The ‘Spark’

Education Programme

by

Sarah Grant

**Press Pack**

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In Nov 2019, Glasgow based writer and poet, Sarah Grant, debuted her full length spoken word show, ‘Spark’ at the Scottish Storytelling Centre; a show about witches and womanhood, pressure and persecution, a show that asks if womanhood is an act of burning at the stake or rising from the ashes. COVID saw to it that the show could not tour in 2020, but she received Creative Scotland funding to create a FREE education programme based on the show. An online course that teaches young people how to find their voice, their confidence and their stories through spoken word poetry.

On 31st March 2021, the Spark Education Programme will be released to the world.

**About The Show**

The last person to executed for the crime of witchcraft in the British Isles was Janet (Jenny) Horne in 1729. Almost 300 years later and Glasgow girl, Sarah Grant, doesn't think that much has changed.

The ‘Spark’ Education Programme builds upon the themes of the show, encouraging young people to tell their stories and to feel confident in their voices in the face of overwhelming everyday persecution and pressure. In a time where Gen Z feel like the ‘Lost Generation’, this programme seeks to boost self-esteem through writing from your own experiences.

This programme was funded by Creative Scotland through the ‘Create: Inclusion’ programme, which seeks to promote equality in the arts by offering grants to artists from underrepresented communities.

The programme exists as a free video masterclass, hosted on the main website, where students can either watch the theatre show and then take the programme on their own or in a group. There is also a teacher materials resource page. The programme can be streamed directly into classrooms, or teachers can download the free accompanying lesson plans and printable versions of all the poems, so they can teach their own version of the class with full autonomy. This programme is for any young person or anyone new to spoken word and keen to engage with the art form. Spoken word is a great thing to teach because of its accessibility; all you need to write spoken word is a pen, paper and you voice.

**Other Key Contributors**

**Dr Katie Ailes PhD** – Edinburgh based spoken word artist and event co-ordinator, Katie is both a performer and researcher in the field. Her thesis, which deals with the concept of ‘authenticity’ surrounding spoken word poets and poetry in the UK, was integral to the creation of the programme, and Katie herself was an advisor and auditor throughout.

**Katie Grant** – Deputy Head of English at the Grange Academy in Kilmarnock, Katie is a teacher with nearly 10 years’ experience in the field. With her input as a programme advisor, the course was optimised for students in secondary school and the teacher materials created to allow educators to teach this course with full autonomy in a way that best serves their students.

**Charlotte Ryder** – The original devisor and director of ‘Spark’ the stage show, Charlotte is a Newcastle based actor and director. Her input as programme auditor and advisor brought theatricality to the programme, even for the people taking the course online, alone in their living rooms.

**David Devereux** – Sound designer and composer of all the original music for the stage show, David created an album of music to write and study with that is available to purchase from the website shop.

**The ‘Spark’ Education Programme will be released on the 31st March 2021, but for a preview of the full programme, see it first at www.sparkeducationprogramme.com**