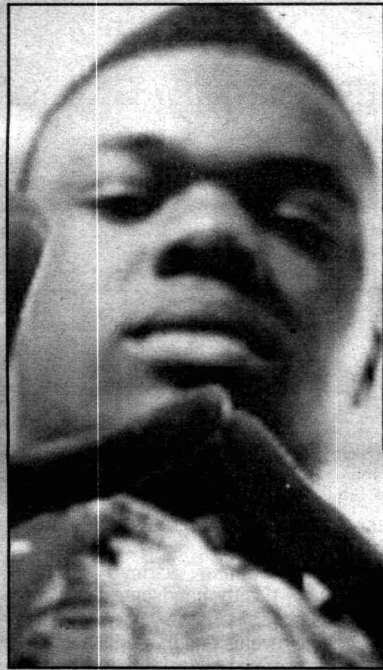


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Knife play hits home



A DARING play about knife-crime, gang culture and estate violence took to the stage in central London in a bid to promote peace on our streets.

Clifford Oliver's *Boy X*, based at the Arc Theatre in the Malthouse, Barking, was staged in front a group of young people at the busy Waterloo train station on September 22.

The hour-long play explores real-life experiences with issues related to the carrying of weapons, gang culture and violent crime on gang-dominated estates.

It deals with the murder of a young black man and its impact on the community, while trying to educate young people about the dangers of weapons through dialogue.

After the performance, the young audience from Woolwich Mosque got a chance to talk to the four young actors and to officers from the British Transport Police about their everyday fears, feelings and the pressures they experience.

Carole Pluckrose, Arc Theatre's CEO and Artistic Director, said: "We believe this has never been done before.

"This is a powerful call to action for business people, educators, young people and the community as a whole to take the lead in projects that will support those involved and rid our streets of these senseless tragedies."

The annual London Week of Peace aims to promote safety and community cohesion by staging events and initiatives, and took place between September 20 and 27.



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