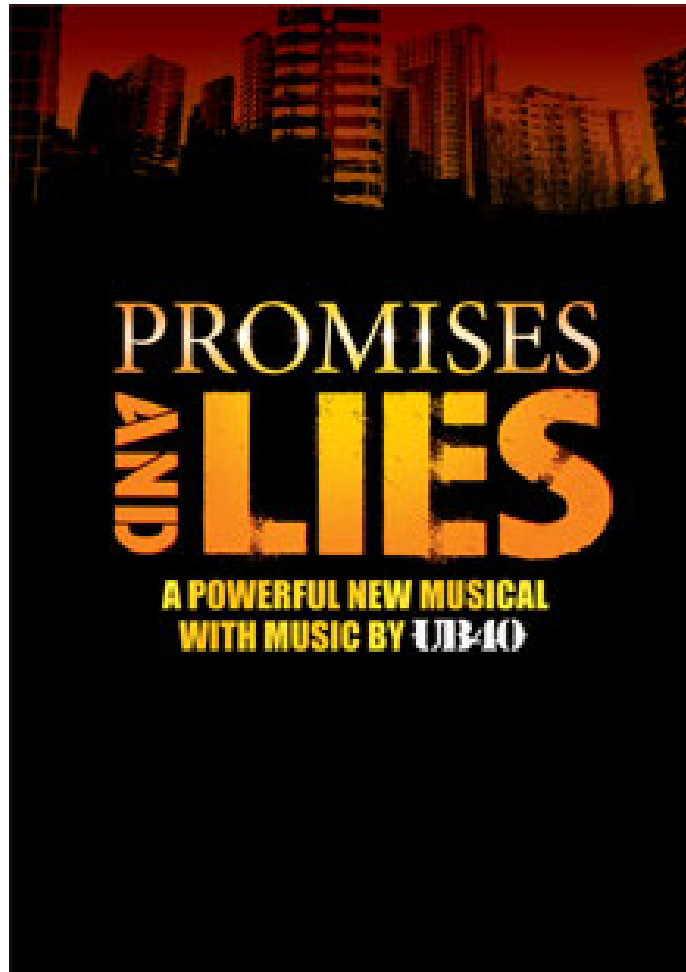


**PROMISES & LIES**  
MUSIC & LYRICS BY UB40  
BOOK BY JESS WALTERS  
FROM AN ORIGINAL IDEA BY JOHN DIXON



**RESOURCE PACK  
BY  
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EDUCATION ASSOCIATE**

# PROMISES & LIES

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# PROMISES & LIES

## INTRODUCTION



Set Design, *Promises & Lies* 2006. Designer: Simon Higlett

Welcome to the teachers' resource pack for *Promises & Lies*.

*Promises & Lies* the musical is the result of a unique collaboration between the band UB40, the writer Jess Walters and the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Set on the harder side of the city where life is tough. The characters of *Promises and Lies* live on the fringes of society. There are the manipulators who control, and the ordinary people whose destinies lie in their hands. These are the people we don't see - or perhaps choose not to see. But desperate people have hope - and they will fight: not everyone chooses to be a statistic..... not just a forgotten name on the list.

*Promises and Lies* is the uplifting story of people battling against the odds to survive on the edge of our deceptively glossy modern cities. Featuring a host of classic and well-loved UB40 tracks, *Promises and Lies* also contains new songs from the band, specially composed for this show. And true to their roots, UB40 have chosen a Birmingham stage for its premiere.

So many issues are touched upon in the story and this pack is full of useful information and suggestions for follow up work to enable you to fully explore the story, its characters and the problems that are prevalent, but often ignored, in our society.

We hope you find it useful.

Helen Blackmore  
Education Associate, The Birmingham Repertory Theatre

## PROMISES & LIES

### THE STORY

*Promises & Lies* tells the story of a number of different characters who are linked and yet disconnected from each other. The central story is that of a young girl named Rudie who was abandoned as a baby. Rudie lives rough on the streets with her 'junkie' boyfriend Cuddles.

The action takes place throughout the course of one evening and the following morning and could be set in any city in the world. It just happens that Rudie and her mother are out on the same night but do not know it. That is, until a strange twist of fate brings them together.

Rudie's boyfriend Cuddles steals the handbag of Rudie's mother Breda whilst she is in a club. He does not know it is Rudie's mother until he discovers a letter from Rudie in Breda's handbag. Rudie wrote to her mother to ask if she would meet her. Breda agreed but never turned up.

As the night rolls on, Rudie finds herself tricked into prostitution, Cuddles nearly dies and Breda kisses a man she's never met before and then almost finishes her relationship with her husband. Somehow, through this tangled mess of chaotic lives, Breda and Rudie find each other and are re-united.

## PROMISES & LIES

### THE CHARACTERS



#### **RUDIE**

18 years old, mixed heritage.

Rudie was abandoned by her mother when she was just two weeks old. She was left in a telephone box and has spent her childhood in children's homes and foster care. She ran away frequently but was found and brought back. Rudie is an angry young woman and doesn't like rules or authority. Rudie received a letter from her Mother, Breda, recently and they arranged to meet. Breda didn't show up. Rudie is now angrier than ever and has run away from care to live on the streets with her boyfriend Cuddles. Rudie knows very little about her roots and background. She is a lost soul.



#### **CUDDLES**

25 years old.

Skinny and boy like. Cuddles has a big crack and heroin drug habit. He is seriously unwell with abscesses on his arms from repeated injecting using unclean needles. He will do anything for a fix, including prostitution. Cuddles partnered up with Rudie when she was still in care. They move around the country together, on the run from the law, going from city to city. Cuddles comes from an abusive and violent family background and ran away from home when he was 13 years old. He soon took to drink and drugs on the streets. He has a wicked sense of humour and is incredibly good at getting what he wants. His dark side, due to his traumatic past forces him to self-destruct and use drugs to numb his way through life.



#### **MARCUS**

40 years old.

