



Commissioned by the **anti bullying alliance**  
**odd theatre** has created a performance package  
addressing current issues surrounding bullying  
amongst young people, particularly teenage girls.

# our secret

**'Our Secret'** is a powerful and hard hitting story which explores the relationship between three girls, each effected by the cruel nature of bullying. Amy has been bullied by Jess for several months. Feeling totally alone she has started to accept the way she is being treated...nobody can stand up to Jess, nobody can stop it...not even you, the audience...

Through **creative discussion and performance** the audience are urged to find a solution to this realistic ordeal. Amy can't keep locking things inside like this, but it all seems so hopeless... or does it?



For further information or to book the workshop package please contact Hannah:  
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Details can also be viewed on our website: [www.oddtheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.oddtheatrecompany.co.uk)

## about odd

**Odd Theatre Company Ltd is a young and dynamic organisation that is committed to making positive changes in the lives of participants** by facilitating issue based workshops and community theatre productions and films. We work within the **prison network, criminal justice system, in schools, with young people in the community and with vulnerable or excluded groups**. Our experience and enthusiasm has developed from independent work in a variety of areas in the voluntary sector, including homeless shelters, employment centres, youth theatre groups and work within disability and inclusive theatre. We always strive to **create a voice for participants** and a conversation between them and their audience. Operating as Odd Theatre Company Ltd, we **believe in the potential of drama as a tool for change, both personal and social**. The experience of active participation **increases self-confidence and self-awareness** for participants. We are extremely enthusiastic and optimistic about the growth of Odd Theatre Company Ltd and are passionately committed to its work.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### THE CENTRAL AIM OF THE WORKSHOP IS TO COMBAT BULLYING

- To **raise key questions**, debate and discussion surrounding bullying
- To **explore ideas** / paths as means to combat bullying
- To perform an entertaining and **powerful workshop** that will stay in the minds of the young people



## ODD THEATRE COMPANY BULLYING WORKSHOP

- **The workshop is designed for young people between the ages of 9 and 14**
- **The workshop is designed to last 1/2 a school day**  
The length of the workshop can easily be adapted to suit the school schedule
- **The number of participants can vary according to the preference of the school**
- **The workshop can be facilitated to either a class or year group.**
- **Two workshops can be facilitated within one school day**

### Workshop plan

- **'Our secret'** performed by odd theatre company.
- Group games and discussion relevant to the performance
- Participants hot - seat performance characters
- Image theatre – Using pictures and tabloids to confront the issue
- Forum theatre - Participants try out new alternatives to tackling bullying.
- Evaluation exercises

### 'Our Secret'

**Our secret is a powerful and dynamic play. The story and its characters represent a hard-hitting and accurate account of bullying. The play specifically examines the role of the bystander; their motives, decisions and responsibilities when witnessing bullying. Through exploring different ideas they will play a lead role in combating bullying.**



**Amy is very bright; until recently she enjoyed school and did well in her work. Kerry is her best friend. They live next door to each other and have known each other since they were little. More like sisters; they're inseparable. The two of them however share one unspoken secret.**



## **workshop activities**

### **Worksheets in groups led by characters:**

Each character leads a group through a series of workshop questions and discussion points based upon the events and characters in the performance. The questions encourage the groups to look at the performance in a different way and give them a chance to 'hot seat' their actor who replies in character.

### **Hot seating:**

The characters sit on the stage area and the audience group is able to ask them questions or to reveal how they truly feel about each other and their situation. The characters may interact throughout this if they hear things that affect them. Having discussed points in the worksheets the audience will have been guided toward ideas for questions to ask or issues to approach.

### **Forum theatre**

The performance is re-performed. This time the audience have the chance to put a stop to the bullying. At any point when they think something could be done they need to shout signal 'stop' and their suggestion/idea is tried out.

All ideas are recorded on a large sheet of paper by member of the class.

### **Image theatre**

The participants split into three small groups. There is one facilitator in each group. The group is given two of the recorded ideas to stop the bullying that they developed in the forum theatre. The group then sculpt each other to form a still image (statue) of this idea. Each group performs their images to the other two groups who need to guess what is happening in the image. Each image is photographed by a facilitator. The photographs can then be used as part of the follow up session.

## **Follow up workshops / classroom activities**

Follow up activities consisting of creative writing sessions and a school anti-bullying campaign will be supplied with the project.