



Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q)

By the Sea – A Musical, Sensory, Theatre Experience

What is Old School Intergenerational Projects?

Old School is a registered charity whose mission is to connect generations through accessible arts programs and performances. To learn more, visit our website, www.oldschoolipnl.com

Who are the performers?

Kara and Michelle are seasoned performers interested in engaging folks young and old in music and story.

How is this show created specifically for people living with dementia?

Language and plot are kept to a minimum so that audience members may enjoy the music, moments, and sensory opportunities within the show without feeling like they are missing anything. Images in the show are extended to allow for comprehension or appreciation and the seasons in which the scenes take place are clearly delineated by our window and costume layers.

What benefit does the show have for people living with dementia?

This show offers participatory opportunities that most traditional theatre experiences do not. This allows the audience to feel like they are a part of the action. For people who are living with dementia an opportunity to help and/or participate can improve their confidence and sense of agency. The action portrayed of living the by sea may not necessarily stimulate specific memories, but it could incite a feeling of familiarity or comfort. Through visual, audible, olfactory, and tactile prompts some people living with dementia may gain a moment of clarity, or experience something as simple as a moment of heightened engagement.

What can the show offer carers/family members of people who are living with dementia?

People living with dementia may not be able to communicate in the same way they did before, but this show (and the arts in general) can be used as a creative gateway to find new ways to communicate with loved ones. Carer's often experience stress and pressure caring for their loved ones living with dementia. This show is an opportunity for them to experience, participate, play, and laugh together. There are no expectations of needing to understand or follow along; it is a great way to simply be in the moment, together.

How many people can attend?

Up to 40 audience members, to allow for everyone to get the chance to participate in some aspect of the show. We ask that audience members are seated in a semi-circle. If rows are needed, please leave space for performers to walk in front and behind rows.

What happens if an audience member marches onstage during the show, or begins to shout? If an audience member joins performers onstage, we ask that a staff or family member shadow the participant in case they become at risk of injury to themselves or others. Performers are well versed in including unexpected surprises though and will ask staff/family to assist or re-seat the individual only if necessary. If an audience member makes sound during the performance, we ask that they not be removed unless it appears they are in some kind of distress. At that point a break from the space may be recommended in case the audience member is feeling overstimulated.

Does the show involve the sense of taste?

Old School is not able to provide any food during the performance. Please keep an eye on those in your care if you think they may interpret a sensory object as something edible.

What measures are in place to prevent the spread of Covid 19?

Old School is happy to accommodate any venue mandated measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. That said, performers are not masked during the show as facial expression and vocalizing is required of them. Performers will wear masks during sensory exploration near audience members, and at all other times if required by the venue. All props used through the show will be sanitized after each performance.

How can we best prepare residents for the performance?

Old School is happy to provide pre-show engagement tools, with audio, written and visual explanations of what to expect before, during and after a performance. Pre-show questions are included to stimulate potential discussion as well as activities that relate to the show material. We will also provide posters to allow residents and loved ones to be made aware of the upcoming event.

How long is the show?

The show is approximately 45 minutes long.