



## ***Stronger***

*A moving and uplifting performance about families and disability.*

*Stronger* explores the experiences of families of children with additional needs, specifically the pressures they face and the things which strengthen them.

Set in a Holiday Resort in Menorca, *Stronger* presents two families that are at different stages in their parenting journey. Sharon and Pete have teenage kids and have come away on their own for the first time in years. Ben and Cara are worried about their young baby Holly. Located on adjoining balconies, the couples are drawn together –through their support for each other the play highlights some of the pressures and joys that families with a disabled child can experience and what strengthens them.

*Stronger* is accompanied by a facilitated post-show discussion, allowing audiences to engage with the issues raised and receive more information. The programme is suitable for parents' groups and relevant professionals.

*'Very well written – very well researched. I related to it so well it could have been my story!'*

*'Fantastic – it rang so many bells across my life as a parent/ carer.'*

*'Emotive, moving & powerful – thank you.'*

*'Excellent – very powerful performance, should be used as a training resource.'*

### **More about *Stronger***

*Stronger* was commissioned by Scope to support its *Strengthening Families* initiative. It was developed by W&T Artistic Director Janice Connolly through research with the help of professionals and family members, particularly through Scope's face2face network. The play first toured in January 2008, visiting parents groups across England. A training DVD for professionals was also produced, made up of extracts of the play and interviews with parents interspersed with learning objectives/key points.

### **Who is it for?**

*Stronger* is for parents groups and professionals working with families. Designed to support Scope's *Strengthening Families*, the play aims to open communication and discussion around the relationships within the family for parents of disabled children and children with additional support needs.

It aims to provide parents, professionals and supporters (such as teachers, health workers or social workers) with the basic skills to work empathically with families who have a disabled child, to support them through emotional times and help build stronger relationships within the family.

Waverley School, a Special School in Middlesex commissioned a week of performances of *Stronger* for parents and professionals. They carried out in-depth evaluations to capture reactions and responses, which were overwhelmingly positive. Extracts of the report are available on request, which highlight the variety of levels upon which people respond to *Stronger*.

## Availability

Stronger is available for tours or one-off performances. Please contact us for more information.

## Cost

The cost of booking *Stronger* from 3-6<sup>th</sup> March 2009 is £1250 (plus accommodation if needed).

## About Women & Theatre

Award-winning Women & Theatre has established a national reputation over 25 years for producing well-researched and sharply observed pieces of original and exciting theatre on themes of contemporary relevance. By dramatising subjects at the cutting edge of people's consciousness we create accessible theatre that people want to see.

We develop productions and projects from in depth research, sharing stories with communities in a respectful and participatory process. Our work focuses on communication and the sharing of real life experiences. It provides an interactive forum through which to identify with others, deepen understanding and facilitate change

## Guidelines for Bookers

### What Are Suitable Venues?

The target audience for this performance include parents of children with additional needs, befrienders and relevant professionals. A suitable venue is therefore one which is convenient for and accessible to these groups.

What is often successful is hosting performances at venues where existing community groups normally meet. We do not need complicated technical facilities either so we can be quite flexible as far as venues go.

### Performance detail

- The performance itself is 1.5 hours including the play and after show discussion.
- We will need access to the venue and space 1 hour before the performance to set up and 1 hour afterwards to clear away (ie. a total of 3.5 hours at the venue).
- Audience sizes are flexible. We advise any reasonable number of people as long as they can clearly see the action. Please advise us if you expect more than 50 people as this can effect the way we lead the after-show discussion.

### Technical Requirements

- For our performance space we need a room big enough for a minimum playing area of 12ft x 12ft x 12ft plus the seating area.
- Ensure that all fire exits are clear when accommodating the above measurements.
- A ground floor room is preferable.
- The room must have a power source.
- We will bring our own sound equipment and someone to operate it.
- We need to unload as close as possible to the performance space and then park our van. Please let us know where we can park and whether there is a height restriction on the car park. If we need a parking permit please arrange this for us.

**For more information or to make a booking please contact:  
The Friends Institute. 220 Moseley Road. Birmingham. B12 0DG  
Tel: 0121 440 4203. Fax: 0121 446 4280 Email: [info@womenandtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@womenandtheatre.co.uk)**