

**TURNING  
POINT**  
inspired by possibility



# HUMAN STORY THEATRE

**DRY Tour Pack**



# ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

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James and Ellen Wilson, a middle aged couple, are finding themselves indulging at one dinner party too many. Initially the supper talk is light and amusing and James in particular is the quintessential lugubrious host and knowledgeable sommelier. But soon the cracks in their marriage appear and the conversation becomes more barbed.

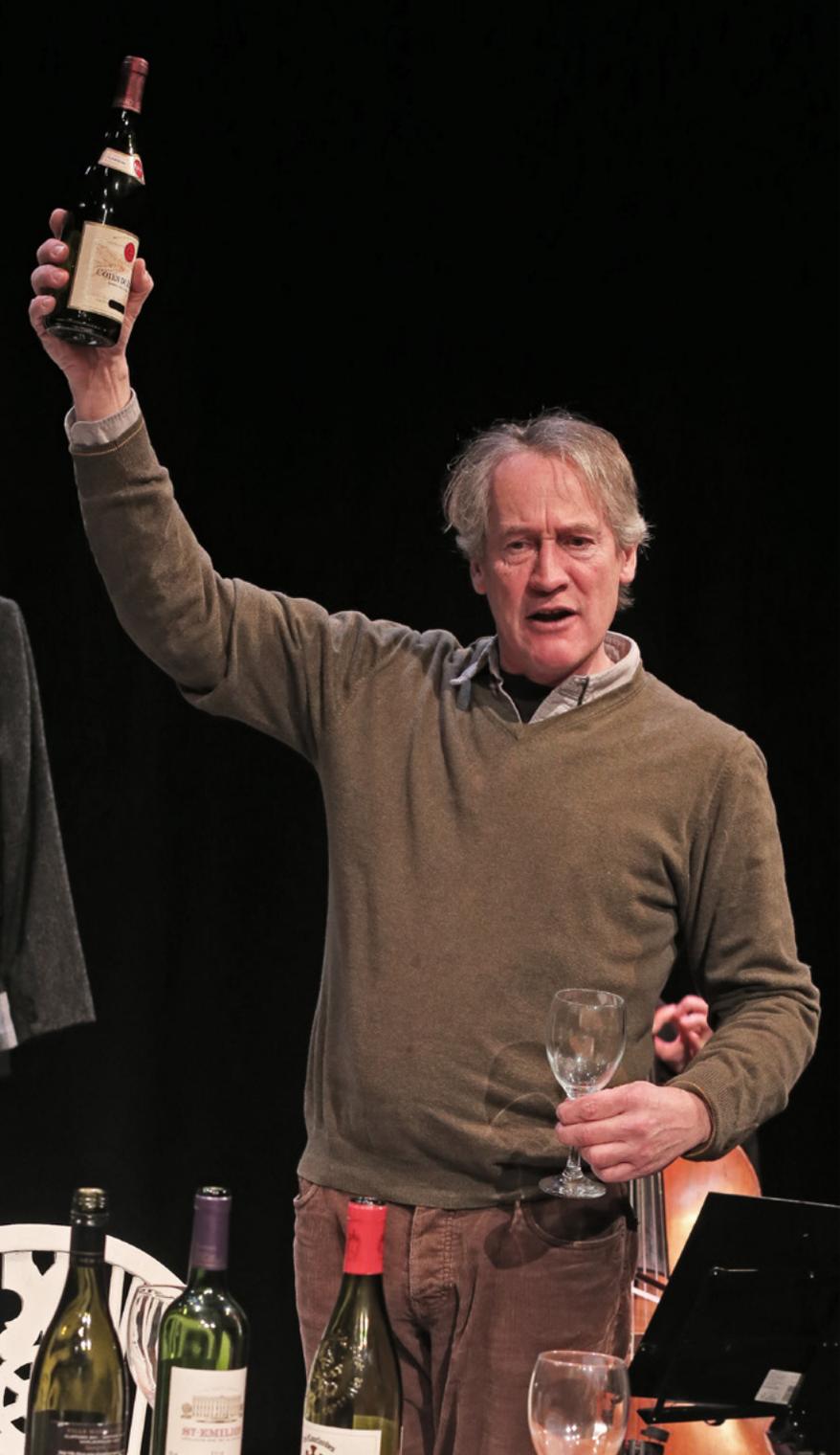
Many of us blame that one particular drink for the post party hangover; we need to find and blame that tipping point. There are many such tipping points for James but that would be giving too much of the plot away!

