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THE FAST GENERATION

by Rachael Hains-Wesson

EXTRACT

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THE FAST GENERATION

The Fast Generation is a realistic drama for young people and is suitable for youth theatres, theatre for young people, community theatres and/or for high school teachers wanting to produce an 'in-house' performance by and for young people. *The Fast Generation* looks at the violent disaffected world of three teenagers: peer pressure, gang warfare, drugs, teenage sex and crime. *The Fast Generation* was first commissioned by the Powerhouse Youth Theatre in Parramatta, Sydney with the following cast:

JESSE, Daniel Fenech
SQUIZ, Erin Mathews
BELLA, Alena Attard

And was DIRECTED by Regina Heilman.

The Fast Generation via a funding grant from the Southern NSW Tablelands completed an extensive tour to Picton, Mittagong, Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Sydney and Canberra throughout 2000-2001.

“The characters are crafted quite well by Hains-Wesson and portrayed with great sensitivity and energy by the young performers. Director Regina Heilman sets a cracking pace for this production, which is accompanied by an intense sound score...there is no time to wallow in people’s individual situations. There are moments of quiet, however such as a break enter scene where characters make creative use of the rostra to stealthily crawl around and torches are a nice addition. While avoiding sharp moralistic overtones, the play depicts a credible view of the enormous pressures young people face in a fast world with little time to ponder consequences” [Jennifer Nicholls, *Lowdown* October 2000 Vol.43].

“*The Fast Generation*, written by Rachael [Hains-Wesson], features a gritty confronting world of urban disaffection, life on the streets, petty crime and violence” [Goulburn Post, July 11 2001].

“Rachael...[a] talented young writer...at different stages of [her]r art-form development... distinguished [her]self by engaging in a process of collaboration, particularly an exploration of theatrical form, while maintaining [her] unique vision of the world” [Goulburn Post, July 2001].

“Refreshing theatrical experience marked by crisp direction and a keen sense of rhythm” [Peter Robinson, *Canberra Times*, July 24 2001].

“The assurance of the direction and acting was highlighted by beautiful use of tight musical snatches where characters and audience digested implications of well-paced action” [Peter Robinson, *Canberra Times*, July 24 2001].

Characters:

JESSE

The gang leader

SQUIZ

A gang member

BELLA

A new gang member

AMBULANCE OFFICER

DETECTIVE

One

Prologue:

- BELLA:** Name calling ‘bout a girl say’en *fat* stabbed in a brawl. Martial art claws, knives, bottles, steering-wheel locks, garden stakes and chunks of concrete. Two gangs came head to head at a dance party.
- JESSE:** ‘Bout thirty chucked ‘emselves into a fight made the railway station come like a combat zone. He said he was fifteen but he were seventeen; got sliced on the back of his head and stabbed in his leg.
- SQUIZ:** Tak’en to hospital went under the knife. A girl, eighteen she got treated got her back sliced; was hit real bad with a martial arts claw. Got stitched then let go. More got sliced. Jacks, 5.0’s, hammers say’en the battle started outside the dunnies at the Town Hall ‘bout 9:30 on Thursday when a girl told another she was *FAT*.

*

Jesse and Squiz are crawling through drain pipes to a hang-out. They are yelling out into the night. They have weapons hidden and alcohol and food. They spend a lot of time at this hang-out. The hang-out has markings, graffiti and is their place of security.

JESSE: Did yer tell her?

SQUIZ: She knows the deal.

Bella enters stage right. Bella’s scene and Jesse and Squiz’s scene occur simultaneously but they are in two different places. Bella is working in her family’s business and has just arrived home from school. Squiz and Bella are the voices of Bella’s parents and deliver their dialogue to Bella as the scene unfolds.

SQUIZ: [*In an accent*] Bella? Bella? Where have you been? You’re late. Your brother has been looking for you.

BELLA: Finished late.

JESSE: [In an accent] Mama, she's lying. I seen her; didn't know I was watching yer hey? You should watch out who yer hang-out with. You're always com'en late. I'm sick of watch'en out for yer.

BELLA: Shut up! I never ask you to, do I? You never help around here anyway. All you do is sit on your arse; like a pig. Come on; help me clean up for a change. That be right.

JESSE: [In an accent] Bella, you watch yer mouth. You talk like rubbish. Get yer brother a dink. He's been work'en all day.

The scene now focuses on Jesse and Squiz in their hang-out.

SQUIZ and JESSE: Getting ready for a blood bath; prepare for the slay, evil creature; pulverate; no hope; bust'en in your face; come to give grief; assassinate; ready for action; no front'en; fully loaded; tec, chump, ready to go a hunt'en.

The scene focuses back to Bella.

BELLA: Can you look after the place tonight?

SQUIZ: [In an accent] Family com'en tonight. No upset us. Bella? You hear me?

BELLA: I've got plans. Tell him.

SQUIZ and JESSE: No go out. No boys. Bad. Bad girl Bella. No go out.

BELLA: I hate this place!

The scene focuses back onto Squiz and Jesse.

JESSE: Watch this Squiz. If you break it right here, holding the neck real tight; make sure you don't smash it in the middle. See? Instant weapon. Cuts as deep as a knife.

The scene focuses back onto Bella.

JESSE: [In an accent] Watch what you're doing. Stop making trouble. Concentrate; no accidents tonight.

SQUIZ: [In an accent] No go out tonight. Bad girl Bella.