

## PREPARING FOR TERRIERS

**Both physically and emotionally, a lot happens in the hour it takes to perform Terriers or Eve's Story and students will benefit more from it if they are prepared for it.**

**This lesson supports them in (a) remembering ways that theatre audiences "behave" and (b) understanding some of the themes that the play explores (without giving the story away!).**

*Aim:* To prepare students for a performance of Terriers or Terriers 2 – Eve's Story

*Time:* One lesson.

*Resources:* Pencils/pens, post-its.

*Preparation:* None.

*Space:* Classroom – no reconfiguration required.

*Introduction:*

- Share the aim with the students: to prepare for a performance of Terriers or Eve's Story
- Factual information about Terriers (began in 2008, performed by the Royal Court Liverpool Trust, funded by, amongst others, Merseyside Police)

### *(1) Looking at the Themes*

- Paired Discussions:  
What other themes might you expect to be raised?
- Small Group Work:  
Are there any gender issues in gangs?  
Draw up two lists: one of gang-related areas that affect boys and girls in much the same way, the other of areas that affect them in different ways. Share.

### *(2) Looking at Theatre Experiences and Expectations*

- Whole Group Shout-Out:  
What plays have students been to see? Where? What gigs have the students been to? Where?
- Paired Discussions:  
What are the differences between the ways that audiences behave at plays and at gigs?
- Small Group Work:  
Pair and share, then agree three ground rules for the audience. Share with the the group.
- Teacher input:  
Reassure students that, while they should abide by the ground rules they have just agreed, the actors will want them to react to what they see and hear. So there is no need to sit in absolute silence!

### *(3) Looking After Ourselves*

- Individual Activity:  
If you or anyone else in the audience is affected by the performance, who could you talk to?  
Write each idea on a separate post-it and stick them on the wall as you leave the room.