



Playworks Productions Community Action

Notes on the success of the pilot programme *10ft Tall & Bullet Proof*

Televised Report: Please see short clip from TV1's 'Breakfast' on YouTube at Playworksproductions channel <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFwfAydXoAg>

Programme Evaluation Press Release:

Can a 'Community Action' project using 'Theatre in Education' and Drama in Education be effective in reducing harm from drugs? A local project, which is in line with National Drug Policy aims and Ministry of Social Development recommendations, following an "education not propaganda" approach, says yes!

Ten foot tall and bullet proof, the Northland produced 'P' play has passed a formal evaluation with flying colours. In late 2004 and early 2005 the play toured High Schools, mainly throughout Northland and Auckland but also as far south as the Wairarapa.

Between six months and one year after the performance had visited schools an evaluation questionnaire was mailed out. Time had not dulled the enthusiasm and a 50% response rate gave top marks to this educational initiative.

- 100% of respondents said the play and workshop were an effective way to address drug issues.
- 100% said their students had a greater appreciation of the dangers of 'P' abuse from seeing the play.
- 1 in 3 schools reported having students seek help from school counsellors (or other avenues) subsequent to the performance. (Community Health workers report that one small Northland area school had 17 students who sought help following the performance and workshop.)
- 1 in 3 respondents said that they knew of students' change in behaviour that can be attributed to seeing the show.
- 85% said that the performance had helped them discuss issues around 'P' (and/or other drug) abuse elsewhere in their school programmes.
- 95% would recommend that other so called "too hard" topics be addressed in this manner

And

- 100% of respondents reported that they would recommend the performance to other schools and communities.

Drug abuse and 'P' is still with us, destroying lives and families and it is a continuing threat to the health our young people. *Playworks Productions* and Northlands *Arts Promotion Trust* believe that it is of capital importance to re-launch this community action programme. The evidence shows that this Theatre in Education initiative is effective. We believe that the programme, *Ten Foot Tall and Bullet Proof*, can effectively empower and educate our youth and should be back on the road.

Comments from Clients

“Excellent play and performance”.

“Thoroughly recommend this show and would love to have them back. I have since recommended it to the Police in South Waikato. I would like more days as we are a big school.”

“I would have liked more to have seen it, but like many things you don't know how good things are going to be until you've seen them for yourself. Thanks for the opportunity. Keep up the good work.”

“It was great and I wish we had organized some more performances so that other students could have seen it. Well done on a great production.”

“Further funding for projects like these are important for our communities. The follow up workshop was awesome. Most of the students related to the play as it was informative and fun to watch.”

“I was so disappointed to find out these performances were coming to an end and wrote to commend their powerful impact for the good in the hopes they could continue”.

“Next time we would love to invite parents, caregivers and those interested in the presentation as I firmly believe we cannot as successfully deal with the individuals problems without addressing the contextual or community influences.”

Playworks Productions Ltd.

Vision: To empower people and communities through Performing & Screen Arts

Contact: abdivers@iqrin.co.nz

The Arts Promotion Trust

Vision: The Northland creative / arts sector is dynamic, thriving, influential and productive; renowned locally, nationally and globally.

Contact: info@apt.org.nz