

# India

## Restoring the image

An Aids workshop & drama by David Pollendine

## A Partnership between



CONTACT 9 Butts Cottages, Hampton Road West, Hanworth, TW13 6BW or OUR BOOKING OFFICE ON: 0208 894 3403/email [bigintent1@aol.com](mailto:bigintent1@aol.com) , or visit [www.bigintent.com](http://www.bigintent.com)



Church Mission Society

Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UU. Tel: (020) 7928 8681 Fax: (020) 7401 3215

Email: [name.surname@cms-uk.org](mailto:name.surname@cms-uk.org) Website: [www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org) Registered Charity Number 220297

General Secretary - The Revd Canon Tim Dakin

Mid-Africa Ministry is part of CMS.

## **Contents**

1	Introduction to using the resource	3
2	Performance script	4
3	Outline for Workshops	6

## 1. Introduction to using the resource

### **The aim**

This resource is geared to facilitate children and young people to grapple with the issue of Aids and our attitudes towards it in the UK. The performance is put together through improvisational workshops designed to last about 1hr 30 minutes, where all the ideas are created and performed by the cast.

### **The role of the Teacher/Leader**

Is that of facilitator, but some directional skills are needed and a knowledge of good stage- craft practice. The case studies used in the performance are based on real life people, who either serve with or have a direct connection to CMS, (See below and [www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org))

### **The medium**

Mime and physical theatre techniques are the focus and can be juggled around. Techniques such as group freeze frames, individual Mime, and physical story telling are all used, as well as a creating a fully costumed fashion parade. In addition song can be done live if there are talented singers or any appropriate track can be used. Big Intent has written a track specifically for this show and it can be ordered by email at [bigintent1@aol.com](mailto:bigintent1@aol.com)

### **Create the Performance in two easy steps.**

1. Start by referring to the, **"Outline for workshops"** to take the group through the creational process of creating the mime and movement.

Then referring to the **"performance script"** add the scripts to the performance with a run through rehearsal

## Restoring the image in India

### **Scene 1 (In ethnic dress)**

**Raj:** "Hi I am Raj, born in India, and though I cannot read or write, I can dance and one day I will be a bollywood star: (standing on rostrum)

Gang of girls arrive on stage and tease him running around him. Raj tries to grab them but then one shouts:

**Girl 1:** " Don't let him touch you, he's got aids....

**Girl 2:** "If he touches you, you'll get it"

Raj stops, bows his head and falls to the ground

**Priah:** "Come on Raj, pay no attention to them, take my hand"

*Priah helps him up*

### **Scene 2 dance and Fashion parade – with end image**

**Scene 3** Another group entering the stage dressed in dark colours and engulfs and replaces the colourful fashion parade people. (With commentary – "*The Aids pandemic in India threatens to spiral out of control.*")

**Physical imagery** – Movement piece showing images of the different ways people get aids, (through Blood transfusion, drug abuse, immorality, through birth.)

Accompaniment by Ayozie Pollendine

#### **Song**

*Loneliness nowhere to turn  
Abandoned broken, life out burned,  
Drug abuse you take the blame  
Struck from birth unfair shame.*

At the end of this piece everyone freezes and Raj and Priah stand on Rostrum

**Raj:** Priha how come you touched me when no one else would?

**Priah:** It's because of Jesus

**Raj:** Who?

Jesus scene group enter stage

#### **Scene 4: Physical story telling**

**Narrator:** While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him."

Everyone freezes and Raj replaces the Leper and Priha replaces Jesus

**Raj:** Will aids ever leave me?

**Priha:** No not necessarily but neither will God

**Raj:** Will I be a Bollywood star?

**Priha:** In God's eyes you already are.

#### **Dance repeated**

Everyone freezes

Commentary ***"Christians like Priah are challenging the church of the Indian sub continent to touch the people wrongly deemed untouchable and restore the image of God in Aids sufferers. Christians like Priah challenge us as well to touch and restore the people wrongly deemed untouchable in our societies."***

#### **Finish dance/ Fashion parade**

## Workshops

### Workshop 1

- a. Scene 1 (Priah, Raj and gang) + their links
- b. Bad boy dance gang **(40 mins)**
- c. Bangra dance group

### Break – 10 mins

### Workshop 2

- a. Physical theatre group – aids **(40 mins)**
- b. Jesus story group
- c. Raj/Priah/Gang links

### Dress rehearsal **(30 mins)**

(The Fashion parade can be rehearsed in the final dress rehearsal. Simply have two couples entering the stage from each side, stopping to pose in the centre and then walking the cat walk to stop and pose again at the front. Children are usually very good at holding poses and looking out to the audience, but the teacher should assist where necessary).

## Technical needs

- 1. Music for dance**
- 2. Music for fashion parade**
- 3. Recorded music for scene 3 with spoken words about aids**

Costumes:

**Bad boys** – Sarong and Bandanas

**Raj** – Shelvar Kamiz

**Priah and Gang** - Saris