

Drama – Working as an Ensemble

– Non-Naturalistic

What is Blackout about?

Davey Anderson's *Blackout* is a powerful and intense play based on a true story, exploring the life of a teenage boy, James, who commits a violent act and reflects on the events that led him to that point. It's told in a fragmented, non-linear style and uses monologue and ensemble performance to draw audiences into James's chaotic world.

Who is Davey Anderson?

Davey Anderson is a Scottish playwright, director and musician. He writes plays that focus on real life issues, often inspired by true stories. His work is known for being powerful, emotional, and creative. Anderson's work often explores the lives of young people and challenges audiences to think about important social issues.

What is Dramatic Intention?

Dramatic intention is the reason why a play or performance is created. It's about what the playwright, director, or actor wants the audience to feel, think, or understand.

The dramatic intention of *Blackout* is to make the audience think about the causes and consequences of someone's actions. It explores themes like anger, bullying, mental health and isolation, showing how these can lead to extreme choices.

Davey Anderson wants the audience to:

- Understand what it feels like to be lost or out of control
- Question how society treats people who are struggling
- Empathise with the main character even though he has made serious mistakes

The play also challenges the audience to think about how people can change and deserve a second chance.



Key Vocabulary and Drama Techniques



Narration: The story is told directly to the audience.

Ensemble: A group of actors working together as one to tell a story.

Physical Theatre: Using the body to create images, shapes, settings, or emotions.

Chorus Speaking: When the group speaks together at the same time.

Multi-roling: When one actor plays more than one character.

Playwright: The person who writes the play.

Non-Linear: When a story or performance does not follow a straight timeline. Events might be shown out of order, jumping between the past, present, and future.

Monologue: Long speech or performance by a single character in a play or film.

Plot Summary

James, a 15-year-old boy, finds himself in a prison cell after being charged with attempted murder. As the play unfolds, he recounts the series of events that brought him there:

- **Family Breakdown:** James struggles to cope with his parents' separation and his father's emotional absence, leaving him feeling isolated and angry.
- **Bullying and Alienation:** At school, James is tormented by peers, fueling his sense of worthlessness and social disconnection.
- **Descent into Darkness:** Overwhelmed by anger and depression, James becomes fascinated with violent ideologies, including creating his own "Nazi persona," and distances himself further from reality.
- **The Violent Act:** In a moment of uncontrollable rage, James attacks someone, which ultimately leads to his arrest.

