

Developing Digital Resources for Distance Learning from Passing On, an Ethno-Drama

IATL Pedagogic Award – End of Award Report 2011-2012
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This pedagogic award was to edit film of the play *Passing On* for use as vignettes in order to utilise them in teaching social work and medical students about end of life issues. It was also hoped to place these on the internet through the Institute of Health for wider use in training.

The filming was done using other monies and the award was used to edit this material. This was undertaken by Christopher Golby a PhD student who has a background in music video editing. He worked with the Director of the play to identify the excerpts that would be suitable.

This has been completed and is in rough cut. There needs to be some minor changes made. The notes accompanying the material are in draft and the material will be piloted during this academic term with students before placing on the web.

We are most grateful for this funding and hope that this material will be a pedagogic contribution.

The editorial process enabled the director and editor to examine the performance in detail. Aside of the pedagogical issues and themes that were key in translation from the original research and for which the process of developing theatre from research was created, further issues specific to the semiotics of theatre could be identified.

The intensity of the live theatre experience cannot be reproduced in film but film allows for deep study of the proxemics between health professional and patient, patient and relatives, nurses, carers and doctors. This study film is particularly useful to medical students and those working in end of life care especially when a dying person is unable to care for themselves and is reliant on others.

The medicalization of the end of life has created many difficult and sometimes contentious issues particularly in conjunction with medical interventions that might be considered to be helpful for a patient when others feel that palliative care is all that is needed. These can be discussed at length however the power of seeing short sections of film of a docudrama performance which can be broken down to study human response and behaviour in the context of the end of life is a powerful tool in this study. The experience of carers is interleaved with reflections from a range of health professionals on issues in end of life care.

This particular project on End Of Life Care used verbatim text and as such this rich seem of testimony, which came directly from the data collected. We were fortunate to be able to create a drama from this material and able to film and edit it means that it can be used pedagogically in a variety of ways.

This process has been an inspiration to develop further professional filmed resources developed from performance.