

**CYBERBULLYING Drama project
CYBERBULLYING Conference September 2007**

“LAUGH AT IT, YOU’RE PART OF IT”

SCENE 1 – The Introduction

A frenzy of noise, text message images, words, phrases, photographic images etc flashing quickly as a montage on each screen around the performance/audience space. This will mark the beginning of the piece and create a focal point for the audience.

Whilst this is taking place, the cast take up their opening positions amongst the audience in preparation for scene 2. This must be done with speed but as little distraction and fuss as possible.

Scene 2 – Telephone conversations

The aim of this scene is for the space to be filled with overlapping telephone conversations. We begin with one and gradually build upon this until we have all seven pairs talking at the same time.. Finally we will be left with only Joe, Shayla and Jess and Tom.

Everyone: Hi....hello....etc

Ben: Is that Kirsty?

Kirsty: Yeah....

Ben: Me and the lads are going to the cinema...

Kirsty: Yeah....

Ben: Well, do you wanna come?

Kirsty: Oh, um, Tom already told me about it...

Ben: Oh! So he's already told you .Can you make it then?

Kirsty: Yeah, I can. Could you meet me outside Nando's though?

Ben: Fine. But you won't bring anyone else with you will you?

Kirsty: Like who?

Ben: Like Hayley...

Kirsty: Oh...

Ben: Did you see her today?

Both freeze their scene and cut to Lucy and Kara

Lucy: *(excited)* **What? What? What is it?**

Kara :Well...

Lucy: Come on.....come on, don't leave me hanging...

Kara: Next Saturday my parents are off to the Bahamas!

Lucy: Yeah...and?

Kara: Don't you understand what that means Lucy?

Lucy: Oh! Oh my God!

Kara: Yeah.....

Lucy: Perfect opportunity....

Kara: For a party!

Lucy: Party of our dreams!

Both freeze their scene and cut to Tara and Sarah

Tara: You sound really fed up! What's up?

Sarah: Jess just text me. She's popping round cause she locked herself out! What an idiot!

Tara: *(uncomfortable)* Oh, I see. That'll be alright though won't it?

Sarah: Maybe for you! Who obviously loves her up.....

Tara: Don't be stupid! But if it's only for a while it shouldn't be that bad eh?

Sarah: Tara, why do you like her so much? She should be in some kind of rejects group.

Tara: *(flustered)* It's not that I really like her, it's just....

Sarah: If you don't, then why are you so nice to her?

Tara: Look our parents are friends...so....

Both freeze their scene and cut to Danielle and Izzy, Jas and Tasha - both pairs speak at the same time.

Danielle: Just wanted to know what you're up to and if you wanted to come shopping?

Izzy: Yeah, that sounds good. Who else is coming?

Danielle: Well, Kara, Lucy, Jas, me and you.

Izzy: What about Kirsty?

Danielle: Oh, she can't make it...said she's meeting Tara or something...

Izzy: Oh....well I'll phone her and ask again. She'll probably change her mind if I ask her...

Danielle: *(jokingly)* What's that supposed to mean?

Izzy: Oh, nothing....just, she might change her mind if she knew I was coming...

Danielle: So, you trying to say you're the only reason she hangs out with us?

Izzy: No.....not at all. Just, she's my best mate. But, she seems to want to spend more time with Tara these days.....

Danielle: Don't worry about it. Anyway, were meeting up at 1.30..... *(IMPROV)*

Tasha: Don't be stupid! It's me...Tasha from school you idiot!

Jas: Oh! That Tasha!

Tasha: What's that supposed to mean?

Jas: Err...nothing....I was just...

Tasha: Anyway.....wondering if you've done that history project yet?

Jas: Oh! So that's why you're calling...

Tasha: *(Pretending she can't hear)* What was that.....what did you say?

Jas: Yeah...yeah...I've just done it...

Tasha: So, you can help me out with mine.....

Jas: By "helping you out", do you mean, can I do it for you?

Tasha: *(pause)* Oh thanks darling....just give it to me tomorrow morning....

