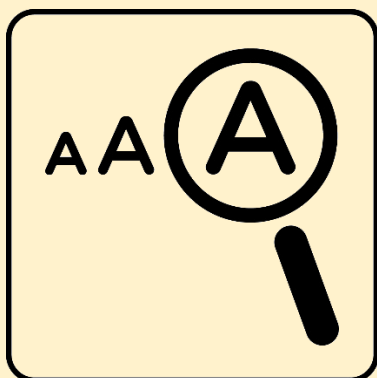


Large Print guide

Nothing about us without us

Section: Tragic but brave

Text size: 14pt



Transcription

This guide contains:

- Large print of the wall texts and labels within this exhibition section.
- Short descriptions of the objects and images within this exhibition section.
- Transcripts of the films included within this exhibition section.

Large Print exhibition guides in 18pt and 24pt text versions, magnifiers and colour overlays are also available.

Please ask a staff member if you need any further assistance.

Tragic but brave

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This guide follows the order of the displays within this section of the exhibition.

When you have finished using this guide, please return it or give it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Please share with us any feedback on this resource. You can email access@phm.org.uk or share your feedback with a member of staff.

Section introduction: Tragic but brave

Media and cultural representations have played a big part in disabled people's oppression. This has been recognised by both activists and those working in Disability Studies.

Disabled people have been presented as barely human, frightening, tragic or brave. As Mike Oliver noted in his 1990 book 'The Politics of Disablement': 'These portrayals see disabled people either as pathetic victims of some appalling tragedy or as superheroes struggling to overcome a tremendous burden.'

The need to challenge media imagery and attitudes has been crucial to many campaigns. A vibrant Disability Arts Movement has played an important role in dismantling these harmful stereotypes. It has also helped create a sense of community among disabled people.

Disabled people continue to use art, comedy, theatre, poetry and music to break down barriers and celebrate their lives and identities.

The Adventures of Super-Crip poster, 2012

Created as a collaboration between Laurence Clark and Andrew Tunney for DADA Fest 2012.

Super-Crip, has the power to choose his impairment based on the crisis he has to deal with and is a commentary on the mainstream stereotype of disabled people gaining 'superhero' status by overcoming adversity.

On loan from NDACA



▷ [Object description]

Framed poster measuring 950mm x 710mm with a central figure in a red superhero costume that has a white wheelchair symbol with wings on their chest and who is wearing glasses with black lenses. They are walking along a train track with people following behind. Text around the image reads 'BLIND SUPER CRIP GUIDES TRAIN CRASH PASSENGERS TO SAFETY...' and 'WITH HIS SUPER ENHANCED HEARING!'.

**Photograph showing
Nabil Shaban demonstration, 1988**

In 1988, disabled actor Nabil Shaban was turned down for a part in children's television show Erasmus Microman because of his impairment. In response, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) and Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People organised a protest outside Granada Television's headquarters.

Courtesy of Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Black and white photograph with a group of approximately 25 people, some carrying placards and some in wheelchairs including Nabil Shaban. They are gathered in front of Granada Television headquarters.

**Cerrie Burnell photograph by Jonathan Brady,
2016**

21 years later there was a similar outcry about CBeebies presenter Cerrie Burnell. Only nine official complaints were received. Yet many newspapers reported that there had been dozens of complaints of her 'scaring the children' made by parents.

Courtesy of PA Images / Alamy Stock Photo

[Object description]

Colour photograph of Cerrie Burnell standing in front of 'British Academy Children's Award' backdrop, wearing a dressing gown and holding a mouse stuffed toy.

Main section

All in a Row protest photograph, 2019

The All in a Row protest was organised by Autistic activist and actor Paul Wady outside Southward Playhouse in 2019.

The protest was organised in response to the Autistic character being portrayed as a puppet rather than using a neurodivergent actor. Many Autistic people found this portrayal dehumanising. Placards at the protest read 'Autistic people are not puppets' and 'This is what an Autistic actor looks like'.

What do you think of Autistic or other disabled people being portrayed by puppets?

How should we solve the problems of the under-employment of disabled actors?

