

By Lorna Jones (Caring for Hair)

The Barbershop Uncut Stories productions, 7 & 14 November 2025

Barbershop Uncut Stories, created by award-winning Trichologist Lorna Jones and directed by BAFTA-winner Rochelle Newman (pictured below)

showed at Theatre Peckham on Friday 7 November, and Stanley Arts the following week on the 14 November 2025. This followed the first performance that took place in April at the C & Hair Cancer Conference which laid the foundation by:

- a) Validating the barbershop model for health engagement and
- b) Building demand for further community performances

Both events were inspiring and began with the pre-show segment “Dis the Myths”, which aimed to challenge common misconceptions surrounding cancer and nutrition. This engaging session addressed widespread myths about the prevention and treatment of Cancer, providing evidence-based information in an accessible and interactive format. By debunking these myths, the pre-show helped to equip attendees with



accurate knowledge, to empower them to make informed health decisions, and to foster open discussion about issues that are often misunderstood or overlooked. The

session set a thoughtful and educational tone for the evening, highlighting the importance of awareness alongside storytelling.

The rest of the evening was dedicated to exploring the experiences of individuals affected by cancer through performance and discussion. The careful storytelling on stage by the men with lived experience of prostate cancer provided a powerful lens into the emotional and personal journeys of those living with and beyond cancer.

Their courage in openly discussing such intimate and challenging moments was both

moving and inspiring. By speaking candidly about their journeys, they not only highlighted the physical and emotional challenges of living with prostate cancer but also helped to address the stigma often associated with men’s health.



Demonstrating the Digital Rectal Examination test

Their testimonies encouraged open conversation among the audience, promoting awareness and understanding of the importance of early detection and support.

The actors were deeply praised for their sensitive and authentic portrayals, ensuring that each story was depicted with both care and respect. Their performances allowed

the audience to connect on a profound level, creating a space for empathy and Understanding.

Following the performances, the Chair and expert panel facilitated an after-show discussion that proved both educational and thought-provoking. The panel, composed of leading health professionals, shared valuable insights into the clinical, emotional, and social aspects of cancer care. Their discussion offered practical guidance, highlighted current research, and provided reassurance and advice for individuals navigating similar experiences.

Audience engagement was a key feature of the session, with thoughtful questions leading to a dynamic and interactive dialogue. The discussion exemplified how combining performance with expert insight can create a rich, multifaceted learning Experience.



Jaden Cameron, playing Mikey, with a bag of herbs as an alternative to medical cancer treatment

Overall, both events were a remarkable success. By blending theatre with education

and advocacy, it provided a platform for powerful storytelling while also promoting

awareness, understanding, and community support. Attendees left the

evenings with a deeper appreciation of the challenges faced by those affected by cancer, as well as a sense of empowerment to engage with their own health and wellbeing. Barbershop Uncut Stories not only recognised the courage of those sharing their experiences but also reinforced the ongoing importance of dialogue, knowledge, and compassionate care in the fight against cancer.

We estimate that a total of 700 people have attended the three productions. This trilogy of performances has demonstrated that theatre can be a powerful tool for public health education.