

Rückenwind 2025

Gewinner: Jesper la Cour (DK)

Center for Dementia in De Gamles By/Die Stadt der Alten

Huge warm thank you to EoG and Martin and Britta for your wonderful initiative. And thank you for choosing me as one of the three receivers of the grant. I'm very honoured.

On Monday 24th of February I told two stories for 30 elderly inhabitants and the 5 volunteers at Center for Dementia in De Gamles By/Die Stadt der Alten. This is home and recreation center for the elderly in Copenhagen, Denmark. It is increasingly integrated with the surrounding community and is also home to other facilities, including day cares and urban gardens.

Dementia is the common name for a group of diseases covering more than 70 different diagnoses one of them is Alzheimer.

I hadn't told stories for this group since I told at my grandmothers Elder Center many years ago. I was a bit nervous which I shared with the audience. One replied: 'Don't worry we won't bite', and another added 'No, our teeth are much too old and weak for that'. We all had a good laugh and I felt at home.

I told The Skeleton Woman a myth from East Greenland. It's a quite scary brutal love story with a happy warm end. They liked it a lot and I continued with Yduns Apples about how Lokey tricked the Goddess of Youth because of a failure he made himself. It's a funny well-known story from Nordic Mythology and I involved the audience in a playful way. They were very happy about the way of being together.

The connection to the Center of Dementia was made when I met Michael Svennevig. He did a talk at my studio about his work as theatre critics, his two social festivals taking place for 17 years and his support at the Center for Dementia. He only writes about what he likes and leaves the rest out. I was full of admiration for his efforts for positive human contribution and building social content. I have always supported caring human activities. It was in this positive attitude I signed up for one of his social engagements: Monday gatherings in the dementia 'Verein' for elder people in De Gamles By/Die Stadt der Alten in central Copenhagen.

Michael Svennevig was taking part in my storytelling afternoon. He enjoyed it with the inhabitants and said that it was full recognition and presence for the participants and that's exactly what people suffering from Dementia need most.

I've passed by this amazing urban village for elderly in the middle of Copenhagen hundreds of times and it was such a pleasure to be able to support the good work that's been done there giving vulnerable elderly people a worthy life. I'll definitely do that again.

Thank you EoG for the great work and open minds.

Kindly, Jesper la Cour