A manipulator. Uses vulnerable people; street people, sex workers, illegal immigrants for his financial gain. He controls the club doors (bouncers) and uses them to oversee the drug dealing within the clubs.



**BREDA**

33 years old, Irish.

Breda has been married to Dave for ten years. She takes Valium and binge drinks. She and Dave have no children after trying for ten years. Breda has never got over abandoning her daughter Rudie. She recently made contact with Rudie but when she was due to meet her, Dave (who is not Rudie's father) told her if she went through with it, it would be the end of their marriage.



**DAVE**

49 years old.

Dave was made bankrupt five years ago and has gone down hill ever since. He lacks confidence and now treats Breda badly. He takes all his anger and frustrations out on her. Dave smokes huge amounts of cannabis and rarely goes out. He's paranoid and poisoned with jealousy. He hates the fact that Breda has a love child from a previous relationship and it was kept from him until very recently when he 'accidentally' found out. Dave refuses to support Breda in any way.



**RANDALL**

35 years old.

Randall has worked in security all his working life. He is non-aggressive and desperate to meet someone and fall in love. Randall is a sweetheart, but because of his size lacks confidence and comfort eats.



### **GEORGE**

30 years old, Greek.

When he isn't working George spends all his time in the gym and with women. He is a huge flirt. He loves and craves attention from the opposite sex. George lets the drug dealers into the club via Marcus and gets a cut from their profits.



### **FEDENS**

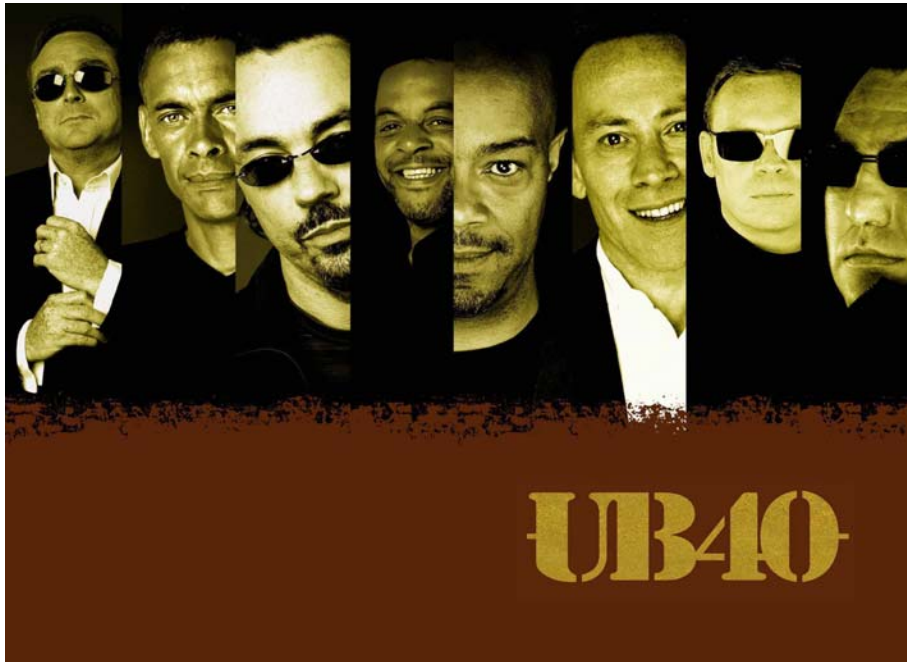
20 years old, Rwandan.

Fedens is originally from Rwanda. She is Tutsi. Fedens fled Rwanda during the genocide of 1994 when all her family were massacred. She came to England as an unaccompanied child at the age of 8. Fedens was in the care system until she was ten years old. She was then fostered by a black middle class British family. Fedens is well educated and has G.C.S.E's and A Levels. Her refugee status ran out when she became 18, she is now on the run and fears deportation. She now works in the sex industry as a dominatrix and is a strong woman and will find a way through no matter what. She has no desire to go back to Rwanda; her family were wiped out. Fedens wants British citizenship. She is saving for legal representation as she was refused legal aid.

## PROMISES & LIES

### UB40

The following information can also be found at [www.ub40.co.uk](http://www.ub40.co.uk)



Photograph: Matt Cannon

### Who's Who?

#### **JAMES BROWN**

##### **Drums**

Jimmy has been described as a talkative anarchist. He's also the bands readiest and most radical commentator on social and political matters. Born on November 20<sup>th</sup> 1957, he attended Marlborough Road Primary School, and Moseley School of Art, where he became friends with Ali, Earl and Brian.

#### **ALI CAMPBELL**

##### **Vocals / Guitar**

Ali is an unrelenting crusader for reggae. He's the bands outspoken champion of dub. Born on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1959, he went to St. Luke's Junior School and Moseley Road School of Art.

#### **ROBIN CAMPBELL**

##### **Guitar / Vocals**

A lifelong aficionado of reggae, he has many influences, and is not so exclusively a partisan of dub as his brother Ali, to whose voice he adds the rich and sensitive harmonies of the band's sound.

**EARL FALCONER****Bass / Vocals**

Earl is not an extrovert. He causes problems for TV and lighting crews, because of a tendency to retire into the shadows onstage. He was born on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1959, and attended St. Benedict's junior school and Moseley Road School of Art.

**NORMAN HASSAN****Percussion/Vocals**

Norman Hassan Lamont plays percussion, trombone and sings. He is one of the bands most visible members (and most impressive dancer) on stage. A childhood friend of the Campbells, he was born on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1958, and went to school at Tindall Street, Clifton Road, Park Hill and Queensbridge Road.

**BRIAN TRAVERS****Saxophones / Horn Arrangements**

Brian Travers plays saxophone. He also takes a keen interest in the visual side of the band's work, and is largely responsible for their videos. Born on February 7<sup>th</sup> 1959. He went to Cape Hill and Lakey Lane primary schools, and Moseley School of Art.