Courtesy of Paul Wady

[Object description]

Colour photograph of four protestors holding placards standing in front of a red London bus. Slogans include 'A PUPPET AS AN AUTISTIC CHILD IS DEHUMANISING' and 'This is what an autistic actor looks like'.

Music a film by Sia Blu-ray, 2021

Sia cast non-disabled actor Maddie Ziegler in the part of a non-verbal Autistic person which caused a media backlash. As a result, many disabled people chose not to view the film.

A petition and many protests were organised, most being online. Many of those who did view the film, objected to the inclusion of physical restraint and felt it romanticised autism.

[Object description]

Blu-ray disc, the cover has a photograph of three people cuddled close together. The title 'Music' is in the bottom right corner in a written font.

Meet the Superhuman film by Katherine Araniello, 2012 (4 minutes 2 seconds)

Meet the Superhuman replaced the tragic sentimentality of the Channel 4 Paralympic advertising with a shocking expose of a fictitious disabled athlete drinking champagne and eating junk food, in stark contrast to the extreme levels of preparation athletes undergo. Araniello's version presents a satirical look on disability, removing all medical references as well as highlighting that not all disabled people have the bodies of athletes or would even be able to partake.

The closing ceremony puts disabled people back in the box (or in this case back in the lock-up) until the next Paralympics.

Courtesy of Katherine Araniello

[Film description]

Three short films.

Film 1: Katherine Araniello dressed in various sporting outfits undertaking an adapted fitness regime such as deadlifts with a cotton bud and manoeuvring an electric wheelchair around cones.

Film 2: Katherine Araniello speaks to the camera in front of a bush, six medals around her neck.

Film 3: Two people introducing a show to an audience in front of a row of garages at night. A garage door opens, four people including Katherine come out. They stick pink A4 sheets to audience members, one person motivates the crowd before inviting them all inside the garage.

International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) stamps poster, 1981

1981 was the United Nations' International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). It was a call for action to create 'full participation and equality' for disabled people. Countries from around the world created stamps to mark the year. They provide a colourful and telling picture of how the world saw disabled people in the early 1980s.

On loan from Alison Wilde

[Object description]

Framed poster measuring 450mm X 620mm with a collage of different stamps from different countries. The central stamp is larger and from 'Republique Tunisienne'. It has an image of a tree with a broken branch hanging down.

Section introduction: Music

Music has played an important role in the Disabled People's Movement, as it does in many protest campaigns.

Perhaps the most famous musician who has engaged directly with disability politics is Ian Dury. Dury's song 'Spasticus Autisticus' was written in response to the 1981 United Nations International Year of Disabled People (IYDP) which he considered patronising, and to repeated requests for him to be involved in disability charities. Other disabled musicians who used their talents to highlight disabled people's struggles included Ian Stanton, Johnny Crescendo, Leigh Stirling, and the Fugertivs.

Alongside musicians whose work is deeply rooted in disability politics, there have been many disabled and non-disabled people who have made music which tell valuable stories of impairment and disability. These include Ian Curtis (Joy Division) and Anohni.

Mik Scarlet red leather jacket publicity photograph, 1992

Mik Scarlet is the lead singer in Freak UK and an actor who has been in shows such as The Bill. He is perhaps most well known for his presenting work on BBC2's From The Edge and Channel 4's Beat That.

Courtesy of NDAC

[Object description]

Colour photograph of Mik Scarlet sat in a wheelchair with both arms in the air. He is wearing matching red leather jacket and trousers with black leg and knee protectors. The words 'mik scarlet' are at the bottom.

Freak UK publicity material, 1985-90

Playing extensively on the UK's alternative gig scene, Mik Scarlet's band Freak UK gained a huge following producing music which they described as 'synth shit from hell'.

Sadly, the record industry just wasn't ready for a band with a wheelchair user as a lead singer. They split up in 1993 after one too many rejections.

Courtesy of NDACA

[Object description]

Gig flyer in green and black tones. There is a photograph print of a baby in the centre with the peace sign on its top, below it 'NO FUTURE'. The surrounding text is collaged in different fonts giving details of the gig in Luton in 1992.

Johnny Crescendo, 1992

[Object description]

Colour photograph of Johnny Crescendo seated playing a guitar and the harmonica. They are sat in front of a wire fence on which placards and banners are hung. People watching in front are taking photographs and filming.