Chloe, their teenage daughter is an onstage musical presence. A cellist caught in the midst of this wine filled evening, she is the emotional barometer of the household, as evidenced through her playing.

## Gaye Poole (Writer)

*"As I started writing DRY it was difficult not to examine my own drinking and that of people around me. I have had time to reflect on this habit that has insidiously taken a grip on so many people - from the early reward of a work success, 'cheers!', then as life moves on: 'eventually' getting the children to bed, cheers! and lately: of just getting through the day! This isn't a play that preaches but we hope it is a play that raises as many questions as perhaps chuckles of recognition."*

- A play about alcohol and the couple 'next door'
- Pop-up, no frills intimate theatre - the audience are 'in the kitchen' too
- New writing touring nationally to 20-25 venues during 'Dry January' and early February 2020
- 20 minute Q&A with information and support from Turning Point specialists and other organisations
- 'Pay what you can' ticketing policy in non theatre spaces
- Technically adaptable and only 7m by 5m playing space needed
- In partnership with health and social care provider Turning Point



## ABOUT THIS TOUR

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DRY is touring nationally during Dry January 2020 and into early February. It will visit theatres and community venues from Oxfordshire to Leicester. The tour is supported by Turning Point which delivers drug and alcohol recovery services across England for people who want to make a positive change in their lives.

For full cast details visit our website [humanstorytheatre.com](https://www.humanstorytheatre.com).

*"We are delighted to be working in partnership with Human Story Theatre on the national tour of DRY. This is a powerful play about how alcohol can impact on relationships and family life. It is both funny and sad and whilst it doesn't lecture the audience, it certainly makes you question your own relationship with alcohol.*

*There is sometimes a perception that to really have a problem with alcohol you have to have lost all your possessions, your job and your family and this simply isn't true. Through accessible and engaging theatre Human Story Theatre show us a middle class couple and the impact their drinking has on both their relationship and their daughter.*

*The Q&A sessions after the performances allow the audience to reflect on the play and get involved in discussing the issues raised with Turning Point representatives."*

**Jane Wright, Turning Point, Head of Operations (Central & East)**



*"Humour, pathos, shock, pain are provoked as you watch the drama unfold. [...] Yet despite the serious nature of the subject matter, it doesn't lecture. I laughed, was close to tears, and at times also deeply uncomfortable [...] A play about alcohol that doesn't lecture."*

*(★★★★★ The Oxford Times)*

# POST-SHOW Q&A

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A key feature of Human Story Theatre is that after every show we have a 20 minute Q&A, which we feel is as of equal importance as the play itself. An informal atmosphere is created for the Q&A, facilitated with a panel of local specialists. Building on the story within the play, the audience is also encouraged to share their own experiences, both to 'offload' and also to help support fellow audience members, if appropriate. Visit our [Q&A page](#) on our website for more information.



## The Purpose of the Q&A

- To exchange information
- To raise awareness
- To encourage responsibility for own health/social care and for that of the community
- To signpost people to services
- To create a safe environment to share feelings and experiences, where appropriate
- To create an opportunity for reflection and possible change