Jas: Hang on a minute..... *(IMPROV)*

Joe and Shayla begin their conversation mid way through the last two. Jas, Tasha, Izzy and Danielle all freeze, leaving just Joe and Shayla to be heard.

Shayla: Yeah, I'm good...how's you?

Joe: Cooler than winter....hotter than summer...you know...

Shayla: Shut up man! Anyway...give me the low down on Ben and Kirsty.

Joe: That's the only reason you call me innit? To get today's breaking news.

Shayla: Course not....you know we're tighter than skinny jeans....

Joe: Whatever Shay, Shay...

All conversations begin again, building to a crescendo

Shayla: So...

Joe: Well, I know that they speak on the regs and I've been watching them at school....throwing little looks at each other...get me?

Shayla: Yeah...true say...

Joe: And I swear they've been hugging more than average "friends" as well....

Shayla: For real, and they're not even those "hi and bye" hugs.....

Joe: You're damn right!

Shayla: I heard that they're going to the cinema... that he asked her...

Joe: O my days! Na, Ben would've told me something like that

Shayla: Yeah...but he knows you'd just gun him...

Jess and Tom begin their conversation

Joe: It's bait. You know what? I'm a get my Sherlock Holmes on and find out what's really poppin.

Shayla: What's really, really poppin...

Joe: What's really, really, really poppin...

Shayla: Joke's over!!!

Joe: So is this conversation. See ya Shay (*hang up*)

Shayla: Joe, wait Joe.....

Tom: How's it going anyway?

Jess: Alright I suppose.....You go to that party on Friday night?

Tom: Yeah...it was pretty crap though. You didn't miss much.

Jess: Who did you go with?

Tom: Just like, Ben, Joe, Lucy, Kirsty, Shay...you know

Jess: Oh....so like everyone then.....

Tom: Yeah, pretty much. So how come you didn't come? Didn't Tara tell you about it?

Jess: *(lying)* Yeah.....but I had to go to my Dad's.

Tom: Oh my days... You know Shayla says she's not into Joe? Well she was all over him at the party...

Jess: Really? So, she does like him then?

Tom: Dunno

Jess: Are you still good mates with Joe?

Tom: Yeah...why do you ask?Something you're not telling me Jess? Oh my days! You like him don't you? Want me to put a word in?

Jess: Oh, I don't know Tom.....maybe...don't go over the top though eh?

Tom: No, course not.....Look, speak to you tomorrow. Bye *(hang up)*

Jess: See ya Tom. *(hang up)*

Exit all, except Joe and Tom

SCENE 3 – Joe's House

Tom has popped round to Joe's after school. They are sitting and watching the football.

Joe: England are playing crap man

Tom: Innit. They never win anything.

Joe: But on a level, the last match they played wasn't too bad...saying that, I watched it with Louise though, so we weren't really watching....you know what I mean *(both laugh)*

Tom: So, what's happening with you and Lou?

Joe: Aah, I dunno...we're cool....but not that bothered really.

Tom: She looked well pissed at the party with Shayla all over you!! What's that all about eh?

Joe: What? Me and Shay? Shut up man! We're just mates...you know that.....

Tom: Yeah...but does she?

Joe: Shut up!

Tom: So, come on...there must be someone you like?

Joe: What is it with you? *(teases him)* hey...have you got a crush on me? *(laughs)*

Tom: Yeah that's right!! No, just I know someone who likes you and I said I'd put a word in.....You know that girl Jess?

Joe: No...

Tom: Knows Tara? I used to know her when I was a kid?

(Joe shrugs)

Tom: Well...her.....

Joe: Oh her!!! *(Joe cracks up laughing)* Low it man, I swear you two are like this.....*(makes a gesture)*

Tom: That's butterz, she's an old family friend !!

Joe: Mmmm....

Tom: No... *(changing the subject)* Did you see that? Paul Robinson is the world's largest tit!!

Joe: How can we be 2 – 0 down to Latvia?

Exit

SCENE 4 – THE PARK

Sarah: Oh God, no-one's here yet.

Tara: Have you spoken to the boys?