**MICHAEL VIRTUE****Keyboards**

Michael Virtue plays keyboards. He was born on January 19<sup>th</sup> 1957, and attended Clifton Road primary school and Golden Hillock comprehensive.

**ASTRO****Vocals / Trumpet**

Astro sings and plays trumpet. He is also the show's M.C. Born June 24<sup>th</sup> 1957; he attended Greet and Golden Hillock Schools.

## PROMISES & LIES

### UB40

The following information can also be found at [www.ub40.co.uk](http://www.ub40.co.uk)

#### Biography

##### **Where did the name come from?**

The band is named after the paper form issued in the U.K. for claiming unemployment benefits (UB40 = Unemployment Benefits, Form 40) whilst Margaret Thatcher was prime minister. At the time UB40 was used as a slang term for unemployed people.

##### **How did they become well known?**

UB40's fortunes changed at the beginning of 1980. They had spent many years performing live and developing a name for themselves when they were asked to join The Pretenders as their support act on a national tour.

The first single with Graduate, their initial label, was a double-A coupling of "Food For Thought" about third-world poverty, and "King", an expression of grief for Dr. Martin Luther King. The song "King" had seemed to be the favourite with live audiences, but it was "Food For Thought", that got the airplay and became the first hit. The single was released during the tour, without the benefit of major-label marketing or promotion, and headed straight for the top five. The band made a huge impact on their first major live audiences.

UB40's first album was released in September 1980. The album cover was a reproduction of the unemployment benefit card, with the title "Signing Off" apparently rubber-stamped in red. It referred to "signing off" the dole, i.e. getting a job. It was both an acknowledgement of the launch of the band, and a celebration of their new status.

##### **What sort of music do they create?**

Because they were from the West Midlands, and because they were a large mixed race group playing music of Jamaican origin, UB40 were initially thought to be part of the Two-Tone phenomenon which had burst out of nearby Coventry. Two tone music took its roots from Caribbean Ska, Rock Steady and Reggae. It was honed into the multi-racial sound of Two-Tone by bands such as The Specials and The Selecter - both of which came from Coventry.

"Signing Off" made it clear that UB40 were not part of the Two-Tone movement. They were part of the same social and political tendency, but their musical approach was quite different. Their sound was more relaxed, more sophisticated and sexier.

## How many albums have they recorded?

At the end of 1980, the contract with Graduate expired, and UB40 formed their own record company, DEP International.

Only nine months after their first album "Signing Off", while it was still in the chart, UB40 released their second album "Present Arms". It was as good as their first album, and featured the song "One In Ten", an anthem to rival "Food For Thought".

Four months later, in October 1981, UB40 released a dub version of the album "Present Arms". The word 'dub' today is used to describe a genre of music that consists predominantly of instrumental re-mixes of existing recordings. Dub music originated from Jamaica in the late 1960's. The album wasn't expected to be as successful as the first two albums, but it did really well and established the band as serious students of reggae.

In 1982, UB40 released another album entitled UB44. It was an excellent record, unfortunately obscured by over-ambitious packaging. The first pressing was released in a plain black sleeve with a seemingly plain silver square, which actually contained the album's title in the form of a hologram. It was the first such use of holography, which was in its infancy, and the result proved rather too much for the casual purchaser. A brave failure.

One year later, in September 1983, UB40 released the album they'd been planning, and putting off, since their first hesitant efforts in a cellar in Moseley. It was their first direct tribute to the musicians who had inspired and influenced them, and the title "Labour Of Love" said it all.

"Labour Of Love", including the astonishingly popular single "Red Red Wine", was in the British chart for two years. It gave UB40 their first truly worldwide hit and, eventually, their first American No.1.

UB40 have maintained their instantly recognisable and highly distinctive style through nine more albums, as well as two hits compilations.

"The Best Of UB40 - Volume One", released in November 1987, stayed in the UK charts for 123 weeks. "Baggariddim", their adventurous 1985 collaboration with local DJ's also contained "Don't Break My Heart" and "I Got You Babe" (with Chrissie Hynde), both memorable hit singles. Chrissie Hynde joined the band again for "Breakfast In Bed", the hit of the 1988 album simply called "UB40".

1989 saw the release of a second helping of "Labour Of Love", from which "Kingston Town" and "Homely Girl" were hits throughout Europe, while "Here I Am" and "The Way You Do The Things You Do" were similarly successful in the United States.

Success continued throughout the Nineties with the release of "Promises and Lies" which becomes the group's biggest selling album worldwide, selling in excess of 9 million copies worldwide, and producing the hit single "Can' Help Falling In Love", giving the band their third UK No. 1. "Guns In the Ghetto",

released in 1997, included the single 'Tell Me Is It True', which was featured in the film *Speed II*. The UB40's reaffirmed their commitment to reggae with "UB40 Present The Dancehall Album", a collaboration with leading Jamaican dancehall artists, including Beenie Man and Lady Saw. The third volume of "Labour Of Love" was released in 1998.

The band released a new studio album "Cover Up" in 2001 and marked the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of their debut album "Signing Off" with a British tour and a celebratory birthday concert at the NEC in Birmingham in aid of the United Nations AIDS Awareness Campaign.

"The Fathers Album", a project that took three years in the making, saw the band working with a string of legendary reggae artists such as Toots Hibbert, Gregory Isaacs and John Holt, and was released in 2002.

In 2003 UB40 received an Ivor Novello Award for International Achievement and secured a Top Ten album with the "Platinum Collection", a triple box set comprising the whole "Labour of Love" series. Their 22<sup>nd</sup> album, "Homegrown", included "Swing Low", the anthem for the England rugby team's triumphant 2003 World Cup campaign in Australia. The song became the group's 49<sup>th</sup> UK chart single. The only bands to have notched up more hits are The Shadows, Status Quo and Queen.

