

Mini Play Number Eighteen

TROUBLE BREWING

Children growing up in the same neighbourhood can be polarised by gang culture. The gang forges their identity and demands their loyalty. Mr and Mrs Dagostino own a small pizza take away. Over the years they have watched the children grow up into teenagers. They even know some of their names. But tonight the kids became fighters, gang lovers, gang haters. The distressed Dagostino's relate how the conflict between The Moonies and The Daggers gave birth to murder.

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KNIFE CRIME / GANGS

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FOREWARD

Zik-Zak Corolla's mini plays for pleasure and purpose.

The accounts in the plays are drawn from real-life experiences but the characters are fictitious.

The plays will help raise awareness and promote useful discussion of social issues that now effect most families. The aim is to help safeguard our kids from the increasing dangers they face in this ever-changing world.

Interactive and fun, the plays and the following *Questions for Discussion*, help raise awareness of challenges that affect the younger generation. They have been designed to promote discussion and dialogue especially between kids and their parents or guardians, teachers and others who are genuinely concerned about the welfare of our society.

Because the plays address real issues the language used is at times direct but is unlikely to be offensive. Feel comfortable about playing.

Tips for playing

Drop the directional notes and change the genders of the characters if it is more appropriate to your setting and cast; but be sure to follow the general thrust of the play. Short, the plays may be, but they are carefully researched, thoughtfully penned – and they pack a punch!

It is important to have fun acting out the plays and to get fully involved in the *Questions for Discussion*. Remember not to be judgemental but to listen, consider and learn.

Get Involved. Get Motivated. Play Safe.

Invite your family and friends around for the evening. Make a night of playing and learning. Have some fun!

Speak to the teachers at your kids' school. Get competitions going – Best Production, Best Actor, Best Answer, Best Lesson Learned. *

Contact local groups and clubs to put on a production of a selection of the plays. *

Be expansive. Get on social media (if it is safe and sensible) and spread the word. *

Go Big! Invite the local radio and TV station to come and see your very own special premiere. *

** Performances are authorized for educational purposes only; not for commercial gain.*

Enjoy! Hugs! – Zik-Zak Corolla

LIST OF PLAYS

No.	Subject	Title of Play
1	Alcohol/Driving	Bumpy Ride
2	Alcohol/Social Media	One More Shot
3	Peer Pressure	Movie Madness
4	Peer Pressure	The Breeze and the Wind
5	Bullying	I'm a Bully Are You?
6	Gun Crime	Mommy
7	Bullying	He Deserves Respect
8	Bullying	Gotta Change Wanna Change
9	Drugs	How Is Sally Getting On?
10	Drugs	A Fish on the Line
11	Drugs	Will You Be My Girl?
12	Drugs	You Gotta Show Love
13	Depression	The Phone Call
14	Depression	Black Dog
15	Child Sexual Abuse	No. 26
16	Child Sexual Abuse	The Restaurant
17	Knife Crime	1:30am
18	Knife Crime/Gangs	Trouble Brewing
19	Knife Crime/Gangs	23
20	Body Image	Carrots and Onions
21	Single Mom	That Night
22	Sex/Alcohol	Fast Car
23	Self-Harm/Sexual Abuse	Do You Think They'll Believe You?
24	Cutting/Self-Harm	Me and My Mom
25	Self-Harm	Brain Box
26	Gambling	The Monster
27	Binge Drinking	A Target to Kill
28	Binge Drinking	What a Party!
29	Gun Crime	Rap A Ta Tat Tat Tat
30	Gun Crime	Miss Isabella Lindeman
31	Cyberbullying	Drastic Action

Characters

Reporter (Dan)

Mr Dagostino

Mrs Dagostino

Dagger gang

Dagger gang's victim

Two Bystanders

Margaret (Studio link)

Teaser

A friendly neighbourhood. School kids turn into gang members. As tension rises trouble brews.

Scene One

Reporter (Speaking to camera using a microphone) Thank you Margaret. (Slight pause) Well, I'm standing outside Pizza Corner with the owners Mr & Mrs Dagostino. Thank you for talking to us. Mr Dagostino, can you tell us what happened tonight please?

