

Biography - Magdalena Schamberger

Magdalena Schamberger is an independent theatre director, creative facilitator, teaching artist and Dementia Activist based in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Magdalena has trained with Philippe Gaulier, Monica Pagneux, Pierre Byland, Jos Houben, John Wright and Nadine George and combines 30 years of experience in physical & visually driven theatre and clowning with 20 years of creatively engaging with people living with dementia. She is Co-founder and former Artistic Director of Hearts & Minds, Scotland, and creator of the unique Elderflowers programme.

Most recently, Magdalena has developed **In the Light of Day** and **Curious Shoes**, collaborative performances for people living with dementia and their loved ones. Both productions have toured extensively to main-stream theatres, care homes, day & community centres, meeting centres, community health care centres and hospitals across Scotland.

Magdalena is currently involved in the script and content development of **Dementia the Musical**, a new musical theatre production by Ron Coleman, Scottish poet and writer living with Vascular dementia, with a plan to mount a full-scale touring production across Scotland in 2024.

Magdalena regularly delivers **Compassionate Clowning**, **Clowning & Melodrama** and **Artful Minds** workshops across the globe (locations include Austria, Canada, Germany, Jordan, Lithuania, Palestine and the USA) and has supported the setting up and development of dementia responsive programmes in several countries.

Magdalena is an **Honorary Professor** with the School of Health Sciences at **Queen Margaret University**, a **TimeSlips** Creative Storytelling **Certified Facilitator** and **Master Trainer** and **Creative Director** at **bold** (Bringing Out Leaders in Dementia).

www.magdalenaschamberger.com

*“Magdalena’s profound sensitivity, analytical perspective and well-honed expertise position her as a unique, inspiring go-to resource for any artist interested in understanding effective, compassionate processes and methods for working with people with dementia and memory loss. Building on her decades of work in theatre and clowning, Magdalena has developed an innovative, accessible and versatile platform that promises to serve a variety of artists and service providers across disciplines. Above all, her vision for engagement and collaboration provides deeply inspiring motivation toward action. **If there’s ever a chance to work with her, take it.**”* - David Leventhal, Programme Director Dance for PD, Mark Morris Dance Group, New York