

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

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## EDUCATIONAL

The sub-text of "Just About Ready to Jump" looks at the implications of such human and social behaviours as:

1. Our need to love and be loved.
2. The invisible wall we often build between each other in order to protect ourselves from being wounded or found out.
3. Compulsive behaviour – terminal uniqueness.
4. Parental expectations coupled with a total misunderstanding of generational changes.
5. How some of us are in possession of a self-destruct button and manifest our emotional instability and fear by overt anger or withdrawal into self.
6. How a minority of us (though in my opinion rapidly becoming the majority) need alcohol or drugs – sometimes both – in order to suppress feelings of low self-esteem or isolation.
7. How we are bombarded by belief systems, family ideals and dogmas, often leaving the individual confused as to any sense of self.

The character of Jack Rees demonstrates – often in an amusing way – all the above traits, but because of his driving ambition, coupled with his paranoia, he is not aware that all his manipulations of people and audiences are going to turn in on him and ultimately destroy him.

On the academic side, the play illustrates the incredible perception of some of our greatest writers – Shakespeare, Chekov, Osborne, The Bible and, last but not least, A.L. Kennedy. This is achieved in a very innovative, stimulating, sometimes shocking and non-patronising way. For drama students the after-show chat could take the form of a practical seminar on acting techniques as I am also a fully qualified Drama teacher.

In most schools where I have performed, English teachers have used my visit to stimulate discussion and creative writing exercises using the above seven points.



## **APPLICATION FOR GRANT**

### **REASONS FOR SEEKING REGIONAL SUPPORT**

**What has the project to offer specifically to:**

#### ***School Pupils?***

Suitability 15+. At all three London schools where the play has been performed students voluntarily participated enthusiastically in discussions evoked by the play. Such issues as self-awareness, family dysfunction, addiction and communication of feelings. A.L. Kennedy has been innovative in subtly interweaving short passages from some classical plays.

#### ***Disadvantaged groups, e.g. unemployed, special needs, APTs?***

Most audiences have identified with the main character, who hails from a deprived and dispirited mining community. He is a victim of parental rejection and alcohol abuse, but survives by dint of sharp wit and raw talent.

#### ***Minority groups?***

On British Council Indian tour it was received very positively on all levels. Quote: 70 year old Indian lady: "You have changed our lives tonight – it is the first time my son and I are really talking." It intrigues practicing/recovering/potential alcoholics and their relatives. The poignancy and humour appeals to all groups.

#### ***The community at large?***

The play has universal appeal, challenging an individual's placement in the overall scheme of things and presenting the fundamental human dilemma of the quest to love and be loved. Please take advantage and see it working in the community at Paisley Arts Centre – Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Will the project create/maintain jobs?***

In so far as it could well be part of a process in restructuring the life of a potential/practicing alcoholic. Also the play is an inspirational piece both in literary composition and acting technique. It works well with an attending workshop. It was awarded a 'fringe first' in 1993.

### **PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE**

#### ***Will professionals take part in the project?***

I have considerable experience (20 years) in theatre and television (including Alun Morgan in High Road) and various seasons at the National Theatre. I am also a fully qualified drama teacher having initiated many drama workshops with able and less able students alike.

#### ***Have they worked with the regional council before?***

The writer A.L. Kennedy has done so.

#### ***Where and when?***

Writer in residence – Hamilton and East Kilbride District Socialwork Department 1989-1991.