

## **'For Better, for Worse'**

'For Better, for Worse' was produced and directed by Victoria Caldwell as part of her Art, Design and Media Communication Degree at Newman University. Coming to terms with her grandfather's dementia, Victoria decided to put her energy into making a short film that would capture the essence of her grandparents' 65-year marriage, contrasting the fun times of the of the 1930's to more recent times with the gradual overshadowing of dementia.

Seeing young actors step into the shoes of a couple living with Alzheimer's Disease/dementia lends a particular depth and power to the film, and is a striking reminder that Alzheimer's Disease/dementia does not take away a person's essence or their humanity.

Fleeting memories are skilfully recreated through colour and monochrome and set to the song 'The Promise', inviting us to imagine the vivid thoughts that revisit her grandfather's mind as he sits with his wife (the actors in a film booth). The booth brings home the current isolation and the difficulty of caring by his wife, Victoria's grandmother.

This simple yet moving film has been piloted in groups and schools and we can see how it reaches out across generations.

*Acknowledgments: We wish to thank Victoria for gifting this film to the Pastoral Care Project and song artist Ben Howard for granting permission to use his song: 'The Promise'.*

*Please contact the Pastoral Care Project for workshops or lesson plans.*