

Content

A lot of thought and expertise has gone in to making 'Chelsea's Story' suitable for its target audience. It is hard-hitting without being overly didactic or graphic. However, **Child Sexual Exploitation is a highly sensitive issue and can trigger emotional reactions.** It is essential that young people and their parents are made aware of what they are going to watch (and ideally given a choice as to whether they wish to watch) and that the appropriate staff are in the room should members of the audience need to talk to, or indeed, disclose to them after the performance. Please make your staff aware of any appropriate referral mechanisms should a young person disclose. Please also be aware that the play is not suitable for young people who have already been identified as having suffered trauma or abuse (consultation with the young person, their family and professionals should be carried out prior to delivery to determine suitability and benefits from watching).

Cast Size

There will be four actors touring with the production and, occasionally, the director, producer or arts administrator may accompany them. All of the company members will report to reception upon arrival and sign in. All will have photo ID on them if needed. Home Office guidelines do not class the performers as being in 'regulated' activity (as they are not 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.

Arrival Time

The cast will aim to arrive 1 hour prior to the performance time so that they can set up the equipment. Please ensure that the space is available and clear of people during the set-up period as the cast will need to set out wires and extension leads and make sure that it is all safe.

Space

The production is very flexible and can be adapted to be performed in most spaces. Please bear in mind though that there are four actors, a small set and sound equipment to set out. Also bear in mind that the actors are not using microphones, so the room should be a suitable size for them to be heard at the back. Ideally we'd like a performance space of 4 metres x 4 metres.

Layout

The layout is End On. Please ensure that there are enough chairs in the room. Our cast will rejig them into the appropriate format once they have put the set and the equipment up. We always try to make the space slightly different from what the audience are used to if possible - this helps to create a more effective theatrical experience.

Audience Size

We have performed the play to 6 young people in a secure unit and over 500 young people in a school theatre. Ideally an audience size of no more than 200 is most effective – although we will always endeavour do whatever you need. Please let us know if you have any concerns about the size of the space.

Show Length

The performance lasts for 45 minutes and the post-show talk lasts for 15 minutes.

Introduction

Once all of the audience are in it helps if a member of staff can settle them down, ensure that mobile phones are off, bags are under chairs and appropriate trigger warnings and sign-posting to support is given.

Needs

All we need is a place to perform, 6 chairs, a small table and an electricity supply. A handy place to park near the performance venue is always good for unloading and a coffee or tea usually goes down well with the cast. Directions to the staff toilets would be good too.