

## 'I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die' tour - Autumn 2024-25

### Information for Teachers

#### What is it?

I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die is a powerful piece of verbatim theatre, written by acclaimed playwright Mark Wheeller. It tells the story of Daniel Spargo-Mabbs who tragically died at the age of 16 from an overdose of MDMA in 2014, charting what happened to Dan, the decisions he made and how it affected his family and friends – from tragedy to redemption – all told in their own words.

The play was first published by Bloomsbury in February 2017 and has gone on to be performed over 300 times in schools across England. The play toured schools in Scotland and northern England for the first time in 2022 – including a performance at HMP Perth – and will tour again in Autumn 2024/25.

#### 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 key facts that will help them make informed decisions and important strategies to put their decisions into practice in a pressured situation.

### Practical considerations

#### Parking

- We require a safe parking space on the school's premises, as close to the performance space as possible to allow for quick get-in/get-out.
- The team will travel in one vehicle no larger than a Transit-style van.

#### Arrival time

- The team will aim to arrive a minimum of 45 minutes prior to performance start, which will allow enough time for entry, set-up and preparation before students are allowed into the space.

#### Named contact

- We require a named contact who will meet the team at reception and escort them to the performance area.
- The named contact will be able to make the team aware of the school environment and access to facilities such as toilets etc.

## Safeguarding

- It is requested that a member of school staff remain with the team at all times when students are present.
- All team members will have an up-to-date DBS check prior to delivery date; sight of team members' DBS Reports can be made available on request.
- Team members will perform and conduct themselves to high professional standards and in line with Tie It Up Theatre's Safeguarding Policy (available on request).

## Preparing for the play

- We want to ensure that the students and school benefit as much as possible from the play. As a Trauma Informed education provider, the DSM Foundation can offer some ideas to help you prepare. Whilst watching 'I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die' will be beneficial to most, the story of Dan's death could trigger powerful emotions and trauma in some who may have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The children and staff involved may need extra pastoral support before, during and after the sessions. Please use the checklist in the booking form to ensure students and staff are prepared for the play

## The team – who you will expect to meet

- 4 x professional actors (2 x female, 2 x male).
- The team may be accompanied by a member of Tie It Up Theatre's production team.
- All team names will be listed on the company's pre-delivery checklist.

## Performance space

- Min. performance space of 6m wide x 6 m deep (there may be some flexibility around this floor area).
- We require access to at least 2 x double power sockets.

## Staging

- Tie It Up Theatre will bring all equipment to stage the performance.
- If we are performing in a space with theatre lighting, we would ask that there is a 'cool wash' generated on the performance area.

## Audience set-up

- The performance is adaptable to any audience set-up **with the exception of** in-the-round. School halls, if possible are best set up in traditional (face on) theatre style, or thrust, with seating placed face on and to both sides.
- The performance ideally should take place on the same floor level as the seating, but can easily be performed on a school hall stage.
- The production can also be performed in school theatres/studios.

## Audience numbers

- A max. of 200 students for any one performance

## Running time

- Performance: c.55-mins.
- Drug education workshop: 30-mins.

## Insurance

- Tie It Up Theatre Limited has public liability insurance (£5m) and employers' liability insurance. A copy of our insurance cover is available on request.

### Copyright, photography, recording

- Due to licencing restrictions the performance cannot be photographed, or video recorded under any circumstances.
- TiE It Up Theatre may take photographs or video of a delivery. Any use of this media will be for internal purposes only. However, if we wish to use it for marketing purposes (company website, social media channels etc) prior permission will be sought by the company from the school with the necessary permissions sought from parents/guardians.

### Post-delivery resources

- Within 24 hours of the delivery, we will email to the designated contact access to its tailor-made Drug Education Teacher Resource Pack, that aims to assist teachers and students to explore further the issues and themes of the play.
- The DSM Foundation can also offer a full range of resources and support for students, staff and parents. To hear more, please email [bookings@dsmfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bookings@dsmfoundation.org.uk)

### Contribution to costs

For each performance and workshop we request a contribution of £300 from state-funded schools and £650 from independent school/commercial settings. Costs to both are heavily subsidised by the DSM Foundation through grant funding.




### If you have any questions prior to your delivery day, please get in touch

Jenny Stone – DSMF play coordinator [play@dsmfoundation.org.uk](mailto:play@dsmfoundation.org.uk)

David Chafer – Producer/Actor [david@tiu-theatre.co.uk](mailto:david@tiu-theatre.co.uk)

Elliot Montgomery – Artistic/Education Director [elliott@tiu-theatre.co.uk](mailto:elliott@tiu-theatre.co.uk)

### Find out more

<p><a href="http://www.tiu-theatre.co.uk">www.tiu-theatre.co.uk</a></p> <p> @TiEitUpTheatre</p> <p> @TiUTheatre</p> <p>Tie It Up Theatre Ltd: registered in England no. 10454219</p>	<p><a href="http://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk">www.dsmfoundation.org.uk</a></p> <p> @danielspargomabbsfoundation</p> <p> @foundationdsm</p> <p>The Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation: company no. 08863937 Registered charity no. 1158921</p>
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