But now - on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their recording debut - they have gone back to doing what they do best. With their 23<sup>rd</sup> album, "Who You Fighting For", they have gone back to simply being UB40 – a classic reggae band. Like all memorable UB40 albums, "Who You Fighting For" strikes the perfect balance between the personal and the universal. It features great love songs such as "Gotta Tell Someone" and the romantic ballad "One Woman Man". And, with the current political situation in various regions throughout the world providing a new source of inspiration, the title track and the hard-hitting "Plenty More" bring a renewed sense of purpose to UB40's political writing.

In April 2005 UB40 united with Roger Daltrey, Eric Clapton and John Mayer to play their first ever show at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. They were then invited to perform at the Live8 event in London's Hyde Park, alongside U2, Pink Floyd, Coldplay, Madonna, Robbie Williams and The Who. A successful sell-out arena tour in the UK, Ireland and Europe completed the year.

Touring continues throughout 2006, visiting countries such as Mozambique, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands (New Caledonia, Tahiti, Tonga, Fiji) Hawaii and continuing on to the US and Canada. The band will return to the UK at the end of April to perform a series of out-door shows at various forest locations throughout the country.

For over twenty five years, UB40 have continued the job of popularising reggae around the globe. In the process, they continue to give enormous pleasure to a public too vast to be defined by age, generation tribe or fashion.

## PROMISES & LIES

### INTERVIEW

#### DIRECTOR NICK BAGNALL

##### **What is your role on this production?**

*I am the Director, so I am co-producing it with The REP. I directed a play here last year, written by Jess Walters called 'Low Dat' and I directed 'The Bolt Hole' by Arzhang Pezhman which is currently on tour.*

##### **What is the play about in your words?**

*It's not like your average musical. There are twelve main characters that all sing and who are all slightly damaged! I think the play is about empowerment and loneliness and betrayal. Jess is such an extraordinary writer and she deals with the empowerment of women. She has made the main character Rudie, a young girl who lives on the streets, who was abandoned by her mother and has been in care all her life, so it's not your average musical. There are musicals that deal with dark things but Jess has dealt with it in a very heightened way at street level. So the play is about a young girl who lives on the streets who wants to find her mother, arranges to meet her, but her mother then doesn't show, and the whole story is about her [Rudie] covering up and pretending that she doesn't want to see her mother, so it's promises and lies really; that's where the name comes from. There are other stories around Rudie's story which are all about people who can't connect with one another. Everyone is in search of something. The heightened poetic street language of UB40's lyrics and the writing of Jess [Walters] seem to combine really well.*

##### **How did the collaboration of UB40 and this play come about?**

*There was an original idea by a local Midlands TV producer/writer, John Dixon, who came up with the concept about 2 years ago. He approached UB40 because he thought their lyrical content fitted his original storyline. UB40 didn't want to tell the story of UB40; they wanted their music to help tell and enhance a story. Dep International [UB40's Management] and John Dixon approached The REP with the original idea who thought it was a great association and after the first meeting decided they wanted to do something. At Jonathan Church's [Artistic Director at The REP] suggestion, UB40's management came to see 'Low Dat' last year while they were in the process of looking for someone to write the book for it [the musical] and Jess just seemed to fit. That was how that came about. UB40 have written two new songs especially for the show, which is extraordinary.*

### **What are the challenges you face in directing 'Promises & Lies'?**

*It's a challenge working with such a big stage - I've acted in big spaces but I've never directed in big spaces. The difficulty with something like this is making the story very truthful and the songs to come out of the story in a very heightened way that the back of the auditorium can see. It's really tricky. There's a real truth to everything that is said. Words as weapons is how Jess writes.*

### **Jess wrote a book originally, didn't she?**

*She wrote a book but she also had a choice of songs She chose the songs as if they were her words, so it didn't jar. The songs blend into the scene and we're playing with the songs, where they come, whether they are private or public, accompanied or unaccompanied.*

### **How have you communicated the harshness of the worlds in which the characters live?**

*If we can talk about and create and embrace the world of the play then that's all we need to do. Then that story will be told. Its set in any city in the world, it could be set on the edge of a cliff. For me anyway, it could be anywhere; these are issues that are in any major city. You walk up Broad Street or Upper Street in London or any street in any city in the world and it's like that, full of characters that only come out at night and that's where the play starts.*

### **What do you want the young audiences to come away from this thinking or feeling?**

*I think what is really difficult at this stage in rehearsals [2 weeks in] is that the arc of the story is not yet fully clear. We've just had a new draft of the script come in and the draft that we had earlier would say something completely different to this draft we've got now. This version deals with simple twists of fate and that it's not impossible that your dreams can come true. I really really hope that young audiences come out with a sense of empowerment and the sense that you are allowed to put your front foot forward and question and doubt and not feel judged, and you can pursue things in active way. I think the combination of this reggae, has a connection to the street and that any generation would get that.*

### **What would you say to aspiring young directors?**

*Just do it, try it. Raise a few quid, get a space, and get a few people to see it [the play]. It's the only way really.*

## PROMISES & LIES

### DRUGS INFORMATION – Alcohol



The following information can also be found at [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

#### What is it?

Alcohol can play a major part in many people's social lives. That's why it's easy to forget that it's actually a very powerful drug. Technically speaking, it's a depressant which means it slows down your body's responses in all kinds of ways. Just enough can make you feel great, too much and it's all over.

**Names:** You've heard them all before - booze, bevy, and pop.

#### What does it look like?

Alcohol comes in all kinds of forms. From the hard stuff - spirits like whisky and vodka - to the Alcopops and mixers that seem innocent but actually contain more alcohol by volume than beer or cider.

#### How much does it cost?

From own brand lagers to rare single malts, you can pay as much or as little as you like for Britain's favourite drug.

#### What's in it?

Because it's legal and sold only in licensed premises, most alcohol is unadulterated by anything very nasty. It's more likely that someone will try to put something in your drink like Rohypnol or GHB.

#### What effect does it have?

Like most drugs, alcohol will exaggerate whatever mood you're in when you start drinking. So if you're on a bit of a downer when you hit the pub, you might just stay that way.

