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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 2a

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

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

The Principal

Dear Principal

Request for permission to conduct the evaluation of an HIV/AIDS Prevention educational play "Big Time" at your school

I, Michelle Scott, am an MA (Community Based Counselling Psychology) student and I am doing research to evaluate the life skill educational play "Big Time" performed to grades 10 to 12. The plays are run by the African Research and Educational Puppetry Programme (arepp: Theatre for life) at schools around the country. I would like to ask you if you would like the play to be performed at your school. arepp:Theatre for Life is an educational theatre organisation, which has been operating nationally in South Africa since 1987. They use dramatic theatre performances and provide interactive, live, social life-skills education to school-going youth, in all different communities, and in all the major languages of South Africa. The educational play "Big Time" was written by arepp: Theatre for life and is a play about lifeskills and HIV and AIDS education. If you would like the play to be performed at your school, the organisation will contact you. The performance takes about 30 minutes and a 30 minute session occurs after the play for learners to ask questions.

If you would like the play to be performed at your school, I would like to ask you permission for me to hand out a questionnaire (please see attached questionnaires) to the learners in your school after the performance of the arepp: play. The reason for this is because I would like to evaluate the effectiveness of the play by asking the learners to fill out a questionnaire asking for their knowledge and attitudes and intentions regarding HIV and AIDS. Past research has shown that the play seems to have an effect on learners' intentions to practice safer sex and I would like to find out whether I get the same results on a survey questionnaire.

Information sheets, assent forms and consent forms (please see attached forms) will be handed to the learners and they will be asked to hand the consent forms to their parents to sign. The questionnaire asks for opinions, knowledge and attitudes to HIV and AIDS and does not ask for the learners name and thus the answers obtained will be anonymous. The questionnaire takes about 30 minutes to complete. The answers the learner writes on the questionnaire will remain confidential. The answers will only be seen by myself and my supervisor. The data will be stored securely until completion of the research project, whereupon it will be destroyed. Your school name will not be mentioned in the report for the university. You may see a copy of the report and I will make one page summaries of the results available to you so that learners who want to see the results can obtain a copy of the summary. Individual feedback will not be able to be given due to anonymity on the questionnaire.

If learners require counselling, I will refer them to the helpline number given by the organisation.
The research has obtained ethics clearance from the University of the Witwatersrand. Ethics Clearance number: 60708.

Participation in this research is voluntary and a learner who decides to participate and has been given permission by his or her parent or guardian to participate in the study will not be advantaged or disadvantaged in any way if he or she participates in the study. Learners will not be forced to complete the questionnaire if they do not want to answer the questions and if there are any sensitive questions, a participant can choose not to answer any questions that he or she is not comfortable with. Participants may withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences.

Michelle Scott (Researcher) Tel: 0823719839 **Professor Charles Potter (Supervisor)**