Music

Ian Stanton

[Object description]

Colour photograph of Ian Stanton in a red shirt and white waistcoat singing into a microphone whilst playing the guitar.

The Tokens, 1992

Courtesy of Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Colour photograph of people on stage in front of microphones performing. Two people to the left are stood and the person on the right is seated in a wheelchair. A person from the crowd is stood in the centre foreground. The letters MCDP printed on backdrop.

Mx Dennis Queen, 2007

Courtesy of Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Colour photograph of Dennis Queen seated in a wheelchair playing a guitar and singing into a microphone behind a desk. To their right someone is signing. The backdrop is a printed sketch of people holding placards saying: 'EQUIPMENT, HOUSING, and 'INFORMATION'. Behind is Manchester's skyline. It is branded with the logo of Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People.

Leigh Sterling

[Object description]

Colour photograph of Leigh Sterling in sunglasses and a black top in front of a microphone playing a guitar.

[Cased objects- yellow desk case against the wall]

Would this man frighten your children? flyer, 1988

Here we have disability as horror rather than tragedy. This is a flyer used at the Granada Television headquarters protest showing Nabil Shaban surrounded by children, one of whom is smiling widely. It asks 'Would this man frighten your children?'

On loan from Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Cream unfolded A5 flyer. The left, back page, gives details and logos of those who organised the demonstration: Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People, Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People and Manchester City Council. The right, front page, has a grainy black and white photograph of Nabil Shaban seated in a wheelchair talking to a group of children, titled 'Would this man frighten your children?'.

Meet the Superhumans London 2012 Paralympic Games DVD, 2012

2012 was an important year for disabled people from the UK in sport. Paralympic advertising posters and videos drew an old trope of 'Super Cripples' where the central message is one of triumph over adversity. This drew many complaints from disabled people concerned that these ideas would be used to put the problem of disability onto people with impairments – blaming them for society's failure to meet their needs.

[Object description]

DVD case with colour photograph of six Paralympians in their Great Britain London 2012 Paralympic Games' kits on the cover. They are standing or sitting in exaggerated superhero poses.

Cased objects- yellow desk case against the wall

Dazed and Confused magazine, September 1998

Several disabled people were photographed in issue 46 of Dazed and Confused 46 with the cover title of 'FASHION ABLE?'

These were quite spectacular images, which showed disabled people as beautiful. This was a memorable exception to the rule.

These images were also part of a wider project to make clothing more accessible for disabled people. Sadly, like many other watershed moments of potential change, these ideas were shelved.

On loan from Richey Henderson

[Object description]

Front cover with central colour photograph of a topless person wearing black leggings and prosthetic running blades. The text 'FASHION ABLE?' cuts across the image.

Magazine open on a double page spread of colour photographs of two disabled people posing in couture structured clothing. On the left page someone lifts their framed skirt to show their prosthetic legs. On the right someone stands on one hand with full fan skirt stretching from bottom to top of their body and the page.

Barbie Fashionistas doll in a wheelchair, around 2020

Like disabled fashion, the need for disabled people as consumers often resurfaces as an issue to be addressed. The first Barbie in a wheelchair came out in 1997. The Barbie featured here was the fifth disabled Barbie to appear. Such toys give disabled people greater visibility and mean disabled children can find items of play which they share physical features with.

On loan from Alison Wilde



▷ [Object description]

Plastic doll in a wheelchair wearing a stripey top and jeans in its original box. Colour photograph on the front of box shows an up close image of Barbie coming down a pink ramp.

'Spasticus Autisticus' by Ian Dury, 7 inch Single, 1981

'Hello to you out there in Normal Land
You may not comprehend my tale or understand
As I crawl past your window give me lucky looks
You can be my body but you'll never read my books'

Spasticus Autisticus is a bold and direct attack on beliefs in normality. The song was banned for the use of the word 'spastic', and deemed offensive because it said, 'I dribble when I piddle'

[Object description]

Record sleeve with central artistic image of an abstract cooked breakfast on a plate. The text reads 'IAN DURY SPASTICUS AUTISTICUS'.

