

Touring Theatre task 2

HPAC6001

The themes in *The Kindness Gem* can effect the audience in terms of addressing social, political and cultural issues through the presentation of these themes to the audience and how they relate to the current social, political and cultural issues we have in the UK.

An example of this would be the current political climate, we have seen very selfish politics from the Conservatives over the last few years and as a result there have been extreme cuts to public services and the NHS has suffered a particularly brutal battering in this sense.¹ The idea of appealing to the kindness in people may steer them towards acts of community responsibly such as voting for Labour who are promoting an agenda for the people instead of for their own benefit unlike the current government.

In the same way the themes of kindness and community responsibility could be of benefit to areas where there is a large amount of violence which is a combination of social, political and cultural issues.

Such as in London where last year the murder toll hit 132 which was the highest level it had been in a decade due to gang violence, appealing to the sense of kindness in people could improve these issues as it has been long suggested that the arts can have amazing effects in impoverished areas along with the emotional themes of *The Kindness Gem* appealing to the humanity in the audience.²

We could also see *The Kindness Gem* being used as a valuable tool in educating young people when it comes to the prevalent issue of bullying as schools and young peoples organisations are always looking for new ways to deal with this.³ If the piece was altered for an older audience and toured in schools perhaps in partnership with someone like beat bullying UK the piece could be combined with anti bullying work shops to have an impact on

¹<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-48690733?fbclid=IwAR1j7NkAPcceWDIyBcnd5VSvspYbm4Xf1YbjqTwB2WIAI02pRxIjCLV3PRU>

²<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8273147/london-murder-rate-2019/>

³https://www.gov.uk/bullying-at-school?fbclid=IwAR0X4_9qFfU2V-dMrgAC_RbK-ryqcUXBDZgqY2IRpWE3Mw540-AVgcENWQE

social issues within the audience and the themes of The Kindness Gem would have a positive effect on community kindness in the schools.

In February 2012 research was published to suggest that toddlers begin to understand right and wrong and the concept of fairness from 19-21 months, this shows us that there needs to be an involvement of the themes present in the kindness gem from a young age as there is an ability to reason with these themes.⁴

The play is currently aimed at key stage one which would be the perfect age group to benefit from the piece in order to promote kindness in order to deal with the social issue of bullying as we see younger children can understand the concept of fairness this age might be the perfect time to explore further the ideas of community responsibly and kindness. This is where touring theatre would be particularly useful as you could reach more children and have a larger scale impact.

⁴<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2103849/Research-shows-toddlers-understand-right-wrong-just-19-months.html?fbclid=IwAR2sralHkA-uC5Zb-Oqu4AfrFB3XLMaaF3HTO4aoa2gJSFLfK2JttU64rls>