

Mum, can you lend me twenty quid?

PRODUCTION PACK

*"You think you can never become
a disgrace and end up addicted to
poppy seed waste"*

The true story of a family torn
apart by addiction.

IT IS
WHAT IS
IT IS
PRODUCTIONS

*"It opened my eyes to
the fact that there are
so many more mums
like me"*

Audience Member, 2018



MUM CAN YOU LEND ME £20

It Is What It Is Productions in association with ***DrugFAM*** are delighted to present their performance and workshop package of *Mum, Can You Lend Me Twenty Quid? What Drugs Did to My Family*

This flexible package gives audiences the opportunity to watch the play and then take part in a forum theatre workshop which is created to suit the needs of 4 different audience groups:

- Families of those who are addicted to drugs/alcohol
- Young people in secondary and higher education
- Addicts and individuals in recovery
- Professionals who may work with those who are addicted to drugs/alcohol

About the Play

Adapted from the memoir '*Mum, Can You Lend Me Twenty Quid? What Drugs Did to My Family*' by Elizabeth Burton-Phillips MBE Founder of DrugFAM, this one-hour play tells the heart-breaking true story of Nicholas and Simon Mills. It follows their journey into Heroin addiction, from school age through to adulthood and the strain their addiction placed on their family and their relationship with each other. Please be advised this production contains strong language and drug use.

About the Workshops

These one-hour workshops are specifically designed to suit the needs of our 4 different audience groups and use different characters and scenarios from the play to explore the issues most relevant to that audience.

Through these workshops we aim to; provide a safe environment for the discussion of issues; offer the potential for the changing of perceptions; demonstrate the universality of the issue; challenge perceptions & stereotypes of addicts and of families affected by addiction; and encourage more families affected by addiction to seek and ask for appropriate help.

Families

These workshops will allow family members of those addicted to drugs/ alcohol to:

- Explore the effects of addiction on family relationships.
- Examine decision-making moments in detail, imagining different responses and consequences.
- Discuss their interpretation of the events and compare it to situations they may recognise in their own lives.
- Examine the relationship between addict and substance, giving family members some insight into the constant pull that addicts live through.

Schools

These workshops will allow students to:

- Examine key decision-making moments of all characters in more detail allowing time and space to really consider the consequences of the specific action.
- Imagine different responses and outcomes to these situations.
- Discuss and offer suggestions of potential solutions and then by playing these suggestions out, explore the possible different outcomes to the same situation.
- Discuss their interpretation of the events and compare it to situations they may recognise in their own lives.
- Discuss how they feel is the best way to react in the given situation and their reasons why.
- Take on the role of a character and explore their solution personally through role play, allowing students to empathise by stepping into the characters' shoes and gaining a different perspective.

Addicts/those in recovery

These workshops will allow addicts and those in recovery to:

- Examine key decision-making moments of an addict in detail, exploring the far-reaching consequences which result from this specific action.
- Imagine different responses and outcomes to these situations.
- Discuss their interpretation of the events and compare it to situations they may recognise in their own lives, exploring how their own addiction may have affected family members.
- Take on the role of a character and explore their solution personally through role play, allowing them to empathise by stepping into the characters' shoes and gaining a different perspective.

Professionals

These workshops will allow those who work with addicts/those in recovery to:

- Examine the relationship between addict and substance, giving them some insight into the constant pull that addicts live through.
- Discuss their interpretation of the events and compare it to situations they may recognise from their own professional experiences.
- Explore the events from the point of view of the family member, gaining extra insight into the life of an addict and the consequences of their actions.
- Take on the role of a character and explore their solution personally through role play, allowing them to empathise by stepping into the characters' shoes and gaining a different perspective.

***"Powerful, realistic,
hard hitting, very
poignant!"***

Audience Member, 2018



FEEDBACK

The acting was intimate but powerful and the cast of three created a personal interaction which gave great emotion and intensity to the performance. We hope the message it conveyed will go some way to discouraging young people from succumbing to drug and alcohol misuse, so that future families will not have to suffer the heartbreak and suffering of watching a much loved son or daughter chose the destructive road to addiction and exploitation. We believe that the performance did just that through a mesmeric narration of love, loss and hope.

Lynn Evans, Committee Chair
Rebound Carers' Support Group Ltd

There are two very powerful messages that arise from the play that sum up the damage of addiction and its effects on a family. The first is when the son injects himself in the car while his mother is driving and she becomes witness to that which was previously hidden and the second comes from the moment of recognition that she wants her son to change more than he does and because of that comes to understand her own powerlessness in the situation. These two events, his sickness and her inability to help him, are like a hammer-blow to the audience. This play is not only about experience and a journey of suffering and loss, but about what one can and cannot do in relation to both. It's message is that although addiction can have devastating impact on a family it is only the addict who can really change that dynamic. He must want to change. The family is the context for this and support is necessary but this play is about what happens when that support is exploited for purposes of addiction and the spiraling problems that emerge in relation to that addiction. The actors in the play are outstanding and the intimacy of the small cast increased the emotional impact of the performance. The play highlighted the destructive forces of addiction but also pointed to the dangers of blind faith as the mother continues to believe her son while the audience can see him constantly lying. This is a play about the struggle over responsibility between mother and son. And its message is that if this struggle is to end positively we must realise that ending addiction has to be the responsibility.

Dr Graham Spencer
University of Portsmouth



WHAT DO WE NEED IN ORDER TO DELIVER OUR PACKAGE?

- A completed booking form
- A performance space of 6m x 6m
- Access to the space required 2 hours before the performance
- Preferably we need a ground floor performance space, if this is not possible we will need lift access

HOW TO BOOK?

To book *Mum Can You Lend Me £20* please email info@iwiip.co.uk or contact us on 07834529246 to discuss your requirements. We will then send you a form to be completed in order to confirm your booking.