'Choices and Rights' music by Johnny Crescendo, 1990s

'A Dangerous Woman' poetry by Sue Napolitano, 1990s

'Shrinkin' Man' music by Ian Stanton, 1990s

Lyrics play a fundamental role in the music of the Disabled People's Movement. They have changed the conversations about disability in direct and powerful ways. The importance of different languages of impairment and disability is also shown in the poetry of the movement.

On loan from Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Three plastic cassettes in cases. Two have covers: one with a black background, note paper page and snapped fountain pen. The second has a grainy black photo print of Ian Stanton sitting in a wheelchair playing guitar. The third cassette has a handwritten label on the tape.

[Cased objects- grey block case against the wall]

Mat Fraser's prosthetic arms, 2005

These prosthetic arms belong to Mat Fraser, actor, writer, performer and musician. They have featured in several performances, as satire. He first used them onstage as part of *Thalidomide!! A Musical* in 2005, and went on to use them in various shows and performances. The most famous being 'The Arms' striptease, featuring him taking them off as part of the performance, which he has performed all over the world, most notably at the infamous club *The Box*, both in New York City and London, 2012-2019.

On loan from Mat Fraser

[Object description]

Two prosthetic arms, one right and one left for use below the shoulder. The upper arms are a discoloured cream colour, the lower arm and hand are a dark beige colour.

'Genetically Modified...just for you' by Mat Fraser CD, 2000

Mat Fraser is a multi-talented performer, whose career has spanned rock music, acting, performance, and directing. He was a drummer with several bands between 1980 and 1995. He played drums with *Graeae Theatre* at the 2012 Paralympics opening ceremony and with *Coldplay* at the closing ceremony.

On loan from NDACA

[Object description]

CD case. The cover has an image of Mat Fraser dressed in a pink, sparkly suit alongside an image of Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley in front of a city scene at night.

Subsection introduction: Disability Arts and performance

The Disability Arts Movement emerged in the 1980s and was brought together as disabled people's demands for rights grew.

It has played a fundamental role in disability politics and is inseparable from disabled people's activism.

Disability Arts and performance continues to challenge cultural attitudes and the marginalisation of disabled people in the arts and culture.

In 2007 disabled artist Yinka Shonibare described Disability Arts as 'the last remaining avant-garde movement', suggesting that it remains the most radical arts practice of our time.

Portrait of Mat Fraser by David Hevey, around 2012

Courtesy of David Hevey

[Object description]

Framed 435mm x 590mm black and white close-up photograph of a topless Mat Fraser resting his face on his left hand.

Disability Arts Movement group photograph, 1991

This photo shows many significant Disability Arts practitioners taken outside Willesden Library after a disability arts and culture seminar organised by Shape Arts, London.

Courtesy of NDACA



▷ [Object description]

Black and white photograph of a group of about 28 people in a staged photograph. Those on the front row are all seated in wheelchairs and those in the two rows behind are stood on steps. There are houses and buildings behind.

The British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) award and photographs, 2022

TripleC champions the role of Deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent people in the arts and media.

In 2022 they won this BAFTA Special Award at the TV Craft Awards 2022 for their work around inclusion and representation, TripleC's motto is 'never leave anyone behind'.

On loan from TripleC DANC (Disabled Artists Networking Community)

[Object description]

A gold theatrical bronze mask standing on a black marble base, measuring approximately 280mm x 140mm. The base has a gold plaque on which is inscribed 'BRITISH ACADEMY TELEVISION CRAFT AWARDS 24 APRIL 2022 TRIPLE C SPECIAL AWARD'.

Three photographs of members of TripleC at the BAFTA awards ceremony, celebrating at the afterparty posing with the BAFTA award and on the dancefloor.

[Cased objects- stand alone desk case]

'Under the Asylum Tree', An anthology of Survivors' Poetry edited by Jenny Ford, 1995

On loan from Ruth Malkin

[Object description]

Orange front cover with black and white illustration of a tree with leaves falling. Beneath the earth, its roots are made to look like people.

Selection of Survivors' Poetry flyers, 1990s

'This is a selection of flyers for Survivors' Poetry events, mainly in the 1990s, held at the Diorama Arts Centre and the Somers Town Community Centre near Great Portland Street, London.

