

It might have been an ungodly hour in the Roslyn Park canteen, but Jacqueline Johnston-Fagan of Mediability says it was still a thrill to make her debut as a film director

Groping around my bedside locker trying to locate the source of the infernal polyphonic ringtone, I jolted upright as the realisation infiltrated my groggy brain and eventually headed south to settle in the pit of my stomach – TODAY IS THE DAY! It was 5am, pitch black, cold and I was on the verge of making my directorial debut. The nerves that had broken my sleep all through the night were now at fever pitch as I flicked through my film shot list for the zillionth time...

Rewind four months to the genesis of the idea to make an informational video about the NRC's Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for service users. It came about following a review with staff and service users when it became clear that more information on the Charter was required. Suzanne Duggan of the NRC conducted a survey to find out how best to deliver the Charter information and a video/DVD representation emerged as the favourite option.

After a period of consultation with students from several Network centres, Roslyn Park, the graduates from the Mediability Programme and various members of staff, the idea began to take shape. The students of Performing Arts at Roslyn Park together with drama coaches Sinéad Murphy and Geoff Cox, put together a very funny script and quite quickly, the project started to become a reality.

The employees of the newly formed Mediability Production Company headed up by Dan Dwyer and Katriona Kerrigan began to flesh out the ideas and got down to the finer details of how it would all be put



Lights, Camera, Action...

together and eventually filmed. Over the months, the inevitable script rewrites, castings, rehearsals, treatments and an assortment of fiddly bits called on a great collaborative effort from all those involved.

Fast forward to the day of THE SHOOT! The night before, I had met up with the crew

and we'd gone over the order of filming, synchronised our watches and downed a few steadying swift halves! We were ready, there was no going back and I went to bed and dreamt of every filming cliché known to man. "Roll it there, Colette" brought a peculiarly Irish flavour to my nightmares.



Members of the cast and crew of the NRC video run through a scene prior to filming.



Leonie Doyle, one of the principal actors in the NRC video.

Caffeine-fuelled and raring to go, the crew and cast assembled at an ungodly hour in Roslyn Park's canteen where we hoped to get most of the restaurant scenes shot before the hungry student masses started arriving in for lunch. Now whether we had a spot of divine intervention or a member of the crew was a dab hand with a plumber's spanner

we'll never know, but just when it looked like we were running out of time, fortune smiled on us. A flood in the building – not quite of Noahian proportions but significant nonetheless – meant that the aforementioned hungry masses that had yet to descend on us were stopped in their tracks and sent home and we were able to steam ahead uninter-

rupted. And the camera rolled and rolled as my initial nerves were replaced with a sense of excitement and pride in the piece of work that was unfolding successfully and seamlessly right before all our eyes. The Performing Arts students played a blinder with our leading actors Jake Antas, Leonie Doyle and Neil Judge and a dream cast of supporting actors providing Oscar-worthy performances and more comedy than a box set of Fr Ted episodes. Of course, the many people behind the scenes that made props (including gory severed fingers!), organised costumes and sets and helped in any way to ensure the success of the filming, deserve a mention also.

Following two full days of productive filming, my Spielberg moment finally came to a close when it fell upon me to utter the legendary phrase, "It's A Wrap!" All my colleagues in Mediability agreed that it was a wonderful experience and a fantastic launch pad for our media production careers. We are currently in post-production and look forward to unveiling the DVD in the very near future.