Alcohol is a relaxant so in moderation it can reduce feelings of anxiety, reduce inhibitions and make you feel more sociable.

It takes your body an hour to process one unit of alcohol. So it doesn't take a genius to work out that if you're downing them like there's no tomorrow, your body won't be able to cope. And you'll end up plastered.

One too many can strip you of your dignity. Slurring your words, loss of balance and vomiting are just some of the effects that you may want to avoid. Especially if you're trying to impress.

Time is the only thing that will help you process alcohol. Even a bathful of black coffee isn't going to sober you up if you've overdone it.

Official guidelines recommend no more than 3-4 units a day for adult men, 2-3 for adult women. One unit is half a pint of beer, lager or cider. One small glass of table wine. Or a 25ml measure of spirits.

### **How Addictive is it?**

If you drink sensibly that's OK, but for some people it can soon get out of control. Alcoholism is a big problem for some.

### **What effect does it have?**

Dependence on alcohol can creep up on you. Tolerance increases with use so if you drink on a regular basis, over time you'll need more and more alcohol to reach the same state.

It can make you mouthy, argumentative and aggressive. So if you discover you're a nasty drunk you'd be wise to rein it in.

Serious overindulgence can lead to alcohol poisoning which could put you in a coma or even kill you.

Long-term use of alcohol has been linked with illnesses like liver damage, stomach cancer and heart disease.

### **Is it illegal?**

Under 5 - It is illegal to give an alcoholic drink to a child under 5 except in certain circumstances e.g. under medical supervision.

Under 14 - A person under 14 can't go into a bar or pub unless the pub has a 'children's certificate'. If it doesn't they can only go into parts that aren't licensed where alcohol is either sold but not drunk (e.g. a sales point away from the pub), OR drunk but not sold (e.g. a beer garden or family room).

14 or 15 - 14 and 15 year olds can go anywhere in a pub but can't drink alcohol.

16 or 17 - 16 and 17 year olds can buy (or be bought) beer or cider as long as it's bought to eat with a meal, but not in a bar (i.e. only in a place specifically set aside for meals).

Under 18 - Except for 16 and 17 year olds having a meal in a pub, it's against the law for anyone under 18 to buy alcohol in a pub, off-license or supermarket. It's also illegal to buy alcohol in a pub for someone who's not 18.

Anyone over 18 can buy and drink alcohol legally in licensed premises in Britain.

## PROMISES & LIES

### DRUGS INFORMATION – Cannabis



The following information can also be found at [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

#### What is it?

The most widely used illegal drug in Britain. It's a naturally occurring drug made from parts of the cannabis plant. It's a mild hallucinogen and often gives sedative like effects that make some people feel chilled out and others feel sick. It's not very expensive and widely available.

**Names:** Bhang, black, blast, blow, blunts. Bob Hope, bush, dope, draw, ganja, grass, hash, hashish, hemp, herb, marijuana, pot, puff, Northern Lights, resin, sensi, sinsemilla, shit, skunk, smoke, soap, spliff, wacky backy, weed, zero. Some names are based on where it comes from... Afghan, homegrown, Moroccan etc

#### What does it look like?

Cannabis comes in different forms.

Hash is a blacky-brown lump made from the resin of the plant. It's quite often squidgey. Grass or weed is the dried leaves of the plant. It looks like tightly packed dried garden herbs.

Less common is sinsemilla. This is bud grown in the absence of male plants and has no seeds. And cannabis oil which is dark and sticky and comes in a small jar.

Most people mix cannabis up with tobacco and smoke it as a spliff or a joint. Some people put it in a pipe. Others make tea with it or put it in food like cakes.

#### How much does it cost?

Varies widely around the country. Grass is usually more expensive than resin (hash).

## **What's in it?**

Some unsuspecting people have been known to buy blocks of mud, stock cubes and garden herbs from people pretending to be dealers. The most impure Cannabis is called 'soap bar'. It's contaminated with all sorts of things. This makes it cheaper but it's a false economy really as it is often harder to get stoned. Some users hate it so much they object to smoking it.

## **What effect does it have?**

Cannabis often gives sedative like effects that make some people feel chilled out and happy and others have one puff and feel sick. Others get the giggles until the muscles in their face hurt. Hunger pangs are common and are known as 'getting the munchies'. Even hardcore smokers can get anxious, panicky and suspicious. It affects your coordination, which is why drug driving is just as illegal as drink driving.

Cannabis, like tobacco, has chemical 'nasties' which can cause lung disease and cancer with long term or heavy use. Cannabis can make asthma worse. And it increases blood pressure so it is a bad idea for anyone with heart problems.

There is also increasing evidence of a link between cannabis and mental health problems such as schizophrenia. If you have a history of mental health problems or are experiencing paranoia or depression you definitely want to steer clear of cannabis.

It's estimated that about 10% of users are hooked on cannabis.

If you smoke it with tobacco you can get hooked on the tobacco.

Frequent use of cannabis can cut a man's sperm count and suppress ovulation in women. If you are pregnant, smoking cannabis may harm the baby.

Regular, heavy use makes it harder to learn and concentrate and some people begin to feel tired all the time and can't seem to get motivated.

## **How addictive is it?**

There is a minimal risk of physical dependence. Psychological dependency occurs in about 10% of users.

Users are more likely to get addicted to nicotine if they roll their spliffs with tobacco.

## **Is it illegal?**

Cannabis is illegal; it's a C drug.

If you are caught with Cannabis and are under 18 you will be arrested. If you are over 18 you might be arrested, or given a warning. The drug will be confiscated. The maximum penalty is a two year prison sentence. For less serious cases you are likely to get a warning or a reprimand. This goes on your record and if you get caught again you could end up in court.

You can be arrested even if you are only carrying a very small amount. Blatant smoking in public or repeat offending will also result in an arrest.

Drug driving is as illegal as drink driving. You could go to prison, get a heavy fine or be disqualified.

People who grow cannabis in their homes will be arrested and prosecuted and might be charged with 'intent to supply' which has the same penalties as dealing.

