



Breaking the Chain

"Without doubt the most powerful presentation I have seen in 33 years of teaching."
- (Chelsea's Choice), T Mottram, Asst Head, Blythe Bridge School

"Outstanding. Had the audience on the edge of their seats"
- (Beyond the Warzone), Major C Mitchell, British Army

"A very useful and innovative way of reaching young people and raising awareness."
- (Chelsea's Choice), Sheila Taylor, NWG Network

"I have worked with AlterEgo for a number of years on two different projects, both of which have been powerful pieces of work which have helped officers to cement their learning into practice and improve service delivery to survivors of these crimes."

- (Behind Closed Doors & Working it Out), Superintendent C Blackburn, Surrey Police

'Breaking the Chain' is a hard-hitting applied theatre production (developed by the creative team behind 'Chelsea's Story (formerly 'Chelsea's Choice)', 'CountyLines', 'Going to Extremes' and 'ToughLove'), that aims to raise awareness, kick-start conversations and build resilience around youth violence - with a focus on knife crime - as part of a public health approach to tackling the issue – an issue that is seeing young people seriously hurt and, all too often, killed on the streets of our towns and cities.

The production lasts for 50 minutes (including an actor led post-show talk) and can be targeted at two different groups:-

- Young people (year 7+)
- Parents, carers, teachers & professionals working with children & young people

Recently out of prison and trying to turn his life around 27 year old Tyler is worried about his younger brother Zeke and his younger sister Eden, as well as their friends Danny and Naz. Zeke and Danny have started carrying knives, Eden and Naz are often going out of town and Tyler is desperate to ensure that they don't make the same mistakes that he's made in the past. The play follows them over the course of one day as the tensions are mounting and Tyler must intervene to avoid a tragedy and try to talk them all into breaking the chain.

The play aims to:-

- **Break the chain** by reassuring young people that knife carrying is not actually common and that they do not need to **carry knives to protect themselves** from other knife carriers.
- Raise awareness around the **risks** and **consequences** of youth violence and knife crime on the individual and on their friends, families and on the wider community,
- Build resilience by raising awareness, creating a common language and kick-starting conversations around the **influences, fears** and **pressures** that can lead to the decision to hurt someone or to carry a knife and how these can be managed or avoided.
- Build resilience by raising awareness of and promoting the **core skills** (including but not limited to: self-confidence, self-esteem, risk assessment, emotional intelligence, empathy, decision making, recognising healthy relationships) that can be used help young people to navigate a whole host of issues, **critical moments** and **adverse childhood experiences** that they may encounter
- Raise awareness around the importance of **seeking help and advice** or telling someone if they are concerned about themselves, a friend or someone they know.
- Sign-post who young people can **speak** to.

Breaking the Chain...

The play has been developed in consultation with young people, youth, social and health workers, charities, police forces, urban youth specialists and the families and friends of those tragically affected by youth violence in order to tackle this highly complex issue in an effective manner and with credible voices.

AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd is a not-for-profit social enterprise dedicated to using theatre to inform, to educate & to entertain. As one of the leading educational theatre companies in the country we believe that theatre is an excellent & highly effective tool for raising awareness, conveying information and creating behavioural change in a non-didactic or patronising manner. It has an emotional impact that resonates long after the performance has finished in a way that a talk, an information booklet or a DVD simply cannot achieve.

Costs for 2019

- 1 week (up to 10 shows) £5,000+VAT
- Conference/Training/One-off Performances (up to 3 shows in a day) = £1,200+VAT

Costs for 2020

- 1 week (up to 10 shows) £5,100+VAT
- Conference/Training/One-off Performances (up to 3 shows in a day) = £1,250+VAT

When booking a week you are paying for the delivery of 10 shows during each weekly block. We cannot do more than 2 venues in any one day (unless the 3rd venue is for an evening show) and we cannot do more than 1 evening show each week. When booking one-off days you are paying for up to 3 shows in that day. The 3 shows can be split between 2 venues. We cannot travel to 3 different venues within one working day (unless the 3rd venue is for an evening show).

We can perform the play for intimate audiences or to entire year groups at a time. All we need is a performance space roughly 4m x 4m and somewhere to plug in our sound system. The cast do not use mics so performance venues must be suitable for unamplified voices. The cast aim to arrive one hour before the show start time to set up and take about 30 minutes to pack down.

If you would like to find out more please email alteregocreativesolutions@gmail.com, call 01908 299 432 or go to www.alteregocreativesolutions.co.uk