€100 Double Crossword

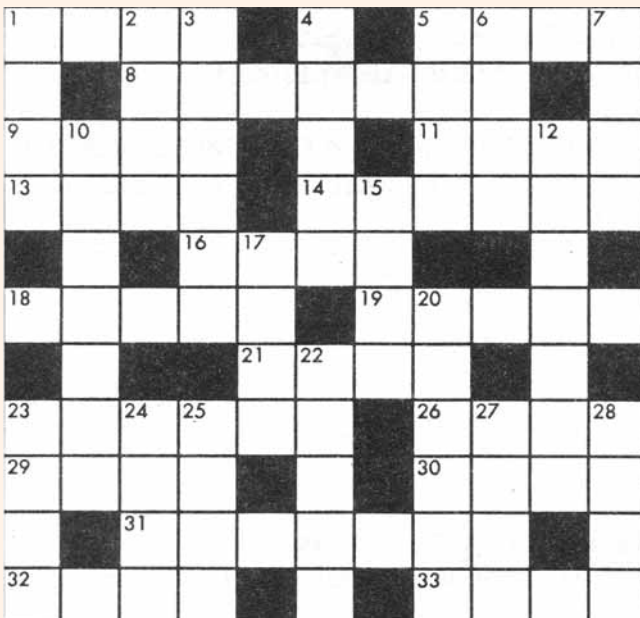
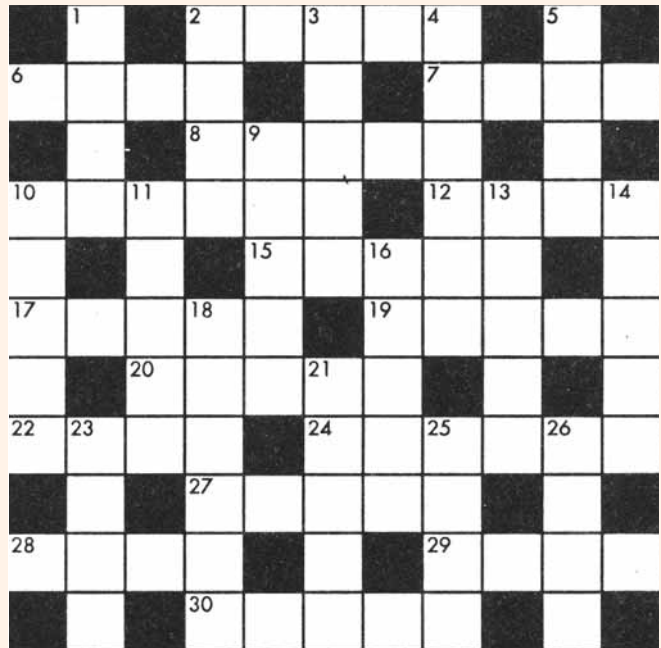
Fill in the puzzles below and send them to: Crossword Competition, Communications Department, Rehab Group, Roslyn Park, Sandymount, Dublin 4 before February 17th. There is a special €50 prize for the first all-correct answer drawn for each puzzle. There were a bumper number of entries in the last edition's crossword competition and congratulations goes to Jackie Dyer, Tralee, Co Kerry who was the first correct entry drawn.

ACROSS

- 2 Rove in search of prey
- 6 Unconscious state
- 7 Pain
- 8 Body In space
- 10 Shellfish
- 12 Giveout
- 15 Hum
- 17 Item of crockery
- 19 Speak
- 20 Omission mark
- 22 Levantine spirit
- 24 Silver (heraldry)
- 27 Flat
- 28 Ballot
- 29 Out of kilter
- 30 Given medicine

DOWN

- 1 Extinct bird
- 2 Group of wolves
- 3 Ear-shell
- 4 Dormant
- 5 From Bangkok, e.g.
- 9 Of a greater age
- 10 Frolic
- 11 Snap
- 13 100 cm.
- 14 Fortune-telling cards
- 16 Extraordinarily
- 18 Followed
- 21 Roof projections
- 23 Out of control
- 25 Pleased
- 26 Standard



ACROSS

- 1 Old Italian currency
- 5 Fifty percent
- 8 Prisoner on the run?
- 9 What a pity!
- 11 Nation
- 13 Hoodwink
- 14 All over the world

- 16 Flatten to the ground
- 18 Comic song
- 19 Soil
- 21 Lugholes!
- 23 Loathe
- 26 The elm, e.g.
- 29 Dry
- 30 Skating arena
- 31 Road surface

32 Ode

33 Give a loan

DOWN

- 1 Put goods on a truck, e.g.
- 2 Gather in the harvest
- 3 Claim
- 4 Teeth
- 5 Brave man
- 6 Middle Easterer
- 7 Touch
- 10 Match

12 Refectory

15 Dirty look

17 Votes in favour

20 Of the stars

22 Fragrant oil

23 Moist

24 It's shown on a clock face

25 Dutch cheese

27 Hoar-frost

28 Scratched a living

Name _____

Address _____

Ph: _____

Appreciation

Rehab News pays
tribute to Rehab
Foundation chairman
and Group board
member, Tom O'Reilly,
who passed away
recently



“ As chairman, Tom had a clear understanding of his role and was an invaluable ally and mentor. He provided a willing ear and his sound advice was based on his motto: ‘Always play to peoples’ strengths’ ”

Tom O’Reilly – A Man of Action

I first met Tom O’Reilly in the summer of 1981. The ESB had asked for a meeting with Rehab Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to create a synergy whereby ESB customers would be enticed to pay their electricity bills punctually and in return for Rehab Foundation’s involvement they would be financially rewarded.

