

PLAY OF LIGHT THEATRE



PRESENTS

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

***REFLECTIONS ON CATASTROPHIC BRAIN INJURY
– THE VEGETATIVE AND MINIMALLY CONSCIOUS
STATES***

A collaboration with the
**COMA AND DISORDERS OF CONSCIOUSNESS
RESEARCH CENTRE**

CDC
Coma and Disorders of Consciousness
research centre

**CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY**
**PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYD**

THE UNIVERSITY of York

NOTE: This show is not suitable for children and there is brief strobe lighting effect at the start of this performance

THE PERFORMANCE

Scene one – *The Head - the forest.*

Scene two – *The Accident*

An ambulance arrives at the scene of a crash; a young woman accompanies her injured brother to the hospital.

Scene three - *The Consultation*

Families and a neurosurgeon recount conversations about the decisions that need to be made now...sometimes they appear as giants to each other, one seeming to dominate over the other, the medical versus the personal.

Scene four - *The Visit*

In long-term care homes, people in prolonged vegetative and minimally conscious states are cared for and grieved over.

Scene five - *Looking Back*

Considering how it all began, how it all ended, how it could have been different, and how it is still ongoing...

Scene six - *The Head - the forest.*



PLAYOFLIGHT THEATRE AND KARIN JASHAPARA

Born into a family of musicians, painters and writers, Karin has previously created work on environmental issues, such as 'The Man Whose Mother Was A Pirate',

She also toured a shadow puppet performance of 'Death in a Nut' for a festival exploring death and dying.

'Where Are You Now?' is her most recent piece and was commissioned as a collaborative work by the Coma and Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre.

"I was drawn to puppets because of the way they can oscillate between 'dead' inanimate objects and 'alive' or animate ones. The animated object not only seems to come to life, but to be paradoxically more alive because of the restricted movement."



THE COLLABORATION

This performance is the result of a collaboration between Play of Light Theatre (www.playoflighttheatre.co.uk) and researchers, Jenny Kitzinger and Celia Kitzinger.

“Research articles in peer reviewed journals capture ideas and analysis – but lose so much in the translation.

Working with Karin opened up a different way of exploring the issues; the power and poetry of a few simple statements from the interviews have been given deeper resonance by being combined with the shadow puppetry.

The piece invites the imagination of the audience and connection with their own experiences.”

Jenny Kitzinger (Academic Researcher)



DEVELOPMENT OF THE PIECE

The performance developed as a dialogue between the research data (interviews with family members) and findings from the academic analysis, and Karin's creative approach

"Big head with forest in the top of it like the brain. I hurried to cut out the forest shapes and put them in, create a rough semblance of the image in my mind. I got the tiny figure, - the relative, ready to climb up in ... looking for their loved one, trying to find the person they know, who is lost in coma.

But actually, it felt like an awful intrusion. It was not poetic, or touching, or authentic, it felt like the wrong thing to do.

Later talking to Jenny she described the account of a woman who had walked into a hospital room ..., and found his brain scans projected on several walls, large and bright, and how she this made her feel trapped, 'like a rabbit in the headlights'.

I researched the symbolism of forest, liking the imagery. I want to keep that and think about what it gives... peaceful, secluded, vegetation, the subconscious, things that are not easy to deal with are kept safe here? Perhaps the head with forest just needs to be moved around so that the shadow of it shifts."

Section from notebook,
Karin Andrews Jashapara, Artist/Producer/Performer

THE STORYBOARD

Developing the piece involved sketching out a 'storyboard' for the performance – capturing each scene and allowing the collaborators to reflect on the narrative and imagery.



CREDITS

SCRIPT – *KARIN JASHAPARA AND JENNY KITZINGER*

MUSICAL ADVISOR - *ELIZABETH ANDREWS*

GUITAR MUSIC - *PERFORMED BY SEAN SHIBE*

DOOM METAL - *BY HELVELLA*

SOUND TRACK EDITING - *LLINOS JONES, TERRIER PRODUCTIONS*

***SHADOW PUPPET DESIGN AND MANIPULATION –
KARIN JASHAPARA***

VOICES – *FAMILY MEMBERS*

The voices you will here are drawn from interviews conducted by Jenny Kitzinger and Celia Kitzinger. These interviews explore family members' experiences of catastrophic brain injury. You can hear more from these interviews at www.healthtalk.org.uk - coma. Explore that website for more information and support about the clinical, ethical, legal, emotional and social challenges facing families with a relative in vegetative or minimally conscious states.

FUNDING

Thanks to the ESRC who funded the original recorded interviews as part of a Knowledge Exchange Project [ES/K00560X/1]

Thanks to Cardiff University and the University of York for supporting the creative collaboration and to The Wellcome Trust and the Learned Society of Wales which funded development performances

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