

GW THEATRE COMPANY

ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER



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FROM 'ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER' PRE-PERFORMANCE LESSON PLAN

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'FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER' - PRE-PERFORMANCE LESSON.

LESSON MATERIALS:

(1) Introduce topic of political extremism – this has been much in the news lately, and is the topic of a play we are going to see later on this term.

(2) Discussion or quick written responses to share in plenary - Explore idea of extremism.

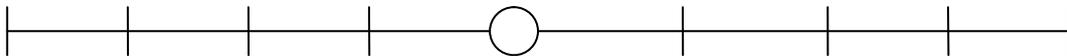
What is meant by extreme weather / sport / fashion / pain? (Pupils to come up with examples.)

Does everyone agree on what's extreme? Why?

When might someone say 'That's a bit extreme, isn't it?'

Is there anything about themselves that others might see as 'extreme'?

(3) Demonstrate extremism on a continuum line.



(4) Read 'Violent Extremism – Nothing New?' with pupils.

Follow up with asking them to answer the following questions. (This could be oral / written / group / individual work, depending on the group / time / who is teaching it).

What do these incidents have in common? How do they differ? Do you see them all as 'extreme'?

Why might some people be driven to extremism / feel that this is the only route to change which is open to them?

(5) Introduce the play to pupils. Share synopsis with pupils and tell them that these are some of the issues which the play addresses.

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(6) They will need to have some understanding of political vocabulary, so they can do:-

Word / meaning match – necessary vocabulary for discussing political extremism.

ANARCHY
AUTHORITARIAN
BRITISH NATIONAL-IST PARTY
DEMOCRACY
EXTREMIST
FASCIST
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
LIBERAL
NAZI
NEO-NAZI
RACIST
RADICAL
TOTALITARIAN

Confusion caused by breakdown of law and order
Strict
Political party promoting nationalist views and opposing immigration
Government by elected representatives
Person who holds extreme views
Extreme right wing, believing in supremacy of one national group over all others
Having the right to express one's views freely, within the agreed limits of the law, ie with respect for the views of others
Tolerant of different opinions
Someone with extreme racist opinions. Member of the German Nazi party under Hitler
A member of a modern movement which supports Nazi ideas
Someone who discriminates against people on the grounds of their race
Someone in favour of extreme political change
A political system where there is only one party, which allows no opposition & which demands complete obedience to the state

VIOLENT EXTREMISM – NOTHING NEW??

1900-1910 – Suffragettes burned down churches, attacked politicians, fire bombed their homes, vandalised golf courses, went on hunger strike and smashed all the windows in Oxford Street

June 1913 – Emily Wilding Davison killed herself by throwing herself under the king's horse at The Derby in order to attract attention to the campaign to secure votes for women

1939 – 1945 – Nazis carry out 'The Final Solution' and exterminate over 6,000,000 Jews, gypsies and disabled people in the Second World War.

8 November 1987 – 11 killed in Remembrance Day bombing by (Provisional) IRA in Enniskillen

1994 – 800,000 people massacred in genocide in Rwanda

15 June 1996 – (Provisional) IRA bomb in Manchester injures 206 people

15 August 1998 – 29 killed in (Provisional) IRA bombing in Omagh

28 May 2001 – 15 police injured in Oldham race riots

7 July 2001 – 2 stabbed, tens injured in Bradford race riots

11 September 2001 – 2974 killed, 19 hijackers killed, 24 missing in Twin Towers attack by al-Qaeda

7 July 2005 – 30 killed, 700 injured in bomb attacks in London

19 February 2006 – Website for Animal Liberation Front encourages arson, burglary and damage to homes of scientists who test on animals. Some scientists have been killed because of their work. Similar acts have been carried out in the USA on abortion clinics and the staff who work there.

11 August 2007 – Goth Sophie Lancaster is murdered by a teenage gang in Bacup, Lancashire, because of the way she looks / dresses

23 May 2008 – Attempt by 'radicalised' young man in Exeter to blow up a café

20 September 2008 – Hammaad Munshi (18) imprisoned for planned terrorist offences. He is said to have been 'groomed' online by 'fanatical extremists who exploited his naivety' (The Guardian).



'FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER' BY MIKE HARRIS

BRIEF SYNOPSIS FOR PUPILS.

The play deals with issues of violent extremism through its impact on two families. Ali, Sara and Mo are Muslims; Tony and Karl are white British. Jess, a former friend of Ali, Sara and Tony and now a journalist on a national newspaper, has returned to the northern town of Tolmer to report on a march by members of the National Democratic Party due to take place through an Asian area of town. The march has been banned by the police, but the NDP plan to go ahead, and the Muslims are not going to stand by and do nothing...

Mo is in the process of being radicalised by Yussuf Omar (aka Sheikh Google), Ali too has found a purpose in Sheikh Google's message (though he is more moderate than his younger brother), and Tony has joined the NDP, led by the ex-Nazi Neville Parkin. Both Mo and Karl have been drawn in by the leaders of these extremist groups and are being exploited to do their 'dirty work' by torching a mosque and a church hall respectively so that the NDP / the Muslims can be blamed in order to stir up racial tensions in Tolmer.

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AUTHORITARIAN Strict
BRITISH NATIONALIST PARTY Political party promoting nationalist views and opposing immigration
DEMOCRACY Government by elected representatives
EXTREMIST Person who holds extreme views
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