Allowing people to take cannabis in your house or any other premises is illegal. If the police catch someone smoking cannabis in a club they can prosecute the landlord, club owner or person holding the party.

A drug conviction could mess up your chances of getting your ideal job.

The police will consider dealing cannabis a much more serious offence than possession. It's a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison. Sorting out your mates with cannabis is still seen as dealing.

## PROMISES & LIES

### DRUGS INFORMATION – Crack



The following information can also be found at [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

#### **What is it?**

Crack is a smokeable form of Cocaine that's made into small lumps or rocks. It's called crack because it makes a crackling sound when it's being burnt. It's a stimulant with short-lived effects and it's very addictive.

**Names:** Crack is also known as rocks, wash, stones, pebbles, base, and freebase.

#### **What does it look like?**

A rock of crack is about the size of a raisin. It's usually smoked in a pipe, glass tube, plastic bottle or in foil. Most people take it this way and it's known as freebasing. Although it can be injected.

#### **How much does it cost?**

A rock costs between £12 and £20 although it's sometimes sold cheaper by the slice or as a 'clubbing rock' for about £10.

#### **What's in it?**

Crack is cocaine, baking soda and water.

#### **What effect does it have?**

##### *The Highs*

Crack has the same short-lived effects as cocaine but they're much, much stronger. The effects are immediate, peak for about two minutes and last about 10 minutes.

Crack makes users feel alive, exhilarated, confident and wide awake. It kills all feelings of pain, tiredness and hunger.

##### *The Lows*

After the 20 minute high comes a long, low crash which can be associated with massive cravings to take more. The high can come with hallucinations, huge

mood swings and massive paranoia. Some people get aggressive or violent. The crash makes people feel sick, tired and depressed.

Regular users look excited but nervous. Heavy users have trouble sleeping and feel sick quite a lot. Heavy crack users may take heroin to try to dull the cravings, which can increase the risks.

### **How addictive is it?**

Regular crack users can quickly become physically and psychologically dependant. This is a difficult drug to control.

### **What are the risks?**

Crack users have died from overdose. High doses can raise the body's temperature, cause convulsions and respiratory arrest. The risk of overdosing increases if crack is mixed with heroin, barbiturates or alcohol.

Cocaine in any form can be bad news for anybody with high blood pressure or a heart condition. Too much smoking crack can cause breathing problems and pains in the chest. Smoking anything damages the lungs. Using a lot can bring on a seizure or a fit. People who use crack and coke regularly often develop serious problems with anxiety and paranoia. It's also a known cause of panic attacks. Very large doses can cause death from heart or respiratory problems but it's rare.

Because the effects wear off so quickly, cocaine and crack are expensive drugs. Falling under the spell of crack could leave the richest person bankrupt. Because of the addictive nature of crack there is a strong link to crime as users seek to fund their habit.

Injecting any drug can cause vein damage, ulcers and gangrene. Dirty or shared needles and other injecting works can help the spread of HIV and hepatitis. It's easier to overdose by injecting crack.

Injecting a mixture of cocaine and heroin, known as a 'speedball' is one of the most dangerous cocktails you can put in a human body.

### **Is it illegal?**

Crack is a Class A drug - illegal to have, give away or sell. Possessing crack can get you up to seven years in jail. Supplying someone else with it can get you life and an unlimited fine.

Fact: Passing drugs among friends is supplying in the eyes of the law.

Fact: A drug conviction could stand between you and your ideal job.

## PROMISES & LIES

### DRUGS INFORMATION – Heroin



The following information can also be found at [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

#### What is it?

Heroin is a natural opiate. It's made from the morphine which comes from the opium poppy. Like many drugs made from opium, including the synthetic opioids like methadone, heroin is a very strong painkiller.

Heroin sold as 'brown' is sometimes used by clubbers as a chill out after a big night out. Brown is still heroin; some people mistakenly think it's not as addictive.

**Names:** Brown, skag, H, horse, gear, smack.

#### What does it look like?

Heroin comes as a white powder when it's pure such as that used by doctors. But thanks to the range of substances it's cut with, street heroin can be anything from brownish white to brown.

It can be smoked, snorted or dissolved in water and injected.

#### How much does it cost?

Feeding a heroin habit can cost up to £100 a day. Finding the money to fund a habit is tough and some users turn to crime to get the money they need.

#### What's in it?

Heroin is big business. And the more cheap fillers dealers can mix with it to pad it out, the more cash they'll make. A user has no way of knowing what their heroin is mixed with. Recent tests have shown it can contain nutmeg, brick dust, and ground-up gravel.

#### What effect does it have?

Heroin slows down body functioning and stops physical and psychological pain. Most users get a rush or buzz a few minutes after taking it. A small dose of

heroin gives the user a feeling of warmth and well-being. Bigger doses can make the user sleepy and very relaxed. The first dose of heroin can bring about dizziness and vomiting.

### **How addictive is it?**

Big time even when it's smoked. Heroin is not addictive instantly but over time the desired effects reduce so much that users have to take more and more just to get the same effects and even more just to feel 'normal'. Effects on the brain cause 'craving' and strong psychological and physical dependence.

Drugs have been developed to help treat heroin addiction. These include substitutes for heroin such as methadone and subutex (bupranorphine) and also drugs like naltrexone that block the effects of heroin so you can't get a high.

### **What are the risks?**

Deaths from overdose do occur. But the risk increases after a period off the drug because the body's tolerance for the drug goes down. Excessive doses can lead to coma and even death from respiratory failure. If heroin is taken with other drugs, including alcohol, overdose is much more likely. Other 'downers' such as benzodiazepine tranquillisers are also associated with heroin overdose deaths.

There's a risk of death due to inhaling vomit as heroin stops the body's cough reflex working properly. Injecting heroin can do nasty damage to your veins and has been known to lead to gangrene.

