



AUNTIE [working title]

a performance inspired by BBC archives from the 1960s
by Mandy Redvers-Rowe and Collective Encounters' Women in Action group

Please note this historical record contains outdated material which may offend

For the past few months, Collective Encounters has been working with Dr Marcus Collins, AHRC BBC 100 History Fellow and Reader in Contemporary History at Loughborough University, and Dramaturg Dr Alda Terracciano, on a project entitled 'The BBC and Cultural Change since the 1960s'. The project involves adapting transcripts from 'lost' BBC documentaries from the 1960s and transforming them into a new performance piece: Auntie [Working Title].

Auntie [Working Title] draws on the expectations, contradictions and juxtapositions of women in the 1960s as characterised within BBC archival material. Over the last year Marcus has unearthed a wealth of BBC social documentary archival material for the Women in Action group to interrogate and explore. This process has enabled the group to identify and pin down five key programmes that tell the story of the distance (or in some cases lack of distance) travelled in terms of society's expectations for and attitudes towards women and moments when progress has been made on women's rights and human rights in general.

Today we are sharing information about and creative responses to three of the programmes we have been most interested by:

- The BBC Homemaker Competition (1960-61), a televised contest open to married or widowed women that aimed to promote understanding about the qualities that make a good home-maker.
- Woman's Hour: Dropping in at a Meeting of the Family Planning Association (20.10.60), which covers topics such as the dangers of giving contraceptive advice to 'unmarried girls' and whether Doctors should encourage 'less intelligent' people to have fewer children.
- 24 Hours: Equal Pay for Women (5.9.68) reporting on attitudes from men and women in industry towards proposed legislation that would bring women's pay in line with men's.

We are hoping to continue developing the performance and would love to know what you think about what we do today, and any ideas or suggestions you may have for how we could develop it.

Cast list

Alma Brown
Anna Reid
Corrine Jones
Diane Jansen
Heidi Robinson
June Hudson



Writer Mandy Redvers-Rowe

Director Tessa Buddle

Dramaturg Alda Terracciano

Researcher Marcus Collins

Live Stream and Technical Support Focal Studios

Project volunteers Nancy Cummins, Emily Prophet

Huge thanks to other Women in Action members who have been involved in developing this performance: Claire Buddle, Jenny Cossack, Angie Ge, Kadisha Kayani, Margaret Marriette, Lois Woolley

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For Collective Encounters

Executive Director Annette Burghes

Programme Manager Wendy O'Connor

Outreach Director Abi Horsfield

Women in Action Director Tessa Buddle

Workshop Assistant Heidi Robinson

Radical Makers Director Aidan Jolly

Sector Development Programme Coordinator Marianne Matusz

Where You're At Lead Artist Michelle Richards

www.collective-encounters.org.uk

admin@collective-encounters.org.uk 0151 345 6266

In loving memory of Margaret Marriette
a Collective Encounters member 2008-2022



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