Most of these flyers were designed by myself, in collaboration with the then administrator, the late Xochitl Tuck, who engineered the tree motif for the backdrop.

Those events hold many happy memories for me. The flyers will help to give some impression of the vital variety presented at our events - we were quite all-embracing of many areas of poetry and music - a record of our great history.'

-Dave Russell

On loan from Dave Russell

[Object description]

Two A5 flyers. One is pale blue and the other is yellow. Both have an image of a bare tree as the background with the title 'SURVIVORS' POETRY, Poetry and Music Performances by and for Survivors of the Mental Health System' with a logo of two interlinking circles.

Cased objects- stand alone desk case

Mad Pride flyer, 2019

Mad Pride began in Toronto, in response to community discrimination towards people with psychiatric histories.

It set out to reclaim abusive words such as 'nutter', and to re-educate people on the causes of mental distress and the abuses of mental health systems.

This flyer is from a Mad Pride event in Manchester.
On loan from Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Postcard with illustrated group of multi-coloured aliens in the centre. The background is black with white stars and hills. Includes details of the event held at Niamos, Manchester and the words 'FUNDRAISER FOR MENTAL HEALTH RESISTANCE NETWORK'.

New Breed Theatre Company leaflet, 2000s

New Breed were a Mancunian disabled people led theatre company who won a best fringe production award for their show 'The Irish Giant', from Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards in 2002.

Sadly, they had to close in 2004 as support was withdrawn from Arts Council England Northwest.
On loan from Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

White slim leaflet. In the centre there is a black grainy photograph of someone from the shoulder upwards, wearing no clothes, hands together at their mouth and wearing a garland of leaves. Text reads 'NEW BREED THEATRE COMPANY BOARD MEMBERS WANTED'.

Independence Festival Postcards by Brian Hilton, 1997-1999

On loan from Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Two lilac postcards with the title 'INDEPENDENCE' in rainbow coloured letters across the top.

One has an illustration of a group of disabled people and the words 'Our voices will be heard All over the world'. The other has an illustration of a person using a walking stick with the words 'I am not special. I am not brave. I am a disabled person and John's my name'.

Independence Festival Leeds leaflet, 2001

On loan from Ruth Malkin

[Object description]

Pink leaflet with an image of a moon over which the text reads '2001 A Space Odyssey – the future for disabled people' which is linked to a floating circle that reads 'Independence Festival Leeds 2001'.

Disability and Deaf Arts Festival (DaDaFest) newspaper article, 2001

Dadafest was conceived to be a celebration of the International Disabled People's Day, but expanded to a three day event as Ruth Gould, then working for the North West Disability Arts Forum (NWDAF), felt that 'one day was not enough.'

On loan from NDACA

[Object description]

Newspaper front cover. At the top is a pink and blue shell that has the text 'DaDaFest'. The article on the front page is about the first DaDaFest and includes a photograph of Ruth Gould, Creative Director of North West Disability Arts Forum.

Cased objects- stand alone desk case

Liberty Festival programme, 2005

The Liberty Festival has taken place in London since 2003, showcasing many disabled artists and bringing disabled people together.

On loan from Alison Wilde

[Object description]

A4 blue cover with an illustration of two people dancing alongside a person performing. Below in a wave shape is a colour photograph of a large crowd. Text reads 'Liberty London's Disability Rights Festival 2005' at the top and 'The UK's most accessible outdoor festival' at the bottom.

6th Disability Film Festival flyer, 2004

London Disability Arts Forum(LDAF) held regular film festivals from 1999, at Lux, moving to the National Film Theatre in 2002. It was one of very few film festivals run by disabled people. It closed after 2008 when LDAF had funding withdrawn. It showcased many films about disability, and from disabled artists.

On loan from Alison Wilde

[Object description]

A5 flyer with black and white photograph of three people stood on a street looking at the camera. White text on red at the bottom includes details of the event. The acronyms 'bfi' and 'NFT' are at the top.

Art Disability Culture magazines, 2007 and 2008

Art Disability Culture magazine took over from DAIL magazine edited by Joe McConnell. It aimed to expand the previous focus on disability arts to a wider emphasis on disability culture.