Sarah: No, but I think they're on their way.....*(sitting down)*..So, this weekend?

Tara: Nothing much. Some randomers are going South Bank.

Sarah: But its bare cold!! Ulu was great last weekend, but the warehouse thing was better!

(both laugh)

Tara: That guy you met was buff stuff!

Sarah: And here comes the cavalry right on time....

(Joe and Tom arrive: Still talking about football)

Joe: Allright girls?

(IMPROV)

(Shayla and Tasha approach)

Shayla: yea I know..... he's so butterz as well.

Tasha: I mean Beyonce is soo stupid!

Shayla: Oh well , not my business.

Tasha: Oh look, Joe's here

Shayla: Look elsewhere!

(Tasha kisses her teeth)

Shayla: Don't kiss your teeth at me. If Joe's looking for a girl, he won't be looking at your direction.

Tasha: Oh whatever, innit.

Shayla: *(addressing Joe)* Ah, what's up Joe?

Joe: Cool Shay, Shay.

(Ben arrives on his bike – into boy group. Boys jump out of way)

Tom & Joe: Ben!!!

Ben: *(Laughing)* Hey Shayla, my beautiful.....

Shayla: Shut up Ben!

Tara: *(coming in, ending conversation on mobile)* **Yeah bye. Kirsty and that lot are on their way**

Lucy: *(running in)* **Guess what, guess what! Kara's folks are going away!**

Kara: **Lucy!**

Lucy: **Sorry, sorry.**

Kara: **Yeah..... party at mine on Saturday.**

Ben: **Is Kirsty coming?**

Joe: **Oooh Ben, whats up with you and Kirsty!** *(gets everyone to laugh)*

Ben: **Too right, she's really hot.** *(changing the subject)* **Tom, is it true your mate Jess fancies Joe?**

Joe: **Oh shut up – she's well butterz.**

(Jess arrives on her own.)

Tasha: **Speak of the devil...**

Jess: *(to Tara)* **Hi Tara..... I thought you said you'd give me a call when you were leaving?**

Tara: **Yeah.....sorry.....** *(lying)* **ran out of credit.**

Ben: **Hey....look who it is Joe...!?**

(Shayla, Sarah, Tasha all laugh)

(Jess looks embarrassed)

Danielle, Izzy & Kirsty (pushing bike) arrive

Kirsty: **I'm just going to say hi to Tara.**

Izzy: **Oh my God, Joe's over there.....Kirsty, I beg you to introduce me.**

Danielle: **Izzy, calm down.** *(motions to Jess)* **What's she doing here?**

Izzy: **Oh God, I heard she really likes Joe too.**

Danielle: **I REALLY don't think you've got a worry there!** *(pulls a face)*

Ben *(pulls Joe to one side)* **I got a really good idea Joe. This is going to be such a laugh!**

Joe: What?

Ben whispers the idea in Joe's ear. Both laugh

Ben: Tom give us your phone, you've got a better camera than mine.

(Tom reluctantly hands it over.)

This is the moment where Jess is humiliated In front of the entire group. Ben brings the group together to initiate a countdown for the picture to be taken....this scene should be predominantly improvised. The picture/image is taken with everyone laughing. It is then shrugged off "as a joke" and all find a reason to exit.

SCENE 5 – PICTURE EXCHANGE

All leave except Joe, Ben and Tom. Joe takes Tom's phone from him, before he can delete the image, and forwards the picture to himself and Ben.

SCENE 6 – EVERYONE KNOWS EXCEPT JESS

Shayla, Izzy Tasha and Jas are all outside the school gates. They are huddled around Shayla, looking at something on her phone. They are laughing and their conversation is difficult to hear. Tara and Sarah arrive....

Sarah: What's so funny? What you all looking at? Come on, let's have a look....

Shayla: Oh my days! You know that photo of Jess that was taken in the park? *(shows the phone)*

They all laugh, except Tara, who appears a little uncomfortable

Izzy: (smiling) It's well bad eh? Pissed to be her....

Tasha: I know! How embarrassing!

Tara: So pleased that wasn't me!

Sarah: Really funny though...actually looks like she's going to the toilet!!

