



GW THEATRE COMPANY

Theatre Based Gangs Prevention Project

Award winning Greater Manchester based **GW Theatre Company** is leading the way in tackling gang culture with young people using a unique programme of work led by performances of a theatre production called **Ganging Up**.

With an urgent need to address these issues local authorities have been quick to snap up the project on its first tour and between now and the end of March GW will visit a total of 26 secondary schools in the Tameside, Rochdale and Oldham areas of Greater Manchester, reaching 4000 young people aged 14-15.

The central aim within the work provoked by the play is to action challenge, prevention, protection and reduction.

Arts Council England, Greater Manchester Police, New Charter Housing Trust and AGMA all supported the initial development of this project in 2011 when it was piloted with great success to 700 young people cross Greater Manchester. The social disturbances in the summer of 2011 threw these issues into sharp focus and **GW Theatre Company** has once again demonstrated its knack of tackling key social issues at precisely the right time. This new project follows hot on the heels of a 4 year national tour of their hugely successful and award winning production **One Extreme to the Other** which has reached over 50,000 young people in schools and over 5000 people in community venues and prisons.

GANGING UP, written by the award-winning writer Mike Harris, received tremendous feedback from its pilot tour and the company has spent the last seven months developing educational resources to support the play.

GW Creative Director Dave Jones "What makes our work unique is our ability to target the most pressing social issues and then turn them into memorable theatre productions, instead of walking leaflets. As artists we set the highest possible standards for our performance work; the creative catalyst for learning. We believe that if we engage heads and hearts we can then change minds. Young people must be treated with respect: give them the truth on stage based on full and proper research and then help them to understand complex issues and give them the skills and confidence to think independently and make better decisions. The theatre is an agent for change. This project will reach thousands of young people and make a real difference."

GANGING UP is a furiously paced, funny and moving drama about how teenagers get into gangs and how hard it is to get out of them. It's about gangs now and gangs in the so-called 'good old days'. It's a tragic-comedy of love, betrayal, and taking responsibility. It's designed to provoke discussion amongst anyone from 14 to 40 (and beyond) and is always followed by a session in which the actors come back in characters to allow the audience to interrogate them about what they did.



Ganging Up explores many different kinds of gangs and there is a specific emphasis on tackling the growing involvement of young women in gangs, in particular the exploitation and violent treatment of them.



Aimed at young people aged 14 upwards and adult audiences too, **Ganging Up** offers a powerful theatrical stimulus to debate and comprehensive educational resources to inform further discussion and to lead in good practice. There are specially designed lesson plans to support the play and an interactive website will be launched in the summer of 2012.

The play is suitable for schools, YOI's, prisons, non-school settings, community venues and conferences. It can also be used to train professionals and would be a valuable tool for anyone seeking to undertake work which tackles gangs. Independent evaluation can be built into the work. GW's previous work has had a proven impact on the attitudes and perception of young people.

GW Theatre is also touring **One Extreme to the Other**, an award winning play which tackles far right and Islamic extremism.

This nationally acclaimed play has been seen by over 55,000 people and is now widely regarded as a piece of leading national practice in tackling these issues.

The play works very well in schools, colleges, community venues and prisons and is supported by excellent educational resources.



GW Theatre Further Information

**Ganging Up
And
One Extreme to the Other**

**Are both touring in 2012
For further details or to discuss
our work please contact
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