# Our Ideal Room Layout

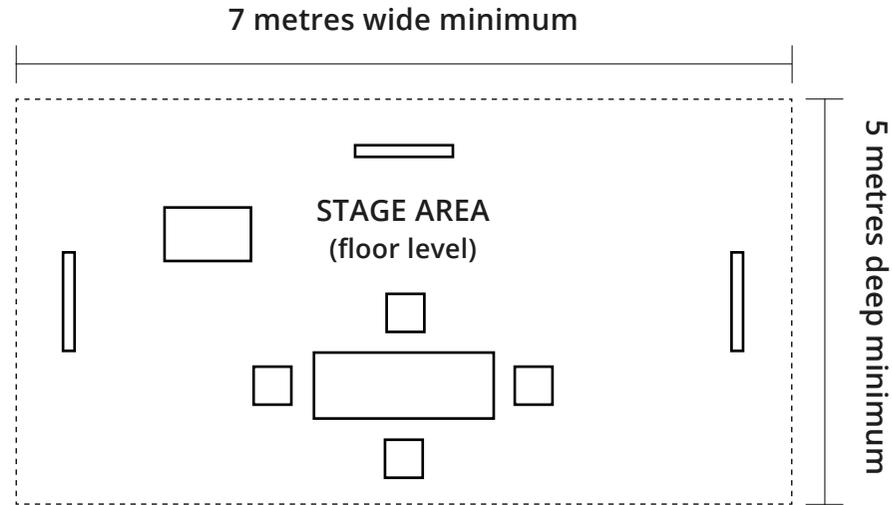
SET:

1x kitchen block (provided by us)

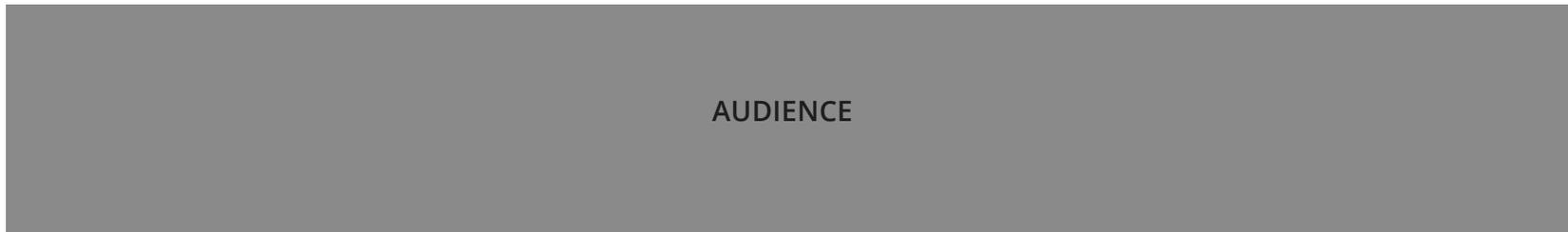
4x chairs (provided by us)

1x kitchen table (provided by us)

3x door frames (provided by us)



One lighting state throughout: general wash and house lights on audience



# Marketing

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Company / Credit</b> | Human Story Theatre in partnership with Turning Point presents   |
| <b>Show title</b>       | DRY by Gaye Poole  |
| <b>Long copy</b>        | <p>DRY by Gaye Poole</p> <p>Music composed by ARne Richards.<br/>Directed by Anna Tolputt</p> <p>Life in the Cotswolds is good, and hardworking James and Ellen Wilson enjoy relaxing with a drink, or two, or three, and often entertain friends with good food and quite a few bottles of good wine. Where does this drinking stop, or does it at all? And how does teenage daughter Chloe cope with the cracks appearing in the formerly smooth running household? A one hour play, with live music, this is a hard-hitting look at the insidious drinking habits to which many of us have succumbed.</p> <p>There is partying and humour alongside the hard hitting facts, making DRY thought provoking and entertaining theatre..</p> <p>There will be a Q&amp;A after each performance with guest speakers from Turning Point and other local organisations.</p> <p><i>"We are inspired by possibility and believe that every person has the ability to change. Turning Point support DRY as it helps bring awareness around the harm alcohol causes in our society".</i><br/>(Oliver Sampson, Recovery Worker, Turning Point Roads to Recovery Oxfordshire)</p> |

