



MEDIA RELEASE

RACISM AND CULTURAL IDENTITY EXPLORED BY CLARE YOUTH THEATRE IN END OF YEAR SHOW

Ennis, County Clare, IRELAND, 10th April 2007 - Clare Youth Theatre presents its end of year show ‘**AlienNation**’ by Max Hafler at 8pm on 17th April in Glór Irish Music Centre, Ennis, Co. Clare. Directed by Theresa Leahy, twenty-three teenagers from all over Clare will fill the stage with this energetic gritty play that explores racism from a teenager’s perspective.

Commenting on the play, Theresa Leahy said, *“This is a well-rounded piece that tackles issues of racism and cultural identity head on. ‘Alienation’ uses strong rhythm, chorus, singing and movement work to present serious issues in the most dynamic way.”*

“Boyhood friendships are tested. Secret foreign loves are exposed. Hate-filled gangs intend to have their day. The play involves the plight of two Romanian refugees. Petr washes dishes in a restaurant and sends his money home to wife and child. He comes to the gangs’ attentions when he innocently walks Aine home. Adele another immigrant is secretly involved with an Irish boy. They both live in fear of their friends finding out”, Ms. Leahy added.

Clare Youth Theatre is an initiative of the **County Arts Office** and was initially realised through a summer workshop run by Eleanor Feely. A drama course suitable for young people began in September 2005. Theresa Leahy and Eleanor Feely facilitate the classes, with visiting tutors from all over Ireland adding to the theatrical experience.

*“Classes take place in Glór every Saturday for **12-17 year olds**. The classes cover all areas of theatre. Techniques to express themselves through their voice, movement and imagination are explored each week. The young people get a chance to experience temporarily the lives of characters created in class and in doing so discover more about themselves”, Ms. Leahy concluded.*

To book your tickets for ‘*Alienation*’, call Glór Box Office at 065-6843103 or email boxoffice@glor.ie. For further information please contact the Clare County Arts Office on 065 6846267 or email arts@clarelibrary.ie.