

# **East End women aged 14 – 80 team up to investigate *Decorum: Dilemmas for Twenty-First Century Women***

**How to act. What to wear. When to be quiet. When to speak up.**

**What are “good behaviour” and “etiquette” today?**

**Join Magic Me’s intergenerational powerhouse at the Women of the World Festival at Southbank Centre.**

What happens when you bring together a diverse group of East London women aged between 14 and 80 to solve dilemmas of modern etiquette? Will they agree? Will it be complete culture clash? Is it clear cut, old vs. young in matters of good behaviour and rules for living?

Intergenerational arts charity Magic Me have brought together 21 women from a range of backgrounds, ethnicities and faiths - 10 teenagers from the Mulberry School for Girls and 11 older women age 60+ from across Tower Hamlets to consider Decorum and good behaviour for modern women.

Working with Magic Me artists, theatre practitioner Sue Mayo and dancer Ellie Sikorski over 10 weeks the intergenerational group have explored expectations for women’s behaviour. What happens if you challenge societal norms of what to wear, what to say, when to speak and when to be quiet.

The resulting show - a mix of performance, conversation and uncalled for advice **Decorum: Dilemmas for Twenty-First Century Women** will be at the Women of the World Festival at Southbank Centre on Sunday 12 March 2017 and at the Mulberry School’s own International Women’s Day celebrations.

During the half hour show the group will invite the audience to share their dilemmas in their mobile interview and advice booths, share their golden rules of modern etiquette and will dig into their treasure trove of random advice e.g. “When in doubt, wave back.” “Toothpaste is good for cleaning trainers.” and “Give in and move with the times.”

Susan Langford MBE, Director of Magic Me said about the project:

“We know from our 27 years experience of intergenerational arts projects that intergenerational dialogue is the key in building stronger, friendlier communities.

Decorum has enabled women of differing ages, ethnicities and outlooks from across Tower Hamlets to meet , share ideas and opinions and get to know each other, learn something of each other's experience and have their assumptions about on another turned on their heads." The project has been made possible by funding from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the Lucas Tooth Trust and the Clifford Chance Foundation.

**Decorum: Dilemmas for Twenty-First Century Women** will be performed at the Southbank Centre on Sunday 12 March 2017 at 12.30pm- 1pm at the Riverside Terrace Café, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. This event is free and open to the public. Follow the hashtag **#Decorum** on Twitter. Further details here <https://magicme.co.uk/decorum/>

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---CONTACT & IMAGES---

Photos from the project can downloaded from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m2qf55cm0du0wuc/AACAM3WLk70FfAxUuIFy4rLLa?dl=0>

All photo credits Roxene Anderson for Magic Me.

For more information, interviews and to attend Decorum at WOW, please contact Sarah Dean [sarahdean@magicme.co.uk](mailto:sarahdean@magicme.co.uk) tel: 020 3222 6064

----NOTES TO EDITORS---

**Magic Me** [www.magicme.co.uk](http://www.magicme.co.uk)

Magic Me is the UK's leading provider of intergenerational arts projects. An award winning charity with over 25 years of experience Magic Me brings the generations together to build a stronger, safer, friendlier community.

Every year Magic Me partner schools, older people's organisations, care homes, museums and cultural organisations to run arts projects enabling young and old to meet and share creative activity.

***We would meet as strangers, but by the end of the project we were like family. Normally we would never have had to the opportunity to meet.*** – Older participant

***I think it is important to do a project with both older and younger people because you get two completely different perspectives. It makes you realise that there is more to each other than the stereotypes.*** – Younger participant

Our projects are led by our experienced team of creative artists from across the spectrum of the arts including musicians, visual artists, photographers, writers and drama specialists. We are based in Tower Hamlets, but our work has grown further afield across London and we share our expertise and experience nationally and internationally through consultancy and training work.

Our work in care homes includes our awarding project [Cocktails in Care Homes](#), and our pioneering [Artists Residencies in Care Homes](#) project working with some of the UK's leading performing arts companies to develop their work for a care home audience including those with dementia.

## **Project Artists and Funders**

Sue Mayo is Magic Me's Associate Artist. She is a theatre practitioner and intergenerational arts specialist. [www.suemayo.co.uk/](http://www.suemayo.co.uk/)

Dance artist Ellie Sikorski is the artistic director of dance company, Nora. Nora will be touring throughout March and April to venues including Sadlers Wells and Mercat de les Flors, Barcelona. [www.noramoves.com](http://www.noramoves.com)

The project has been made possible by funding from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, The Lucas Tooth Trust and the Clifford Chance Foundation.

## **Mulberry School for Girls**

Mulberry School for Girls is a successful all-girls comprehensive school in Shadwell, East London. The school promotes high quality education for young women and has its own distinctive ethos which reflects the community and area which it serves. The school encourages the importance of leadership by young women in all spheres, including employment, public life and family roles.

Mulberry holds an annual celebration for International Women's Day on 15th March. *Decorum* will be performed for students as part of this year's celebrations.

*I wasn't sure what to expect when I was told we'd be working with older people, and I was a bit unsure - but I loved the project from the first session. I didn't know older people would be so much fun!* – Maryam, Mulberry Student

## **WOW Festival, Southbank Centre, 7 – 12 March 2017**

WOW – *Women of the World* festival at Southbank Centre champions gender equality, celebrating the achievements of women and girls everywhere and examining the obstacles that keep them from fulfilling their potential. **Decorum: Advice for Twenty First Century Women** is on Sunday 12 March at 12.30pm- 1pm on the Riverside Stage. This event is free and open to the public.

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/women-of-the-world](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/women-of-the-world)