Shayla: *(re-enacts the moment the picture was taken in a joking manner)* **Ha! Ha!**

(everyone laughs again)

Jas: I feel kind of sorry for her...

Tara: Yeah, me too.....

Sarah: Oh come on....It's joke's!

Tara: Has she seen it yet?

Shayla: Only been sent today, so doubt it.... *(laughs again)*

Jess walks out of school

Jess: Hi Tara.....how you doing? You still coming back to mine?

(everyone sniggers and avoids eye contact with her)

Tasha: Nice to see you have your skirt on Jess!!

(all laugh, except Tara)

Jess: Eh? Oh that...can't believe Joe did that! What you all looking at? New phone Shayla?

Shayla: No.

Jess: Right. Ok. You coming Tara?

(Sarah stares at Tara. Tara shakes her head and turns away. They resume what they were doing, blanking Jess as she walks off. They mimic her again as she does so)

Scene 7 – JESS IN HER ROOM (THE BETRAYAL)

Jess is in her room, staring at her laptop. This is the first time she sees the images and things that have been written and posted about her. She is horrified by what she sees. Tom sits, helpless and awkward.

Jess: Did you know anything about this?

Tom: *(unable to look at the screen)* About what? Don't know what you're talking about....

Jess suspects that Tom is lying

Jess: You can't even look at it can you, you're so ashamed. You make me sick Tom....we've known each other, like forever, and you don't have the guts to admit it....

Tom: I didn't do anything *(blatantly lying)* I don't know what you're talking about...

Jess: Yes you do! How can you just sit there and deny it....we we're all at the park that day Tom....Ben used YOUR phone.....Doesn't our friendship mean anything to you?

Tom: Look Jess, I don't know what to say...It was only a bit of fun...I'm sure it'll calm down in a day or two...

Jess: *(cutting in)* Bit of fun, BIT OF FUN...have you seen what they, what you, have done to me.....there's loads of stuff Tom.....LOOK , pictures, films.....it's everywhere....I don't even know these people who are writing things.....How could you do this to me?

Tom: I haven't done anything wrong....it's not me Jess....

Jess: Just leave Tom *(Tom gets up)* go on, get out. Leave me alone. *(Tom exits)* I can't trust you, can't trust anyone.....

Scene 8 – BUS STOP

Ben and Kirsty are sitting on a wall at the bus stop. They are already in mid conversation

Ben: I was really pleased you decided to come to the cinema. Did you have a good time?

Kirsty: Yeah, I had a really nice time...bit of a shame all the others were there though eh?

Ben: Yeah...back row next time eh?

Tom joins them

Tom: *(sounding troubled)* Hi...alright? Sorry I'm a bit late.....

Ben: Yeah, we've been waiting over half an hour man....missed our bus now.....where've you been?

Tom: Had to call in to see someone.

Kirsty: *(teasing)*Oooh! Tom who are you seeing?

Tom: Pack it in Kirsty! I've just been to see Jess....

Kirsty: Oh...

Ben: What's wrong? You alright?

Tom: She's just seen all that stuff about her

Ben: Just let it go man...she's a loser... (Ben laughs and Kirsty joins in nervously)

Tom: You don't understand. Some idiot has edited that photo you took. Why did you put Joe up to it Ben?

Ben: Come on, it was a laugh....

Tom: This aint right, we've got to tell someone....

Kirsty: Hold on Tom! We could all get into serious trouble because of this...what if my parents...

Ben: (cutting in) Look Tom, you can't tell ANYONE. Think what'll happen to Joe.....

Tom: What? You just expect me to act like nothing happened?

Kirsty/Ben: Err, yeah!!

Ben: Look Tom....you make your decision, but I'm not having anything to do with it or you, if you do tell.....come on Kirst....

They exit, leaving Tom alone

Scene 9 – CYBERBULLYING

We are left with only Jess and Tom in view and as in scene 1, we see the image and texts being circulated between people and on screens around the space. The aim is to build it up to a crescendo of noise and images, only this time the wording etc is unpleasant

Cut to silence