



Aftermath

by 11A, Rachel Knightley
and Samantha Wright

First performance of this production: Saturday 21st April 2007

Run time: 1 hour

There will be no interval

'Does Dennis really have to die?' I asked whilst forming the plot with 11A in class. The reaction was an adamant 'Yes!' Why was this lovely group so keen to kill off the sweet little anti-hero they had created? Because the point of the story, emerging through their ideas and improvised scenes, was that there is no second chance to do the right thing.

A party at the home of the popular - and vacuous - Catherine White leads to a police investigation when the class nerd, Dennis, is found outside, unconscious, having apparently been beaten up. His subsequent death in hospital makes it a murder investigation.

Everyone has a motive, but is anyone entirely guilty? *If only* Alison hadn't hidden the fact that he was her cousin and gone off to get drunk, too embarrassed to be seen talking to him; *if only* Dennis hadn't punched the school bully the day before; *if only* Annie hadn't tried to use Dennis to do her homework; *if only* Catherine had told someone what she'd seen and done; *if only* Helen hadn't stayed upstairs sulking in her room; and *if only* Tasha hadn't been jealous... The ghost of guilt - personified by Dennis - is ever-present as this group of friends, splintered by suspicions and secrets, struggles to live with the aftermath of their own choices.

In the tradition of Peter Nicholls's *Passion Play* and, more recently on this stage, Alan Bennett's *The Lady in the Van*, the struggle of the protagonists to decide what to do, what to reveal and what to hide is represented through the opposing sides of their personalities being played by separate actors. Decisions of what to reveal, who to tell and what to hide grapple for supremacy within their minds to force their actions, until eventually Helen and Tasha have to push away their inner doubts and face each other; while Alison and Catherine must face the loss of social consequence as their own sins come to the surface...

Rachel Knightley

List of Scenes

1: The police station, a day after the party
2: Flashback: the party
3: The police station

4: Flashback: school, the day before the party
5: School assembly
6: Catherine and Helen's house; Tasha's house

Cast

Police	Belinda Yonon Elliot Bentley Malicka Ahluwalia Will Higginson
Catherine	Ana Hunt Francesca Madden-Crowe
Alison	Georgia Wells
Helen	Miriam Ospovat-Stockton Cecily Johnson
Chris	Nick Sarbicki
Joe	Elliot Bentley
Headmistress	Anna Gatley-O'Neill
Annie	Malicka Ahluwalia
Claudia	Guyanne Saul
Dennis	Paul Kilgarriff Will Higginson
Tasha	Belinda Yonon Sam Murray

Crew

Director	Rachel Knightley
Assistant director	Iain Stirling
Design consultant	Alex Marker
Stage manager	Martin Choules
Deputy stage manager	Jack Richardson
Assistant stage manager	Allie Hunter
Lighting	Chris Edwards
Sound	Danny Bailey
Wardrobe	Jennie Yates
Make-up	Peter Salvietto
Photography	Michael Smith
Chaperone	Carol Hunter
Programme editor	Rachel Knightley

With thanks to:

The Questors office staff, Annie Campbell, Emily De Cosimo, Cecily Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Abby Taylor and Izabella Urbanowicz