

The study is funded by the University of Warwick through the Participatory Research Fund. For more information, please visit:
https://warwick.ac.uk/services/ris/impactinnovation/impact-academy/participatoryresearch/

What will taking part involve?

If you are selected for the Coventry group, you will be invited to take part in the following sessions:

Date	Time	Activity
2 February	4–6pm	Online prep session
16 February	4–6pm	Welcome workshop (in person)
23 & 24 February	10am–4pm	Rehearsals (in person)
3 March	4–6pm	Online session
23 & 24 March	10am–4pm	Rehearsals (in person)
7 April	4–6pm	Online session
26 & 27 April	10am–4pm	Rehearsals and performance (in person)
5 May	4–6pm	Online reflection session

During the workshops, you will take part in games and theatre-making exercises, with the aim of devising a new piece of theatre about growing older in an ageist society. As part of this, you will be invited to share your own thoughts on ageing in group discussions. You will also be asked to complete a short questionnaire about your thoughts and feelings around ageing at the beginning and end of the process, and to take part in interviews throughout. You can choose how much you share, and you do not have to answer any question or take part in any activity that you do not wish to.

With your permission, some individual and group discussions may be audio recorded so that we can accurately capture what was said.

Are there any risks to taking part?

The sessions involve talking about ageing and ageism, and some people may find this personal or upsetting. You can choose how much you share, you can step out of any activity at any time, and there will be time in each session to check in with the facilitators. If you would like to talk to someone afterwards, we will give you details of sources of support.

Are there any benefits to taking part?

You will take part in a creative project with people of different ages, develop skills in theatre-making and collaboration, and help to shape a new piece of theatre. Your involvement will also contribute to research on how theatre might challenge ageism. There is no payment for taking part, but travel expenses will be reimbursed.

What will happen to the information I provide?

The information collected during the research may include audio recordings of discussions, your responses to the surveys and interviews, and creative materials (such as recordings and photos of the final performance).

Research data will be pseudonymised as soon as possible after it has been collected. This means that all direct and indirect identifiers will be removed and replaced with a participant number. The key linking participant numbers to identities will be stored separately and securely from the research data.

Data will be stored securely on University of Warwick approved servers, and access will be restricted to the research team.

Pseudonymised information from this study, such as quotations or descriptions of workshop activities and performances, may be used in future research on theatre participation and creative ageing. Pseudonymised research data will be retained securely on University servers and reviewed after ten years to decide whether it should be kept for future research or securely deleted.

The findings of this study may be shared through academic publications, conference presentations and public engagement activities. They may also contribute to future funding applications and to the development of a larger collaborative project with arts organisations and community partners. We also intend to share insights with non-academic stakeholders, including arts organisations, community groups and practitioners working in creative ageing, through accessible reports, presentations and workshops.

All participants will be sent a written report outlining the findings of the study by the end of July 2027.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form before the first workshop. You are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. Choosing not to take part will not affect your relationship with the researchers or with any organisation involved in the project.

Can I withdraw from the research?

Yes. You may withdraw from the workshops or from the study as a whole at any time. You may also ask for your data to be removed from the study up to the end of May 2027. After this date, your data may already have been included in the analysis, and it may no longer be possible to remove it. Because group discussions involve several people, we cannot always remove what you said from a shared recording. In that case, we will not use your contributions in any quotations, analysis or findings.

- To withdraw before the sessions begin, please email Natalie.
- To withdraw during a session, please speak to one of the facilitators. You are free to leave, or you can stay for the rest of the session without taking part in the research.
- To withdraw after a session has finished, please email Natalie.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Warwick's Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC).

Reference number: TBC

Who should I contact if I want further information?

For any questions about the research, please contact the Principal Investigator:

Dr Natalie Diddams
Assistant Professor, Theatre and Performance Studies, Faculty of Arts Building,
University of Warwick, CV4 7AL
N.Diddams@warwick.ac.uk

Who should I contact if I wish to make a complaint?

Any concerns about the way you have been treated during the study, or about any harm you may have experienced, should be addressed to the following senior University of Warwick official, who is independent of this study:

Head of Research Governance
Research & Impact Services
University House
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 8UW
Email: researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk
Tel: 024 7657 5733

If you wish to raise a concern about how your personal data has been handled, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer: DPO@warwick.ac.uk

If you are not satisfied with our response, or if you believe your personal data is being processed unlawfully, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at www.ico.org.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. If you have any questions, please contact Dr Natalie Diddams using the email address above.

If you are happy with what has been outlined here and would like to take part in Gen Old, please complete the Expression of Interest Form.