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Evaluation of a theatre performance for adolescents promoting safer sex behaviour using AIDS risk reduction theories.

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Appendix 2d

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

Department of Psychology
School of Human and Community Development
Private Bag 3, Wits 2050, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear learner

I, Michelle Scott, am an MA (Community Based Counselling Psychology) student at the University of Witwatersrand and I am doing research to see whether the lifeskills and HIV/AIDS educational play called "Big Time" run by the an organisation called arepp: Theatre for life at schools around the country helps learners know more about HIV and AIDS and whether it helps learners to make choices that help them to not get HIV and AIDS. The play is going to be performed at your school and I would like to ask you whether you would be interested in filling out a questionnaire that will help in seeing whether the play does help learners know more about HIV/AIDS and what your attitudes and opinions are about HIV/AIDS.

You do not have to fill out a questionnaire if you do not want to. You will be able to see the play whether or not you want to fill out the questionnaire. The questionnaire asks for your opinions, knowledge and attitudes to HIV and AIDS as well as previous and current sexual behaviour and does not ask for your name. If you want to fill out the questionnaire, the answers to the questionnaire will not be shown to your parents, teachers, other learners or anybody else but me and my university supervisor. This means that I will not know who you are on the questionnaire and no teachers or other learners will see your answers to the questionnaire. The questionnaire is not for school and will not give you school marks.

If you want to fill out the questionnaire, I will give you a form to sign saying that you want to fill in the questionnaire. I will also give you a form for your parent or guardian to fill in saying that they allow you to fill in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire takes about 30 minutes to complete. You will not be forced to answer the questionnaire if you do not want to answer the questions and if there are any sensitive questions, you can choose not to answer any questions that you are not comfortable with. You can choose to not answer the questionnaire even if you have signed the form saying that you would like to participate. Even if your mom, dad or guardian says that you are allowed to fill out the questionnaire, you can choose to not fill it out. There are no rewards or punishment for not filling in or filling in the questionnaire.

The questionnaires that I receive will be put into a report with no names and no school names for the university. I will make a summary page of the results of the research and come to your school to give you copies of the main results on a one page summary. You will not be able to get individual feedback of the results because your name will not be on the questionnaire. If you are worried and need counselling after you have filled out the questionnaire, you will be given the numbers of toll free help lines for counselling after the play or be referred to a counselling centre in the area. You can contact me if you have concerns about the research.

If you would like to be part of the study, please complete the form saying assent form and ask your mom, dad or someone in your family or the person who takes care of you to fill in the form saying consent form. You may keep the information sheet, but please can you bring the signed consent form and assent form to the school and I will collect it.

Thank you for your time.
Michelle Scott (Researcher) Tel: 0823719839
Supervisor: Professor Charles Potter (Psychology department, School of Human and Community Development, University of the Witwatersrand)