Tom was the senior ESB person present at the meeting. It was very clear that the idea was his own and that there were a few doubters on his side. Tom and myself got on well. I was attracted by the simplicity and originality of the plan and Tom’s total belief that it would work. However, like all good ideas there was opposition, mainly from legal minds who saw problems. Tom only saw opportunities. Luckily the man of action would prevail, and so Win Electric was born.

During those discussions I was to learn much about and from Tom. He had a warm personality and was motivated by a deep

sense of compassion and humanity. As head of accounts in the customer relations department of the ESB, he was responsible for bill payment. Punctual bill payment was running at about 20 per cent at the time. Times were difficult in the early 1980’s; low wages, high taxes, rising unemployment. Against that background Tom was expected to play tough. He had potent tools at hand: cut off power supplies to defaulters, sue etc.

But Tom was too compassionate a person to add to the misery of the times. Tom decided he would not confront, he would seduce the customer and he won hands down.

Within weeks punctual bill paying had rocketed to almost 70 per cent. Over the years the Win Electric concept would be copied by other utilities and other countries.

The message was clear, you don’t have to be confrontational to make real progress. You just have to be visionary, creative and resourceful. Tom had these qualities in

abundance. In his world everyone should be a winner. It was 1990 before I could prevail on Tom to join the board of Rehab Foundation. In 1996 he was elected chairman and appointed to the board of Rehab Group. In the intervening years Tom never missed an opportunity to be of assistance to Rehab.

As chairman, Tom had a clear understanding of his role and was an invaluable ally and mentor. He provided a willing ear and his sound advice was based on his motto: ‘Always play to peoples’ strengths’. Tom also had a strong reputation as a negotiator where he could be very demanding to counterbalance what he saw as concession.

But Tom’s real passion was his wife Mary and his family, Brendan, Miriam and Aileen to whom he was a loving husband and dotting father. Our sincerest sympathies go out to them – Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

SF

The new Rehab-wide Intranet will provide easy access to a vast reservoir of information across every part of the organisation

Many of you will have heard the saying that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and the Rehab Group is a case in point. Wouldn't it be great if it were easier to tap into the expertise and knowledge of your colleagues to find information, no matter where in the Group it is held? And what if you could communicate and work more efficiently? These are just some of the aims of a new project that has been set up to develop and introduce a Group-wide 'Intranet'.

An Intranet is a secure internal system of information sharing and communication that is built using Internet technology and can only be accessed by staff. It is not totally new to the Group, and indeed some Rehab companies are already realising the benefits of an Intranet. For example, Rehab UK set up its own Intranet, and its usage is totally ingrained into their way of work. RehabCare has also made a very large investment in its Intranet, which, after recent testing, is about to be made available to a wider audience.

The vision driving a Group-wide Intranet is to create a platform that will bring together the Intranet initiatives already in place at RehabCare, Rehab UK, Research & Innovation Department and the National Learning Network, and build in the requirements of other companies and departments. Taking this step will capitalise on the knowledge base of employees by making it possible to seek and find information from any part of the organisation via a single system. Through enhancing information delivery and communications, it is hoped that in time the Intranet will become the resource that many Rehab staff will use every day in order to do their job, although alternative means of communication and knowledge sharing will of course still be required for staff that do not have regular PC access. The Group Intranet will be a large and significant

Intranet: The vision driving a Group-wide Intranet is to create a platform that will bring together the Intranet initiatives already in place at RehabCare, Rehab UK, Research & Innovation Department and the National Learning Network, and build in the requirements of other companies and departments.



Keeping Us Connected

resource to manage. The key to its success will be the active involvement of each company and department in its development, maintenance and use. More importantly, companies and departments will be responsible for the administration of their own

content on the site, to ensure that it remains relevant and up-to-date.

