



REVO **OLUTIONARY**
LOVE **THEATRE**

IN PRISONS

RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY
FRIARGATE THEATRE
LOWER FRIARGATE
YORK
YO1 9SL
01904 655317
info@rltc.org
www.ridinglights.org

RIDING
T H E A T R E

C O M P A N Y
LIGHTS

WORKSHOPS & PERFORMANCES IN PRISONS

Riding Lights has a long history of touring to prisons, and Roughshod offers performances and workshops for both prisons and young offenders' institutions.

PERFORMANCES IN PRISONS

Roughshod offers a highly entertaining and vibrant 45 minute show exploring themes such as FORGIVENESS, LOVE, and RESTORATIVE JUSTICE alongside issue of conflict, society and esteem within the context of the Christian faith. Both relevant and engaging, performances contain powerful stories and comic sketches, some of which are taken from the actors own lives. Following a performance the company always allows time to talk individually with the audience, and to encourage and discuss any questions which have been raised by its content.

WORKSHOPS IN PRISONS

Creative workshops in Prisons can be offered as a stand alone session, or held after a Roughshod performance. A workshop contains drama exercises, as well as performance elements which encourage participants to reflect, share, and discuss the events of their own lives. It aims to equip prisoners with the tools to honestly express their own hopes, regrets and fears and in so doing help build both communication skills and self image. A workshop lasts 60 minutes and can take place with a maximum number of 15 participants.



"THAT WAS BASICALLY MY LIFE YOU JUST PERFORMED"



"I'D NEVER THOUGHT OF MY VICTIM'S PARENTS, I NEVER THOUGHT HOW THEY COULD FORGIVE ME"



"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR OWN STORIES, IT MUST BE QUITE DIFFICULT"



A workshop at the Arc Light Centre in York - a charity which works with homeless men and women in York, some of whom have been through the prison system



Working with prisoners at HMP Wandsworth where Roughshod performed a 45 minute show: "iWitness", followed by a 1 hour workshop

(consent for use of all photos recieved)

What prisoners have said...

"You remember stuff like this, we will all go back to our pads, get locked up and think about this, and I will laugh and cry. Thank you for giving us something worthwhile to think about"

HMP Kirkham

"That one about Restorative Justice was so powerful, we have actual victims come in and talk to us and it really touches you, but you guys were just as good, so true to life and real. Amazing!"

YOI Lancaster Farm

"The way you did the RJ one was really interesting, not just from the one angle like usual but a few, and the people that are usually forgotten, really brilliant.

HMP Wandsworth

What Chaplains have said...

"The prisoners were very appreciative of the whole afternoon – performance and workshop. At the end of the afternoon a number of prisoners asked if we could do more of this throughout out the year. I was impressed with the content of the sketches and it was clear that many of the prisoners were visibly moved. I haven't seen this group so animated and alive in their responses before in such a positive way... Jesus was very present."

Revd Mark Savage, Chaplain HMP Lowdham Grange

"I have learnt so much about these guys just in this workshop, it's astounding and I've been working with them for a while now, so thank you for getting them to open up more."

Chaplain, HMP Wandsworth

WHAT IS RIDING LIGHTS ROUGHSHOD?

Riding Lights Roughshod is the community touring company of Riding Lights and annually reaches a live audience of some 70,000 adults and young people. It has been acclaimed from Belfast to Brixton for creating powerful new pieces of theatre.

Roughshod is committed to bringing theatre into the heart of every kind of community in the UK, often to places where live performance is rare. Tackling themes which are widely relevant to the realities of everyday life, their performances and workshops get to grips with the practical and spiritual issues which face us all.

For the past twenty years, Roughshod has been working extensively in secondary schools, colleges, prisons, churches, youth clubs and in all kinds of community groups.



...AND RIDING LIGHTS?

Riding Lights Theatre Company is one of the UK's most productive and long-established independent theatre companies. Founded in York over 30 years ago, partly through the initiative of a city-centre church, the company continues to take innovative, accessible theatre into all kinds of communities far and wide.

Our aim is to create unforgettable, entertaining theatre in response to current issues and the hopes and fears of the world we share. While the company's roots are in a christian ethos, our work is open to everyone, using faith as a springboard to explore all aspects of life.

Getting Theatre Everywhere

Regular tours of new and devised work by Riding Light have established a huge network of non-theatre venues across the UK, attracting large, loyal audiences not necessarily accustomed to traditional theatre, and addressing issues such as international debt relief, terrorism, science and faith, social responsibility and safe water provision.

Riding Lights has always produced inspirational theatre for young people, including annual Christmas tours for primary-age children and their families. With its roots in community theatre, Riding Lights maintains a commitment to providing theatre in the heart of communities nationwide through its Roughshod companies. The company is dedicated to providing educational opportunities through its annual Summer Theatre School, its Youth Theatres and a new Youth Theatre for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.