

The Big World

In November 2007, Annan hosted 'The Big World' to benefit 6th year students from Annandale, Eskdale and Nithsdale. Numerous police cadets volunteered and were joined by actors and actresses from Dumfries and Galloway College. These college students acted out a variety of serious situations to portray the dangerous consequences of drug and alcohol abuse.

The actors maintained their 6th year audience's attention by including them in each scenario. The opening scene had the pupils meeting their friend at her house, prior to a night out. Frequent humour was included in scenarios to liven the act. This included such events as a girl's Grandmother distributing condoms.

Attending a nightclub with the pupils newly inherited friend, a drug dealer attempts to sell the pupil's drugs. Other real life scenarios were portrayed, including a stereotypical gay couple in pink shirts suffering homophobic abuse.

As the party proceeded into the nightclub, a fight escalated between two girls. Surrounded by flashing lights and pulsing music, a girl is stabbed in a violent struggle. Enthralled, the pupils stare as paramedics rush to aid the victim. Additional problems arise as paramedic puts a passed-out girl into the recovery position.

The follow the scripted pandemonium, were several presentations contributed to by different agencies. Numerous issues were covered, including: antisocial behaviour; road safety; alcohol; sex; health and lifestyle.

The extremity of a chip pan fire was demonstrated by the Dumfries and Galloway fire service as the event came to a close.

Pupils received a bag before leaving the venue. Condoms and attack alarms were among the contents of the bag to help eradicate the dangers demonstrated throughout the day.

In conclusion, the Big World was beneficial to every pupil (and adult) who attended. It is a highly recommended experience as pupils can be educated on the prevention and understanding of dangers they may experience throughout life. It is valuable knowledge, which is ideal to any young person on the brink of entering the big world.

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