



AN APPLIED THEATRE PRODUCTION CENTRED AROUND
WALL OF SILENCE AND MORAL COMPASS

Information Pack

PERCEPTION
THEATRE





Information Pack

An applied theatre production centred around Wall of Silence and Moral Compass



Wall of Silence and
Moral Compass
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1 Perimeter Road
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office@perceptiontheatre.com

**PERCEPTION
THEATRE**

Our Approach

We believe that theatre in education allows students to explore complex social issues, sensitive themes and challenging topics in a safe and supported environment. Narrative based learning is able to stimulate and develop empathy and offers its audiences the chance to connect and relate to the characters and scenarios on stage, creating a personal style of learning unlike any other educational method.

As an organisation that is dedicated to improving social, emotional and behavioural change through the power of theatre and story telling, we craft each of our applied theatre productions alongside our local communities, young people and professionals to ensure that we create a well rounded and resonant product.

At Perception Theatre, we are passionate about challenging peoples perceptions, especially when it comes to 'Theatre In Education' (TIE). For many years, TIE has been perceived as something that can be condescending in its nature and didactic in its overall approach. However that doesn't have to be the case. TIE should be both educational and impactful. That's why here at Perception Theatre, we do exactly that.

From gripping narratives driven by realistic characters and scenarios, we capture the attention of our audiences and engage them in learning about issues that could one day affect them or somebody that they know. Our work is designed with the community at heart and young people at the forefront of our vision. Our work is bold, raw and definitely doesn't pull punches.

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GRASS Production Information

Production Overview

'GRASS' was written by Perception Theatre. The production has been produced in partnership with Evolving Mindset CIC and proudly funded by Merseyside VRP. The story was co-developed with young people across Merseyside and their input has heavily influenced the narrative, themes and issues covered within the production.

A lot of thought and expertise has gone into the making of this production to ensure it is suitable for its target audience. However, please be mindful that this production can be very hard hitting.

Synopsis

When Joe, Jake and Connor plan a night out in town, they are keen and eager to get out and get on it, but as their night unfolds it takes a turn for the worst.

When Connor notices an attractive girl at the bar he makes his move, only to find out that she has a boyfriend. When Connor is fronted by the girl's boyfriend, Connor snaps back which results in Connor, Joe and Jake being dragged out by security.

As the lads move on from the club, Jake notices that they are being followed by the lads from the bar. In a matter of moments a fight breaks out which leads to Connor making one final and fatal move as he punches one of the lads in the head causing him to fall to his death as he hits his head on a curb and dies immediately at the scene.

The following morning the incident manages to make the headlines as the police begin appealing for witnesses. With the tensions rising Jake, Joe's and Connor's friendship is put to the test as they must battle with their own moral compass and decide whether to tell the truth or stay silent and not 'GRASS'.

Running Time

The show and post-show discussion will last approximately 45 minutes.

Target Audience

- Young People (Year 9+)
- Parents/Carers
- Police
- Teachers
- Professionals

To Be Delivered In

- Secondary Schools
- SEN Schools
- Pupil Referral Units
- Alternative Education Provisions
- Colleges
- Youth/Community Centres
- Theatres
- Training Sessions

GRASS Explores

- Debunking 'grassing' and 'snitching' culture
- How someone's involvement in a seriously violent crime can impact their mental health.
- The importance of a moral compass
- How drugs and alcohol can affect your behaviour.

GRASS Aims To

- Demonstrate how violent behaviour can affect your mental health as well as your relationship with those around you.
- Demonstrate how your actions can have serious consequences
- Demonstrate how drugs and alcohol can affect your behaviour
- Demonstrate how telling the truth isn't "grassing"
- Demonstrate the importance of a moral compass

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Why GRASS?

Making of GRASS

Perception Theatre co-developed 'GRASS' alongside young people across 11 settings including secondary schools, youth centres, pupil referral units and SEN schools. Throughout our time delivering workshops in order to gain research into "grassing" culture within Merseyside, we found that a significant majority of young people, including both males and females considered a 'fist fight' as not being classed as serious violence.

Because of this reoccurring notion, we decided to include the 'one punch kill' inside of the narrative to demonstrate how one single punch can kill somebody and the consequences that can come as a result of that.

Through extensive research, Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership have identified the following:

The Trauma, Injury and Intelligence Group (TIIG) reported that of all Merseyside A&E attendances for violence-related injuries, 'fist' was the weapon causing the most injuries (16.6%), followed by 'combination of body parts' (14.6%). Just 2.2% were recorded as 'knife'-related injuries.

In addition, Local Knowledge & Intelligence Service (LKIS) collated statistics on Merseyside hospital admissions for violence between 2018-2019, and 2020-2021 which showed that the overwhelming majority of patients were admitted for assault by bodily force (57%), followed by sharp object (14%).

TRIGGER WARNING

Please ensure that you have the appropriate staff available during the production should a young person feel triggered by the production and want/need to leave. Please ensure that all staff members are well equip with handling disclosures and maintain a non judgemental attitude towards a young person who may want to disclose any information or talk to someone about what has 'triggered' them.

'GRASS' Contains The Following Themes:

- Drugs & Alcohol
- Violence
- Profanity
- Grief
- Incarceration
- Suicide references
- Signs and symptoms of poor mental health

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Overview

A lot of thought and expertise has gone into making this production suitable for its target audience. Please be aware that this play is very hard hitting and touches upon a number of highly sensitive issues. It is essential that the appropriate members of staff are present during the show should members of the audience need to disclose any information to them after watching the performance. Please make your staff aware of any appropriate referral mechanisms should a young person disclose or have any concerns. All of our cast members are trained in handling disclosures and will report any disclosures received to the relevant member of staff at the venue and also the commissioner of the tour to follow up on.

