



I Love You, Mum - I Promise I Won't Die

by Mark Wheeler

Information for Teachers

What is it?

I Love You, Mum - I Promise I Won't Die is a verbatim play, written by acclaimed playwright Mark Wheeler. It tells the story of Daniel Spargo-Mabbs who tragically died at the age of 16 from an overdose of MDMA. The play was published by Bloomsbury in February 2017, and StopWatch Theatre Company delivered the first professional tour of 72 performances between January and March 2017. A further 80 performances between January and March 2018 in its second tour and 92 in its third tour between January and March 2019. Wizard Theatre toured from January to March 2020 delivering 69 performances before Covid-19 stopped the tour. This will be the play's fifth live tour!

How does it work?

It is delivered in a single 75-minute session which comprises the 45-minute play and 30-minute workshop. It may only be performed to students from Year 9 and above, with a maximum group size of 200 per performance. We need sole access to the performance space 60 minutes before the performance begins to set up. It will then take us 20 minutes to pack up and vacate the space. For a morning performance we ask for a 9.30 or later start time to give adequate travel time for the theatre company and have found earlier starts aren't as effective for students.

What will the students learn?

We aim to leave no student in doubt that they always have a choice about the decisions they make and that the risks associated with illegal substance misuse are incredibly high. They will learn some facts that will help them make informed decisions and some tools to put their decisions into practice in a pressured situation.

What do I need to do on the day?

- Do allow only Years 9 and above to participate - it is not suitable for younger age groups
- Do set up the chairs according to our seating plan before we arrive, or make some assistance available when we arrive
- Do ensure we have sole access to the hall 60 minutes before the start time. We will be setting up lighting and sound equipment, and require 2 mains power points
- Do bring the audience to the hall 5 minutes before the start time, ideally without coats and bags
- Do ensure we have a full 75 minutes to perform the play and workshop
- Do be aware that it will take us around 20 minutes to pack up and clear the hall
- Don't ask us to perform in a gym or sports hall unless there is no alternative. These spaces make very poor theatres and the audience will have difficulty hearing everything
- Don't ask the team to perform the play or workshop without teacher cover. There must always be a teacher in attendance
- Do try to allow form teachers and PSHE staff to attend the performance. This will maximize the benefit of the follow-up sessions