

[The Bonfire](#) by Rosemary Jenkinson



Jenkinson's play is set in southern Belfast, in the heart of the working-class Ulster Loyalist territory, during the run-up to the annual bonfire (the bonfires on the night before the 12 July Protestant celebrations). Brother and sister Tommy and Leanne are living together. Tommy is a member of the UDA and deals drugs to pay the rent; Leanne keeps everything spanking at home. The arrival of Davy, however, a civil servant, means that things take a turn as plots and schemes surface. As the bonfires are built higher and higher, so the pressures and tension get greater and greater . . .

The Bonfire was produced by Rough Magic Theatre Company and premiered at The Cube in Project Arts Centre, Dublin, on 30 September 2006.

'The play is . . . wildly funny as well as being technically accomplished. As a result, it makes its point as well as, and possibly better than it would by wallowing in serious social commentary.' *Independent*

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| Genre: | Irish political drama | Fee: | £40 plus VAT, per performance |
| Cast: | m3 f2 | Scripts: | ISBN 9780713684742 £8.99 |
| Set: | The Annadale Embankment, Belfast | Length: | 10 scenes |
| Contact: | Ua UYi f!fj[\ hg4 V cca gVi fmcom | | |

EXTRACT

Davey Well, I'm your man if that's what you like.

Leanne You know I would, to the ends of the earth.

Leanne You're one of the family now. You should move here permanent.

Davey Dublin would do.

Davey (pause) I can't.

Leanne Too Irish.

Leanne Is it because of her?

Davey But it's full of tourists.

Davey No. Not exactly.

Leanne Too foreign. (Pause.) I like Ballywalter.

Leanne Is it because I put creases in your T-shirt?

Davey Have you been anywhere else?

Davey Course not.

Leanne No, but it did seem nice when I was six. I still have memories of the pickled whelks . . . and evangelists. (Laughs) I hope that didn't sound like the evangelists were pickled.

Leanne What then?

Davey (pause) If I asked you to come with me right now, would you come?

Davey Well . . . Look, we'd talk after.

He kisses Leanne and leaves.

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *The Lucky Ones* by Charlotte Eilenberg (m3 f4)
- *Statement of Regret* by Kwame Kwei-Armah (m7 f2)
- *Year 10* by Simon Vinnicombe (m5 f2)