

## Bassett by James Graham



Locked in at lunchtime by a teacher who has had enough, the students of Citizenship class at Wotton Bassett school are frustrated. Tensions run high as another repatriation of fallen British soldiers is happening along the high street and this one's more personal than most. As their confinement grows more claustrophobic, the pupils begin to see things differently, asking questions about conflicts, their country, and themselves. James Graham's *Bassett* is a pacy, funny and urgent play that shows the struggles of young people who have inherited a world at war: a world that they will do anything to try and make sense of...

*Bassett* premiered in March 2011 at the Soho Theatre as part of the National Theatre Connections Festival.

**'Graham's writing has a freshness and lightness to it...'**  
Guardian

**Genre:** school drama

**Cast:** m7 f7

**Set:** Wotton Bassett school

**Fee:** £56 plus VAT, per performance

**Scripts:** ISBN 9781408131794, £14.99

**Length:** 1 act

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### Extract

**Spencer** Actually Britain's been in Iraq before, lots of times. In fact we were the ones that invented it, kind of. Drew its borders up anyway, after the First World War. Used to be called Meso- ...Meso-...po-ta-mia. Or something. And then we invaded in 1991. With the Americans again. So we've already done this war, once before! Did anyone know that?

**Russell** How would we know that, Spence; we weren't even born.

**Amid** So if we weren't there, there wouldn't have been any bombs. Is all I'm saying.

**Leo** So because we got bombed we should give in?

**Amid** No.

**Leo** Because we're scared?

**Amid** No. I'm just offering an alternative view. From yours.

**Leo** You don't think we should be there?

**Amid** Like when all those images came out with the Americans abusing the prisoners.

**Jonathan** Abu Ghraib.

**Kelly** Abu what?

**Jonathan** The prison. Torturing prisoners in the prison.

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- *Year 10* by Simon Vinnicombe (m5 f2)
- *A Miracle* by Molly Davies (m2 f2)
- *A History of Falling Things* by James Graham (m5 f2)

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