Performance Space

The production is very flexible and can be adapted to be performed in most spaces. However, please bear in mind that there will be three actors, roller banners and technical equipment laid out. Ideally, we would like a performance space of 4mx4m with end on staging. If this is not possible, we understand and will adapt the performance to the space. If you do not have a dedicated performance space with a seating bank, we would really appreciate it if a member of staff could set out the chairs for audience members - prior to us arriving or whilst we are setting up. Our cast members will be busy setting up technical equipment in the set up period and will not have time to set up chairs. Please also ensure that there are enough chairs for all audience members too.

Further Requirements

A designated car parking spot would be ideal for the cast, for unloading and packing up the car. Directions to staff toilets would be great too!

Arrival Time

The company will aim to arrive 1 hour prior to the performance time so that they can set up performance equipment. Please ensure that the designated performance space is available and clear of people during the set up period as the cast will need to set up technical equipment for the production and perform technical and safety checks.

Cast

There will be three actors touring with the production. Occasionally, the director, producer or technician may accompany them. All company members will report to reception upon arrival and sign in. All will have photo ID with them if needed. Home office guidelines do not class the performers as being in 'regulated' activity (as they are not being left unattended with young people and are not working with them on a regular basis) so please be aware that they are not DBS checked.

Introduction

Once all of the audience members are seated, if a member of staff could let us know, a member of the cast will ask the students to ensure all phones are switched off and bags are under chairs. They will then introduce the production and begin the show.

Audience

This production contains loud and sudden bursts of audio throughout. If there are any audience members with any sensory needs (or additional sensitivities), we advise that they are seated with a member of staff and close to an exit should they need to leave the performance space.

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Perception Theatre Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to using theatre and interactive film to challenge perceptions, spark conversation and inspire social change. We believe that theatre is an instrumental technique when it comes to developing social, emotional and behavioural change.

Costs for 2023

Single Day Booking (up to 3 performances)	£1,350
1 Week Booking (up to 10 performances)	£5,950
2 Week Booking (up to 20 performances)	£10,950
3 Week Booking (up to 30 performances)	£14,950
4 Week Booking (up to 40 performances)	£17,950

Any extra weeks booked on top of a **4 Week Booking** will be charged at £4,000 per week.

Costs for 2024

Single Day Booking (up to 3 performances)	£1,450
1 Week Booking (up to 10 performances)	£6,450
2 Week Booking (up to 20 performances)	£11,950
3 Week Booking (up to 30 performances)	£15,950
4 Week Booking (up to 40 performances)	£18,950

Any extra weeks booked on top of a **4 Week Booking** will be charged at £4,000 per week.

- When you book a single day, we can perform: 3 performances in the same location OR 2 performances in the same location and 1 in an alternative location OR 3 separate locations but 1 of these performances must be an evening performance.
- When you book a weeks worth (or more) of performances, you are paying for the delivery of up to 10 performances (2 performances per day) across each week booked.
- We cannot spread a weeks worth (or more) of performances across multiple weeks. If you book a weeks worth (or more) of performances they must be performed as follows: 2 performances per day, Monday to Friday.
- Please note that any performances booked in 2023 and delivered in 2023 will reflect the costs for 2023, however any performances that have been booked in 2023 but are scheduled to be delivered in 2024 will reflect the costs of 2024.

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- When you book a single day you are paying for the delivery of up to 3 performances in that single day.
- When you book a single day, we can perform 2 performances in the same location and 1 in an alternative location OR 3 separate locations but 1 of these performances must be an evening performance.
- When you book a week or more worth of performances, you are paying for the delivery of up to 10 performances (2 performances per day) across each week booked.
- We cannot spread a weeks or more worth of performances (10 performances) across multiple weeks. If you book 1 weeks (or more) worth of performances they must be performed as follows: 2 performances per day, Monday to Friday.
- When making a booking, you must email Perception Theatre Ltd with the details of each performance at least 7 days prior to the first performance. The details of each performance should be as follows: date, show start time, venue address, contact at venue, contact number for contact at venue, expected audience size and any available parking.

Bookings

Perception Theatre Ltd will conduct an evaluation process into each tour booking completed. This evaluation process will consist of:

- Number of audience members across the whole tour
 - Audience feedback summary (through feedback received on questionnaires)
 - Statistics data from audience questionnaires
 - Number of disclosures cast members received
- Evaluations will be shared with the commissioning body within 45 days of the last performance being given.

Performances

- Perception Theatre Ltd reserve the right to terminate a show should staff/young people communicate/display verbally or physically abusive or derogatory language/behaviour. In this instance Perception Theatre Ltd will not offer a refund for this production nor return to this venue again. In this rare instance, a written report will be given by Perception Theatre Ltd to the commissioner and venue.
- Perception Theatre Ltd reserve the right to terminate a show should a venue not provide a safe and adequate space to perform.
- In the (extremely rare) event that Perception Theatre Ltd cannot perform a scheduled production. Perception Theatre Ltd will reschedule. If the rescheduled date for performance does not work for commissioners and/or venues Perception Theatre Ltd will offer a refund for that given production.
- Perception Theatre Ltd and all of its company members are trained in receiving disclosures. In the event that an audience member discloses information to a company member, the company member will:
 - Report the disclosure to a relevant member of staff at the venue.
 - Report the disclosure to Perception Theatre Ltd. Perception Theatre Ltd will then:
 - Report the disclosure to the commissioner.
 - Ensure that the appropriate steps are being taken to support the audience member.

Bookings

- All payments of invoices should be made within 30 days of the last performance being given.

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