On loan from Alison Wilde



▷ [Object description]

Two A4 magazine covers.

One cover features a colour photograph of a person holding scissors to their tongue in front of a collage backdrop. The other features a black and white photograph of a person wearing homemade antlers on their head and circular chest plate with a four leaf clover shape.

DAIL magazines, from 1990s to 2000s

Disability Arts in London (DAIL) was founded in 1985 by Elspeth Morrison. It began by covering Disability Arts in London but soon reported events from around the UK. It had a focus on disabled artists who used their art to protest against discrimination. Kit Wells, then Colin Hambrook followed as editors. Colin created Disability Arts online in 2002.

On loan from Alison Wilde

[Object description]

Three magazine covers.

A4 cover features a black and white image of three people, two sat on chairs with a pile of presents in between and a person stood behind signing. Text to the bottom reads 'Graeae's Missing Piece'.

A4 cover features a blue tinted photograph of two people. The person at the top is wearing a shiny material dress which becomes the backdrop of the whole image. The person at the bottom is wearing a suit, shirt and tie and is looking directly at the camera.

A5 cover has a yellow border with a black and white photograph of a pair of lace up boots, one boot has a larger heel than the other. 'Adorn, equip, accessorise' is in a decorative font at the bottom.

Cased objects- stand alone desk case

'A Benedictionary' by Benedict Phillips, 2011

A Benedictionary is the world's only 'lexic' to dyslexic translation dictionary, supporting the proposal that 'everyone can be dislecksick, you just have to try harder'.

The original Benedictionary was created around 2001 as part of 'The Myth of Dyslexia' project. This then developed into an online dictionary translating Standard English into 'Dislecksick'. A Benedictionary' was published in 2011 as a hardback publication based on the online version.

On loan from Benedict Phillips

[Object description]

Book with a black cover featuring a yellow sun shape with swirl patterns in the centre. Text around central pattern reads 'AGENDER OF THE AGRESIV DISLECKSICK' spelt phonetically.

Tourettes Hero book, logo patch and sticker, 2012

Tourettes Hero is a project created by Jess Thom in 2010 that celebrate the humour and creativity of Tourettes.

It's not about mocking or commiserating - it's about reclaiming the most frequently misunderstood syndrome on the planet and changing the world one tic at a time.

Changing the World One Tic at a Time

[Object descriptions]

A5 book cover features a colour photograph of a person dressed in a blue and white superhero costume standing behind a fairground stall. Title reads 'WELCOME TO BISCUIT LAND A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF TOURETTESHERO' and 'FORWARD BY STEPHEN FRY'.

Fabric patch. A blue and white stitched circle logo featuring the letters 't' and 'h' with a star in blue over a black grainy cloud shape.

Cased objects- stand alone desk
/ Disability Arts and performance continued

White sticker measuring 230mm x 210mm, with a logo and the words 'there's more than one tourettes hero' along with a star over a cloud shape. This is surrounded by red, purple and blue circles.

The International Year of Disabled People 1981, British Post Office Mint Stamps

Is it of any significance that there are no real disabled people on these stamps, and no pictures of a full body?

Or that they focus on aids people use rather than the barriers they face?

On loan from Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

Presentation wallet with four stamps. The stamps show illustrations of: a guide dog, four pairs of hands signing, the bottom half of someone using a wheelchair and a foot painting a rainbow.

Subsection: Disability Arts and performance continued

I scare neurotypical people t-shirt by Paul Wady, 2018

Paul Wady is a writer, performer and activist, this t-shirt is used in many of his Guerilla Autistics (formerly Aspies) performances. The shows are about experiences of being neurodivergent.

Back in 2015 I published a book called 'Guerilla Aspies' and started performing a solo show that converts audiences to the 'new normal'. Two years on I started working with Alain English and Annette Cooper to produce a company show that tries to be the voices of real autistic people.'

- Paul Wady

[Object description]

A black t-shirt with white writing in an art deco style font reading 'I SCARE NEUROTYPICAL PEOPLE'.

No Excuses photograph, late 1980s-1990s

No Excuses was a theatre cabaret company founded by Mandy Colleran, Natalie Markham and Mandy Redvers Rowe in 1989. Ali Briggs joined them in 1993.