Thanks to the efforts of a Group Intranet Working Group, established last year to oversee and manage the development of a Group-wide Intranet infrastructure, the new



project is not starting from scratch. A list of potential Intranet content and access needs in all companies and departments in Ireland and the UK has already been compiled. The next phase will be to liaise with individual companies and departments to confirm their needs and required access levels with a view to preparing a design brief and technical specification for the Group Intranet. A project manager has recently been recruited to drive this process.

Staff in various parts of the Rehab Group are already experiencing the advantages of an effective Intranet system. As we progress into 2006, this experience will be extended to increasing numbers of staff and it is expected that by the end of next year a fully integrated Group-wide Intranet will be in place with all companies and departments networked



Gillian Giles, a student with National Learning Network's Employer Based Training programme in Bantry, Co Cork writes of her experiences as a crew member on board 'Tenacious' in the 2005 Tall Ships Race

It was with great excitement, and some trepidation, that I travelled to Waterford last July to join the Irish crew on board the Jubilee Sailing Trust ship 'Tenacious' for the first leg of the 2005 Tall Ships race from Waterford to Cherbourg. The Jubilee Sailing Trust is a British-based organisation whose aim is to promote the integration of people of all abilities through the challenge and adventure of tall ship sailing. The facilities onboard the ship ensured that no matter what a person's disability they had full access to all parts of the ship.

Our crew were a very mixed bunch. There were people in wheelchairs and people with visual impairments; there was an 85 year-old and a 16-year-old, and everyone in between.

Having been introduced to the ship's permanent crew, I was issued with oilskins, safety harness, wellies and a transit seat for my wheelchair, which is used when going aloft and for emergency evacuations. All kitted out, we were ready to set sail.

My first impression when I looked at my watch card, which outlined my timetable for the week, was that I would have plenty of time off for sunbathing. Not a chance! Everyone worked two 4-hour watches per 24-hour day. The toughest of these were the



Hitting the High Seas

Above left: Gillian Giles learning the ropes. Above right: The aft starboard watch of the Tenacious' pictured at the quayside in Cherbourg proudly displaying their race result.

midnight to 4am, and the 4am to 8am. Being on watch was good fun, but there were also responsibilities, such as filling in the log every hour with details of wind, sea, air pressure, mileage, and temperature. The best thing about being on watch was actually steering the ship. This was quite difficult

to get used to, but I managed it. Other watch duties included trimming the sails, lookout, security checks and getting the members of the next watch out of their warm bunks. All of this, made me feel like a real part of the crew. Getting to know the names of all the different ropes, yards, sails and general sail-



ing terminology was difficult. There are three masts, five yardarms on each, three different styles of sail, over five miles of rope in total and all of it to be hauled by hand!

The permanent crew on board 'Tenacious' were wonderful instructors and we quickly learned the ropes – quite literally! Despite a slow start in the race, we worked hard as a team and soon made up for lost time. However, it still came as a shock when we arrived in Cherbourg to discover that not only had we come in second in our class, but we were also second overall out of 92 ships!

We had beaten professional crews, naval vessels and coastguards from around the world and we were only amateurs and beginners, but we had wonderful team spir-

it. Disabilities were forgotten; only abilities mattered. For example our ship was brought into Cherbourg with a blind man at the helm!

The whole town of Cherbourg was thronged with people, including many who had traveled from all parts of Europe to see the Tall Ships. When I accepted our prize on behalf of the crew, a huge shout went up from the crowd and everyone seemed to understand what we had achieved.

My week on board 'Tenacious' was certainly not a standard sun holiday. It was hard work, full of challenges and responsibility, learning about teamwork, and not getting a lot of sleep. But I made a lot of good friends, strangers I now feel that I've known all my life. I achieved full participation in the running of a tall ship, even climbing up the

mast, navigating, hauling on ropes and setting sails, as well as working in the kitchen, serving meals and cleaning the ship from 'stern to stern'. I also laughed more than I have ever done before. On more than one occasion people thought I was crying, I laughed so much that tears ran down my face.

I will never forget the experiences of that week. I can't wait to go back for my next voyage on a ship where disabilities do not matter and anything is possible. That is difficult to find, even in this day and age. I would recommend it to anyone, whatever their age, disability or ability.

To find out further information on the Jubilee Sailing Trust, visit their website at www.jst.org.uk or contact Sally O'Leary by email at Ireland@jst.org.uk