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For Immediate Release

How DISS Gets Started

Toronto, August 14, 2009

Sammy just wants to keep his sister safe; Stacey just wants to look out for her brother.

Tyrone just wants to make some new friends; Jesse just wants to watch his friend's back.

"So how did all this get started? It was simple. Could have happened to any of us from there to here," asks the DJ at the opening of **DISS**, premiering tonight at York Memorial CI.

Collaborating with professional artists including Chalmers Award-winning playwright, Rex Deverell, Toronto area youth will be performing a play based on the violence they have experienced in their communities. **DISS** tours across Toronto August 14 – 21 are funded by the TDSB.

"TDSB is proud to work with Toronto Police Service and our partners and we hope to be able to continue partnering in this way in the future," says Jeff Hainbuch, Superintendent of Education, TDSB.

Youth will perform raps based on their experiences with violence while a DJ spins live beats throughout the show. Developed in partnership with the Toronto Police Service, the play presents the worst-case scenarios of **gang involvement**, catalyzing audience members to express their voices, making our communities safer.

All upcoming performances are free to attend; donations support the youth who helped develop **DISS**:

Friday August 14, 7:00 pm and Sunday August 16 2:00 pm

York Memorial CI
2690 Eglinton Ave W

Sunday August 16, 2:00 pm

York Memorial CI
2690 Eglinton Ave W

Monday August 17, 7:00 pm
Mary Shadd PS
135 Hupfield

Tuesday August 18, 7:00 pm
David and Mary Thomson CI
2740 Lawrence Ave. E

Wednesday August 19, 7:00 pm

Bloor CI

1141 Bloor St W

Thursday August 20, 7:00 pm

Sir Sanford Fleming Academy

50 Ameer Ave

Friday August 21, 2:00pm and 7:00 pm

Westview Centennial SS

755 Oakdale Rd

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*Mixed Company Theatre produces innovative, socially relevant drama
as a tool to educate, engage and empower for positive change.*

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