# Marketing

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|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Short copy</b>             | <p>In partnership with Turning Point Human Story Theatre presents<br/>DRY by Gaye Poole</p> <p>Music composed by ARne Richards.<br/>Directed by Anna Tolputt</p> <p>The Wilsons may be middle class and middle aged but there is nothing middling about their alcohol intake. Can they keep the 'toxic' out of 'intoxicated' and keep the family together, or is it a case of sorrows drowned?</p> <p>DRY is a one hour drama, originally commissioned by the NHS, with music and humour alongside its serious message. There will be a Q&amp;A after each performance with guest speakers from drug and alcohol treatment provider Turning Point and other local organisations</p> |
| <b>One sentence copy</b>      | <p>DRY lifts the lid on when social drinking shifts out of control, and does so with humour, pathos, music and drama.</p>   |
| <b>Photography credit</b>     | <p>Judie Waldmann &amp; Jason Warner</p>  |
| <b>Age suitability</b>        | <p>12+ (some swearing and serious issues)</p>   |
| <b>Trailer</b>                | <p>60 second trailer <a href="https://youtu.be/aKJA3ysz_T0">https://youtu.be/aKJA3ysz_T0</a></p>  |
| <b>Current National Press</b> | <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/oct/23/play-dementia-touring-libraries-alzheimers">https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/oct/23/play-dementia-touring-libraries-alzheimers</a></p>  |



***"The post show talk I attended of DRY was incredible, the audience fully engaged in the topic sharing their own experiences in a moving and inspiring way."***

***(Lucy Askew, Chief Executive Producer, Creation Theatre)***

# TARGET AUDIENCE

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- Regular theatre goers – to contemporary drama
- People with experience of alcohol dependency – personally or through their profession
- Suitable for ages 12+ (some swearing and serious issues)
- Anyone who likes to be entertained, informed and amused
- Those interested in current health and social care issues



## “ WHAT THE AUDIENCE SAY

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*“A powerful and thought provoking play about normalising drinking in the home, its effects on family members and eventual dependency”*

**Turning Point Volunteer**

*“Much taken with DRY by Gaye Poole, which offers a salutary warning about the dangers of middle-class alcoholism. Presented by a lively Oxfordshire company [-]”*

**Michael Billington**

*“The sensitivity in Enticknap and Poole’s interpretation of such a well-observed script touches many memories.”*

**Danny Lee, The Guardian (on Connie’s Colander)**

*“I was so impressed, and really moved, by DRY. It is a stunning piece of theatre, both in the writing and the acting, and should be seen nationwide. It’s also a most effective marriage of theatre and therapy. Huge congratulations to everyone involved in Human Story Theatre.”*

**Joanna Trollope**





## ABOUT HUMAN STORY THEATRE

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Human Story Theatre was formed in August 2016 and registered as a charity in 2017 by joint artistic directors Amy Enticknap and Gaye Poole. We focus on new plays with a health and social care issue at heart.

We are passionate that theatre is for all and believe by highlighting health and social care issues within our productions, that it is an exciting way to engage, entertain and raise awareness.

Our aim is to be accessible to all. We 'pop-up' in any designated space with minimal set, giving a shared light shared space experience. We also operate a 'pay what you can' policy where possible.

Human Story Theatre partners with local communities, groups and organisations relevant to the issue being explored in each play. Professionals/members of these groups then come to lead [post-show Q&As](#) with the aim of signposting the audience to their local services.

[humanstorytheatre.com](https://www.humanstorytheatre.com)

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# ABOUT TURNING POINT

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Turning Point is a leading social enterprise providing health and social care services for people with complex needs at 244 locations across England.

We have been supporting people to make changes in their lives since 1964. We provide wrap around support for vulnerable people building on our expertise in substance misuse, mental health, learning disability, autism, acquired brain injury, sexual health, healthy lifestyles and employment.

We believe that everyone has the potential to grow, learn and make choices and last year through our services we supported 83,968 people to make a change in their lives.

Every 30 minutes someone leaves Turning Point's services drink or drugs free.

Do you want to make changes to your drug or alcohol use, or need help for someone you know? It can be hard to face these issues alone. At Turning Point our goal is to make getting help as simple as possible. Our support is designed to fit your personal needs, so you can concentrate on getting back on track with what's important to you. We offer detox, residential rehab, supported living and aftercare support. To find out more visit [www.turning-point.co.uk/drug-and-alcohol-support](http://www.turning-point.co.uk/drug-and-alcohol-support)



[www.turning-point.co.uk](http://www.turning-point.co.uk)

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[humanstorytheatre.com](http://humanstorytheatre.com)

[info@humanstorytheatre.com](mailto:info@humanstorytheatre.com)

01865 776 052

 @HumanStoryTheatre

 @HumanStory0x

 @HumanStoryTheatre

Photography by Judie Waldmann & Jason Warner

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