They founded their work on the Social Model of Disability and the principles of Deaf culture, and worked for TV and radio. They all remain busy as activists and cultural workers to this day.

Courtesy of Ali Briggs

[Object description]

A close up colour photograph of Ally Briggs, Mandy Colleran and Mandy Redvers Rowe sat close together posing for the image. Mandy is holding a camcorder.

Photograph of Joe Bidder with Survivors' Poetry banner, 1990s

Joe Bidder is a founding member of Survivors' Poetry with Frank Bangay, Peter Campbell and Hilary Porter. Survivors' Poetry started out as a self-help group in 1991, but went on to become a charity, and a UK and global movement. Survivors' Poetry nights presented poetry, comedy, and music and gained a diverse audience.

Courtesy of Joe Bidder

[Object description]

Colour photograph. Joe Bidder is stood to the right of a black banner hanging from a bookcase. In white text the banner says 'SURVIVORS' POETRY', at the top is an interlinking circles logo.

Graeae Theatre Company Sideshow flyer, 1980

Sideshow was a significant moment in Disability Arts. This was Graeae's first show, a theatre company started by Nabil Shaban and Richard Tomlinson.



- ▷ Nabil Shaban is pictured on this poster. The show was a satirical and burlesque story of disabled people trying to escape a freak show, which set out to shock and entertain. Courtesy of NDACA

[Object description]

Black and white flyer with central image of disabled actor Nabil Shaban in character. Text includes details of the show and a Time Out review ‘...entertaining and disturbing. See it’.

He can't walk because his legs don't reach the ground
artwork by Steve Cribb, 1990

Steve Cribb (1944-1994) was a disabled artist, writer and activist. He became famous for his pioneering use of digital art and humour. In 1990 he began drawing with an Apple Mac and a program which could be controlled by head movements.

Courtesy of NDACA

[Object description]

Black and white computer generated illustration of two people standing behind someone in a wheelchair holding a key, another person faces them. Text beneath the image reads ‘He can't walk because his legs don't reach the ground’.

Disability Arts Cabaret poster, 1994

Alan Holdsworth (Johnny Crescendo) formed the Tragic but Brave Show with Barbara Lisicki (Wanda Barbara) and Ian Stanton. It went on to tour at a number of mainstream and disability arts gigs across Europe and the USA, including a performance at Glastonbury festival in 1993.

This poster is for a cabaret performance in Manchester featuring Crescendo and Lisicki alongside No Excuses Theatre Co. and Survivors Poetry. On loan from NDACA



▷ [Object description]

Blue poster measuring 530mm x 405mm with an illustration of a man holding a tray in the top right corner. The text reads 'the TRAGIC but BRAVE SHOW SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES DISABILITY ARTS CABARET' with a list of performers beneath.

Change The Conversation, Change The Outcome artwork by Nicholaus Msindai, 2018

This artwork was originally created for an exhibition by members of Pure Art Studio at People's History Museum in March 2018.

The exhibition was a celebration of the talents of artists with learning disabilities, a group that is often excluded from high profile exhibition opportunities.
On loan from Nicholau Msindai

[Object description]

Framed black and white drawing of two faces, the one on the left has been shaded around at the bottom. Below are the words 'CHANGE THE CONVERSATION CHANGE THE OUTCOME'. It measures 325mm x 425mm.

Hear No Evil: An Exhibition of work by Deaf Artists poster, 1994

This image shows Mr Spock (Leonard Nimoy) wearing a hearing aid and making Vulcan 'V' salute with slogan 'being of superior intelligence, Mr Spock naturally preferred sign language...'

Courtesy of NDACA

[Object description]

Produced in comic style. The character Mr Spock wears a blue top and is set against a yellow background.

**Independence Festival Manchester poster
designed by Brian Hilton, 1998**

The Independence Festivals were annual national events from 1997 to 2001 celebrating disabled people's lives and culture. The first three were held in Manchester, followed by Birmingham in

2000 and Leeds in 2001. The festivals in Manchester were held in Albert Square and the Town Hall.