The risks of sharing needles and other works to inject are well-known, putting you in danger of infections like hepatitis B or C and of course HIV/AIDS

### **Is it illegal?**

Heroin is a class A drug. This means that possessing it can lead to a prison sentence of up to 7 years and an unlimited fine. Supplying (which includes giving it to a friend) could lead to a life sentence and another unlimited fine.

**Fact:** Passing drugs among friends is supplying in the eyes of the law.

**Fact:** A drug conviction could stand between you and your ideal job

## **PROMISES & LIES**

### **PROSTITUTION**

#### **What is Prostitution?**

Prostitution describes the offering and provision of sexual services for financial gain.

In the UK, prostitution itself is not illegal but there are a number of offences linked to it. For example, it is an offence to 'procure' a prostitute or to use premises as a brothel and thereby live off 'immoral earnings'.

#### **What do people think of Prostitution?**

Prostitution continues to be heavily debated. Those who disagree with it believe that it is immoral and should be banned. This view is held by many religious groups.

But some people believe that prostitution shouldn't be banned and that in fact it should be regulated with licensed brothels. They feel this would help to ensure worker safety, keep prostitutes off the streets, help prevent health problems, bring revenue to the Treasury and remove the need for exploitative and abusive pimps. 'Pimp' is the name used for a person who 'manages' prostitutes. They are often threatening and violent towards the prostitutes they 'manage' and sometimes imprison their workers to prevent them from running away.

#### **Why do people become Prostitutes?**

There are a larger number of female prostitutes than there are male. Most prostitutes end up working the streets out of desperation for money, often to feed a drug habit, to get out of debt or simply to earn enough money to survive.

#### **How many people are prostitutes in the UK?**

- It has been estimated that there could be as many as 80,000 people involved in prostitution in the UK.
- As many as 85% of prostitutes report physical abuse in the family.
- As many as 70% of prostitutes have spent time in care.
- As many as 95% of those involved in prostitution are believed to use Heroin and/or Crack.

These statistics were taken from the Home Office consultation paper prostitution 'Paying the Price' July 2004.

## **PROMISES & LIES**

### **CHILD PROSTITUTION**

#### **What is Child Prostitution?**

Child Prostitution is the sexual exploitation of a child for money.

#### **How many children are involved in Prostitution in the UK?**

BBC Radio 5Live recently carried out some research into child prostitution and found that hundreds of children around Britain are being lured into the world of paid sex.

Police and Child Care agencies find it difficult to keep track of the number of children involved in prostitution. Ruthless criminals are setting up sophisticated networks to entice children of both sexes. Experts say prostitution is rife in every major town and city and in Rotherham alone, there are thought to be approximately 80 girls working the streets.

#### **How & why do some children become prostitutes?**

Many of the children involved in prostitution have run away from children's homes or foster homes and are living rough on the streets.

Children as young as nine are being pushed into prostitution as a way of making money to survive living rough, but the dangers are great. The children are at risk of abuse and attack from 'punters' (the people paying for sex) and 'pimps' who claim to 'look after' the prostitutes.

Children on the streets are vulnerable, unhappy, disaffected youngsters, an easy target for a 'pimp'. Many are addicted to crack cocaine and they will do anything to feed their habit.

## PROMISES & LIES



## HOMELESSNESS

### What does Homeless mean?

A homeless person is a person who does not have a permanent place of residence. A person living in transitional housing or a person who spends most nights in a supervised public or private facility providing temporary living quarters is also called homeless.

### How many people are homeless in the UK?

#### Homeless Households

The latest homelessness figures for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2005, released by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, show that the number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation has risen slightly from 100,970 at the end of June 2005 to 101,020 at the end of September 2005. This has more than doubled since 1997.

#### Single Homeless People

Single homeless people are defined as those suffering from homelessness who are single adults or couples without dependent children. It is estimated that the actual number of single homeless people at any one point is between a range of 310,000 and 380,000.

### How and Why do people become homeless?

There are a number of situations that can lead to a person becoming homeless.

The most common events that can lead a person to become homeless are;

- The break-up of a marriage or relationship;
- The loss of a job, leading to the repossession of a home or inability to pay rent
- An addiction to, or abuse of, prescribed or illegal drugs or alcohol, or even gambling.

The majority of *young* homeless people who have run away from home, foster care or children's home have done so due to some kind of conflict or friction with parents or guardians. The reasons for the conflict are varied but some common ones are involvement with drugs and/or crime, teenage pregnancy and sexual abuse.

## PROMISES & LIES



## ABANDONED BABIES

### What is an abandoned baby?

A baby that has been left without a mother or father to care for it, usually in public place to be found by someone else.

### How many abandoned babies are there in the UK?

In 2004 a total of 49 babies were abandoned in the UK, according to the most recent Home Office statistics. The number of abandoned babies averages nearly one a week.

### What happens to abandoned babies?

Abandoned babies are taken in by social services who wait to see if the natural mother comes to claim her infant. Eventually, if there is no news, the child is fostered or adopted in a nearby town, with a new name.

### Why do some mothers abandon their baby?

A common reason for women to abandon their baby is the denial of pregnancy; they ignore the signs and then leave the new-born child in a state of panic after it has been born. Such women are usually too scared to ask for help.

### What could happen to mothers who abandon their babies?

It is a criminal offence to abandon a child under the age of two, as is classed as cruelty or neglect of a child. Many police forces now have officers specially trained to deal with such cases. Appeals to the parents are made as sensitively as possible, as they are often in a traumatised state and need help. In Germany and Texas (see photo above), there are 'baby banks', places where women can safely leave their babies without questions in a warm hospital environment. Some people would like 'baby banks' to be introduced in the UK, but some fear that it may encourage mothers to abandon their infants.

