

StopWatch Theatre Company presents

Arson About

by Mark Wheeler

an arson prevention theatre-in-education programme
for Year 8



What's the story?

Ian, his girlfriend Molly and his best mate Stueey are on a night out to the fair. Hanging over the two boys is the accusation that one of them has been sending threatening notes to a teacher. They decide to go into their school after evening classes have finished to investigate. But when Ian has to make a choice between his girlfriend and his best mate, he is literally playing with fire. Who will he choose and what will be the consequences of the teenagers "just arsing about"?

Is there a workshop?

Yes. When the play has finished the audience learn more about the problem of arson and resolve the story of the play. The first section uses forum theatre to establish the potential consequences of deliberately started fires. Then Ian and Stueey are interrogated by the audience to find out why they behaved as they did. When the audience find them both guilty, the consequences for themselves, their victims and the community at large are graphically demonstrated, and the audience are left with chilling proof that Fire Kills.

Who are StopWatch?

A professional theatre-in-education company who have been touring the UK since 1990. Their reputation for quality performances and workshops is unrivalled.

How does it work?

We come to your school to perform. We need access to the hall 1 hour before the performance time to set up equipment. The total running time is then 75 minutes. The play lasts 45 minutes, and is immediately followed by a 30 minute workshop to the whole audience. The maximum audience for each performance is 200 Year 8 students. It will then take us 20 minutes to vacate the space.

How do I book?

Your local Arson Task Force or Fire Safety Officer will tell you the available dates in your area and allocate you a morning or afternoon slot.



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More information can be found at www.stopwatchtheatre.com/arson