UNSPOKEN: A social experiment in changing attitudes to stammering through the medium of theatre

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UNSPOKEN: Need for change

- Social model of disability
- Clinical implications

UNSPOKEN: Changing public attitudes

- 1. Widen the experience of disability by providing positive role models and dispel incorrect or inaccurate beliefs pervasive in a culture.
- 2. Increase the numbers of individuals with disability seen and increase their visibility in society.
  (Reeve 2004)

UNSPOKEN: Anti-stigma strategies

- 1. Protest: directly challenges, condemns and rebukes stereotypes and acts of public discrimination.
- 2. Education: makes people more knowledgeable by presenting myths about stammering and contrasting them with data from scientific research.
- 3. Contact: through direct contact with a PWS the public hear a personal narrative of individual struggles and difficulties.
  (Boyle, Dioguardi & Pate 2016)

UNSPOKEN: The development of an authentic play depicting stammering.

- Informing the play writer: knowledge & experience
- Themes: difference, vulnerability, choice, compromise, burden of memory
- Context

UNSPOKEN: The development of an authentic play depicting stammering.

Characters
- Alex
- Parents & family members
- Peers
- Girlfriend
- Wrestler
UNSPOKEN: Involvement of the stammering community

- Writing: BSA conference
  - Local self help group

UNSPOKEN: Involvement of the stammering community

- Rehearsals
- Coaching

UNSPOKEN: Outcomes; the cast members

- Felt they had produced an authentic and valid representation of stammering
- Felt their performances had been validated by the stammering community
- Had a better understanding of the physical aspects and covert issues associated with stammering
- Had increased their own tolerance of hearing a person who stammered
- Had a better understanding of how to respond to a person who was stammering
- Felt a sense of responsibility about representing stammering within their performances
- Intended to act as advocates for the stammering community in the future.

UNSPOKEN: Outcomes; the audience

- Aspects of performance: acting, coaching actors, production
- The play: writing, portrayal of stammering, use of humour
- Emotional responses: difficult emotions, generalisation to other situations
UNSPoken: Outcomes; the audience

Understanding stammering

- 1. Authenticity
- 2. The wrestler
- 3. Evidence of increased understanding

UNSPoken: Outcomes; the audience

Changing attitudes

- Negativity
- Psychological impact
- Daily impact
- Lack of change
- How to respond when a person is stammering
- Generalisation to other situations/disabilities

UNSPoken: In conclusion

- Process
- Performance
- Outcomes