Mr Dagostino Well, there were a few kids hanging out just down the road as usual. They occasionally come in for Pizza.

Mrs Dagostino Honestly, we don't feel safe in this neighbourhood anymore. Not since these gangs have been fighting.

Reporter How do you know they are a gang?

Mr Dagostino Well, for a start, they all wear a shiny moon motif on their jackets.

Mrs Dagostino And, the other lot have tattoos on the side of their heads (Pointing) just here, a dagger. They're not really threatening when they come into the shop but some of them are cold. They're just kids. School kids.

Mr Dagostino With nothing better to do than hang around the streets at night. Tonight, well for the last few nights you sensed there was something going to happen. You just knew that there was trouble brewing.

Mrs Dagostino You can sense it. The atmosphere changes but you still don't expect it to happen right on your doorstep. It's frightening (sobbing) and that poor boy.

Reporter Can you tell us what happened please? If you can manage it.

Mrs Dagostino (Regaining her composure) Yes, I want to. The world should know what's happening around here.

Mr Dagostino Yes. The parents need to know what's happening to their kids. (Pause) I suppose things got a bit heated about 8 o'clock tonight (looking at his wife) Wouldn't you say so Dear?

Mrs Dagostino Yes, it was around that time that the ones with the tattoos came down the street and started . . .

(Mrs Dagostino's comments are acted out in scene 2)

Scene 2

Dagger gang (Chanting and pointing) Moonies! Losers! Scum!
Moonies! Losers! Scum!

Mr Dagostino And they started rapping.

Mrs Dagostino And, one of them – of the Dagger lot, started filming. You know, with his phone.

Dagger gang Panic, panic, low-life panic
You ain't goin' 'scape
Not this late
Wees gonna waste your moon
Wheres you goin' is the tomb

Mr Dagostino Over and over again and then suddenly the Moon lot just ran but one tripped and fell and the Daggers, well they . . .

Dagger gang (Daggers beat up the Moon victim. He is screaming and the Daggers are yelling and chanting. They slash him all over the body and then run off, chanting)

We got you scum
You couldn't run
You're past sell date
This is your fate
Slash and cut him
And hear that scream
We can't be beaten
We're the HIT team

Mrs Dagostino We'd locked the door and called the police. He – the kid – managed to get up.

Mr Dagostino I don't know how.

Mrs Dagostino And he staggered over to our shop.

Mr Dagostino There were two people over there (Pointing) They were frozen to the ground – terrified! When they saw the state he was in, well, they just . . .

Two Bystanders (Vomit on the road)

Mrs Dagostino Just threw up. One of them was sobbing – could hardly breathe.

Mr Dagostino We opened the door and the kid just collapsed in the doorway.

Reporter And that's where he died, Mr Dagostino.

Mr Dagostino Yes, that's right. The police and ambulance got here about that time. They tried so hard to save him, but he was cut so badly.

Mrs Dagostino (Sobbing) Dozens of slash marks. He was just a boy!

Reporter Thank you so much for speaking to us. (Mr Dagostino comforts his wife as they go back into the shop) Back to you Margaret in the studio.

Scene 3

Margaret That's a heart-breaking story Dan. Is it gang warfare? Is that right?

Reporter Not really Mary. It's about identity, belonging, peer pressure, availability of knives, drugs. It's a big issue. It's complicated.

Margaret Is there a solution Dan? Can it be sorted?

Dan (Turning to the audience) Is there a solution? Can it be sorted? You out there, what do you think?

THE END

Questions for Discussion Trouble Brewing

1. What do you think of kids being in gangs?
2. What do you think of kids carrying knives?
3. Do you know of any gangs in this area?
4. What are the dangers of being in a gang?
5. Do you think kids are fully aware of the dangers of gang culture and knife crime?
6. What are the dangers of carrying a knife?
7. Are there any advantages in carrying a knife?
8. Can music influence kids into joining a gang? What type?
9. Does music influence the way gangs act? What type?
10. Does music influence you?
11. Do you feel safe at school? Why?
12. Do you feel safe in your neighbourhood? Why?
13. If you knew of someone carrying a knife, would you say or do anything? Why?
14. What did you learn from the play?
15. Throw open the discussion.

THE END