On loan from Disabled People's Archive

[Object description]

A4 framed yellow poster with a central illustration of a group of people holding a banner that says 'Independence Festival 98' and 'six million disabled people – it's got to be good!'. Text at the top of the poster reads 'MANCHESTER 5th - 6th SEPTEMBER A NATIONAL CELEBRATION'.

Film transcript

**Meet the Superhuman film by Katherine Araniello,
2012**

Film 1: Meet the superhuman

[Soundtrack Harder Than You Think by Public Enemy]

[Text interspersed through the film]

FORGET EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW
ABOUT STRENGTH

FORGET EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW
ABOUT HUMANS

IT'S TIME TO DO BATTLE

MEET THE SUPERHUMAN



Film transcript - Meet the superhuman

▷ Film 2: Meet the superhuman part 2

[Text scrolling on screen] Inspire be the best a new breed of superhuman SMA super-motivational-athlete

[Katherine]: It was the toughest race of my life. [dramatic music] I had to dig deep to achieve what I have achieved [dramatic music] and that was to be the best [dramatic music] and I am the best. [dramatic music]

I had to be in superhuman shape to win six medals, and I've done it. [dramatic music] It was an amazing experience and I know that I have inspired a future generation of sporting excellence. [dramatic music]

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported me, my family, friends, all of you, thank you so much, I couldn't have done it without you. [dramatic music] I never knew someone like me could be of such sporting excellence and achieve what I have achieved. I have set a legacy and people will follow in my footsteps. [dramatic music] Get down to your local support centre and get involved with sport, it's the only thing that is there for people like us. [dramatic music]

It's been the best week of my life. [dramatic music] I haven't had a drink for two years. I haven't drunk, I haven't smoked, I haven't snorted coke and now I can. [dramatic music] I am superhuman. [dramatic music] I am a role model and I know that people are inspired by me. [dramatic music] It's been such a tough week and I've been wanting a medal so badly. [dramatic music] If you've got a disability, it's normal. [dramatic music] I never let my disabilities hold me back. [dramatic music] Sport is the only way forward. [dramatic music] I am the best superhuman that will ever exist. [dramatic music]

Film 3:

[Text]: Lupa 11 (Lock up performance art) 28/09/12

[sound of crowd talking]

Closing Down Ceremony

[Two people introduce the performance]:

Ready?

No?





No!

[Laughter]

And tonight we have performing... well. Well first of all we have Katherine Arianello. Did I say that right?

Yeah.

No

Anne Redmond and Marina Marja Commandeur.

[Upbeat music, beginning of Harder Than You Think by Public Enemy]

[Performer]: Are you all looking forward to tonight? Brilliant!

We're gonna have so much fun!

You're all very, very welcome.

Very, very welcome.

[Upbeat music fades out and instrumental music 'Grand Tango De Bal' by Andrew Peggie plays throughout the remainder of the film]

[Performer]: You'll be looking forward to this for four years.

You're gonna have to wait such a long time before it's happening again.

[sullen music]

You're all very, very welcome. Thank you very much for coming. Hope you enjoy your time here. Very, very, very welcome you all are.

Oh, you're are smiling that's fantastic! You' having so much fun. You're looking so happy, that's wonderful, so happy you have all come. Thank you very much. We're going to have such a wonderful time, yeah woo. Everybody happy! You looking forward to the performance? Yay! .Everybody fun, fun, fun. Woo hoo we're gonna have a party!

Come on everybody smile! We're going to have so much fun.

Woohoo. See you again in four years' time. woohoo

Everybody smiling woo. Everybody smiling yay. You're looking wonderful, smile!



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▷ Do you need a hand, we are here to help. Always happy to help everyone. Happy to help! Let me give you a hand, always happy to help. Everybody smiling, woohoo! Everybody come into the garage. Come on now follow me, follow me. We're going to have so much fun, it's going to be wonderful. Come on in, come on in, let's have fun. Come on, you are all very welcome, come on you're very very welcome.

[Audience member] Hey you missed out, it was awesome!

The end

This is the end of the Large Print guide for the Tragic but brave section of the exhibition. We hope you have found it useful. Please return the guide or give it to a member of staff. Thank you.

Please share with us any feedback on this resource. You can email access@phm.org.uk or share your feedback with a member of staff.