## PROMISES & LIES

### FOLLOW UP IDEAS

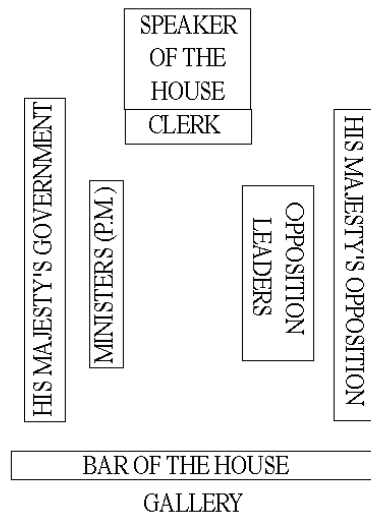
#### CITIZENSHIP & DRAMA – Issues for Debate



#### Create a Classroom Parliament

A number of social issues are explored within the story of 'Promises & Lies' with each issue having raising some poignant questions for debate.

Set up the tables and chairs in your classroom to allow two opposing parties of students to debate with each other.



Split the students into two groups, those who are FOR and those who are AGAINST.

Give the students the information sheets on Drugs, Prostitution, Homelessness and Abandoned Babies.

Tackle each issue one at a time and appoint yourself the speaker to keep proceedings in order.

Ask the students to elect a spokesperson for their party and give them time to decide on their argument. They made need some pens and paper to write down their main points.

Use the following questions on the following issues for your debate.

***Prostitution – Should Brothels be legalised and therefore regulated?***

***Homelessness – Should homeless people be given free houses to live in?***

***Abandoned Babies – Should ‘baby banks’ be introduced for women to leave their babies safely?***

***Drugs – Should some or all drugs be legalised and therefore regulated?***

Encourage the students to debate the reasons for and against and if possible to come to some kind of decision. Use a voting procedure to come to a final consensus of opinion. The parliament could meet regularly to debate issues such as these.

## PROMISES & LIES

### FOLLOW UP IDEAS

#### CITIZENSHIP & DRAMA – Consequences of Actions

##### Circle of Consequence

Ask the students to consider the actions of one of the characters in the play. Explain to them that you are going to explore the consequences of one character's actions and the impact that his/her actions might have had on others.

Ask for a volunteer to stand in the middle of the room and represent one of the characters. They do not need to say anything, just stand there. Now ask the other students to choose another character in the play who they think is affected by the actions of the character in the middle, or to choose someone who wasn't in the play but was likely to have been affected.

For example, Cuddles is a drug addict and he steals Breda's handbag in order to feed his habit. Who is affected by his actions?

Encourage the students to think of less obvious people like Breda and Rudie and to consider other people like the bystanders in the club. Once the students have decided who they are, ask them to stand as close or as far away from Cuddles as they think their character would depending upon who strongly they have been affected by his actions. When they have done this you can question them about how they feel, what they are thinking and what impact Cuddles actions have had on them.

##### Circle of Trust, Fear, Respect....

Repeat this exercise asking the students to place themselves according to their fear of Cuddles, or their respect for him, or the extent to which they trust him.

The findings from this exercise could be used to create a '**Role on the Wall**' character outline for each of the people in the play.

The 'Role on the Wall' could be used for reference for a student taking on the role of one of the characters in a '**Hot Seat**'. The character is the '**Hot Seat**' is questioned to provide further insight into their behaviour and actions.



## PROMISES & LIES

### FOLLOW UP IDEAS

#### ENGLISH & DRAMA – Developing Script

##### Forum Theatre

Use the following piece of script as a basis for exploring other outcomes. Ask the students to work in pairs and read the extract then choose a pair to stand up and act it out. When they have done this, stop the action and invite the other students to change the behaviour of one of the characters to alter the outcome. The student playing the character being altered must then improvise the scene with the other character responding as they think their character would. In the end the students should have created several different scenes with different outcomes. They can then write these up into alternative scenes for the play.

**RUDIE** I'm Mary

**BREDA** But you're the girl I talked to at the wheel. [*Scrutinizes RUDIE*] Do you have a wee birthmark on your arm?

*RUDIE pulls up her sleeve*

Oh God it is, you are, she is! Can I take you in my arms? darlin? [*RUDIE stands frozen, BREDA embraces her and doesn't let her go*] It's a miracle! And she's so bloody beautiful! Why didn't you say anything to me at the wheel?

**RUDIE** I didn't know

**BREDA** [*Holds her close*] Mary

##### What Happens Next?

The students can also improvise what happens next at the end of the story. At the end of the play Rudie and her mother Breda are re-united but what does the future hold for them? Ask the students to consider what their relationship might be like six days, six weeks, six months, six years from the reunion.

##### The Letter

Ask the students to write the letter from Rudie to Breda that is mentioned in the play. What did she write? How might she have felt whilst she was writing it? Encourage the students to do this individually and then the differences between the letters can be discussed.

## PROMISES & LIES

### FOLLOW UP IDEAS

#### ENGLISH & MUSIC – Writing Lyrics

##### UB40 Lyrics

The following lyrics are taken from the song 'One in Ten'. Ask the students to look at the lyrics and to consider what they mean.

I am the one in Ten  
A number on a list  
I am the one in Ten  
Even though I don't exist  
Nobody knows me  
But I'm always there  
A statistic, a reminder  
Of a world that doesn't care

Encourage the students to write their own lyrics about issues that interest them. Ask the students to create their own track using the lyrics they have written.

##### UB40 Fact file

Ask the students to choose a member of UB40 to investigate. Encourage them to find out all they can about that person and to present their findings in a fact file. They could include photographs of the school they attended if it is a local one. The fact files could be put together to form a comprehensive book about UB40.

##### UB40 Music

Ask the students to research 'dub' music and to find out more about where it originated from. What or who influenced the sound produced by UB40? Create a glossary of musical definitions for classroom reference. Encourage the students to try producing examples of various genres of music that others can listen to when they look something up in the glossary.

## PROMISES & LIES

## USEFUL WEBSITES

[www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk)

[www.homelesspages.org.uk](http://www.homelesspages.org.uk)

[www.crisis.org.uk](http://www.crisis.org.uk)

[www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk)

[www.ub40.co.uk](http://www.ub40.co.uk)

[www.politics.co.uk](http://www.politics.co.uk)

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)