



Safer Partying Using Theatre-In-Education, Nelson, New Zealand

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WHAT IS CHOICES?

CHOICES 2011 is a **Safer Partying project** using theatre-in-education to promote safer partying to high school and alternative education students aged approximately 13 to 16. CHOICES was originally aimed to help at-risk young people, however the subject matter is relevant to all young people on some level.

BACKGROUND

Originally developed by HYPE-GS, Mess Up The Mess Theatre Company and Health Action Trust, **CHOICES** was created in Nelson in 2008, based on young people's personal experiences and stories of when partying went wrong.

The stories were developed into a script with the help of Nelson/Tasman young people and four youth actors. The stories portrayed in **CHOICES** are not their actual stories but a collection of different issues raised by young people in relation to partying. (Please note that partying could refer to any type of gathering involving young people).

AIMS

1. Promote safer partying techniques and openly and realistically discuss youth risk-taking behaviour.
2. Ensure young people are empowered to make informed choices with regard to how they party.
3. Improve youth sexual, physical, mental and emotional health.
4. Reduce the levels of crime carried out and criminalisation of young people as a result of partying.
5. Open up a dialogue with young people over current partying trends and issues.

DESCRIPTION

CHOICES portrays a night of partying that goes wrong for the characters – at the extreme end of the scale of what may happen during a night of partying in a 25-minute high energy performance.

The performance is followed by **Forum Theatre** to re-work selected scenes.

Forum Theatre is a technique created by Brazilian theatre practitioner Augusto Boal, to enable an audience to explore and analyse the reality in which they are living.

1. The script is first played as written; the actors playing out their characters' destructive and/or uninformed choices with disastrous consequences.
2. The script is then replayed, but now audience members are invited by the coordinator to intervene and suggest other behavioural choices to the actors which will have more positive outcomes. (Members of the audience can also be invited to come up on stage and perform the new behaviours themselves.)

EVALUATION

Link to the Evaluation Report here:

<http://www.healthaction.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CHOICES-Final-Evaluation-2011.pdf>

or you can find it on this page: <http://www.healthaction.org.nz/cayad/>

CHOICES SAFER PARTYING THEATRE-IN-EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Programme Logic Model

