

Companion Study Guide to the Reality Stage Production

MAN UP!

The True Story of the Boys Club Network

The reality stage play *Man Up!* was written and produced by the West Coast Boys Club Network Foundation, as a means of engaging and communicating with young people aged 13-18, and actively include educators, parents, peers, and other stakeholders.

Central messages of courage, empathy, honesty, honour, compassion and leadership are communicated authentically by professional actors. *Man Up!* is a story of our time, and as such it resonates with young people faced with the unique challenges offered by an increasingly complicated, confusing contemporary landscape.

The characters and the story travel the socio-economic spectrum, proving that while circumstance may divide us, hope and humanity bind us together.

The production has won critical acclaim for its innovative use of the reality stage play to tell the gritty, heart-wrenching, emotional and life-changing story of two determined east-side educators, a group of at-risk boys on the sharp knife-edge of life, a handful of generous and visionary Vancouver businessmen from all walks of life, and the compelling four-year journey they took together - from the very edge of frustration, hopelessness and despair to the pinnacle of hopefulness and success.

Man Up! shares authentic, raw and deeply personal stories of individual struggle, overcoming demons, awakening human potential, and realizing dreams.

This stage play is based on the true story of the Boys Club Network (BCN), founded in East Vancouver in 2006 and now operating as a registered charity, the West Coast Boys Club Network Foundation. The Network supports eight chapters in Vancouver, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, and Abbotsford and plans to expand to serve at-risk boys throughout the province.

Thanks to the generosity and vision of a funding group led by founding patron Frank Giusta, *Man Up!* is fully underwritten and attendance is free. To date more than 14,000 students, educators, parents and youth workers have seen the play free of charge.

After viewing the reality stage play *Man Up!* use this **Companion Study Guide for Educators**, together with the **Ticket Out the Door – Reflections on Learning** as catalysts for discussion, activities and actions to further enrich school culture and improve individual student well-being and performance.



A Reality Stage Play
MAN UP!
The True Story of the Boys Club Network
The four-year journey from the edge of frustration, hopelessness and despair to the pinnacle of hopefulness and success.

"Gritty, Inspiring Heart Wrenching" ★★

NOVEMBER 24-28

TICKETS ARE FREE
SEATING IS LIMITED
RESERVE @ BOYSClubNetwork.com
companion study guide available for download

morning, afternoon and evening shows. Caution: Some graphic language and content.

Produced by the West Coast Boys Club Network Foundation
Generously funded by Mr. Frank Giusta and Mr. Francesco Aquilini

Companion Study Guide for Educators

The play touches on many of the noted areas and parallels **Curriculum Learning Outcomes** in Planning 10, Health & Career 9, Drama Curricula, and lessons included in Focus on Harassment and Intimidation.

The play can be used to focus on one or more of the issues that are common to schools and communities. Our intention is that the production be used as a catalyst for discussion with and between parents, teachers and administrators, to reinforce the relevance of current learning outcomes, to enrich current programs and inspire new ones.

After watching the play, have students complete the worksheet **Ticket Out the Door – Reflections on Learning** (following page). Their thoughts and ideas will provide opportunity for rich discussion of the challenging topics/issues that face the lives of secondary students, our school system, and communities. This activity is intended to be used to promote a deeper understanding of individual and group beliefs and feelings, and enhance our knowledge of the issues under discussion.

- ★ **Anti-Bullying** policies & programs
- ★ **SEL:** Social Emotional Learning
- ★ **Social Responsibility:** Mentorship, Leadership, Role-Modelling
- ★ **Planning 10:** Decision Making/Goal Setting (SMART Goals) Scholarship
- ★ **English:** Write Character Sketch
- ★ **Health & Career 9:** PLO on Decision Making/Goal Setting
- ★ **Drama Productions** on anti-bullying
- ★ **Acronyms Inspire Action:** ie: H.O.P.E.
- ★ **Create a BCN Chapter** in your school
- ★ **Advocacy:** support a climate of fairness, support and accountability
- ★ **Listen First:** how understanding the story behind the story can positively affect outcomes for all stakeholders
- ★ **Recognize and Understand** the 40 Developmental Assets of Adolescents
- ★ **Graduation Transitions:** include mentorship activities
- ★ **Create a Leadership Club**
- ★ **Peer Counselling** programs
- ★ **Self Regulating** programs
- ★ **Discipline Intervention:** inside vs outside of school suspensions
- ★ **Outreach & Service** programs: homeless, food bank, veterans
- ★ **Pay it Forward** policies and rewards
- ★ **Recognition Programs:** Seasonal and year-end goal setting and reward
- ★ **Create a Resource Library** of inspirational reading/viewing material
- ★ **Team Play:** Support without judgement

Ticket Out The Door for Students

Reflections on Learning

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Block: _____

1. After seeing the reality stage play *Man Up!*, summarize the production using at least two sentences.

2. The most important thing I learned was:



3. What I agree/disagree with is (explain why)

4. Finish one of more of these sentences:

I wished I had asked about _____

I feel _____

I think _____

5. Why do you suppose there are no girls in the play?

6. Personal comment:

About the West Coast Boys Club Network Foundation

BCN tackles one of contemporary Canada's most mis-understood and under-funded social issues. High-potential Canadian boys and young adults who, through mere circumstance and lack of positive role models, are losing their innocence, happiness and basic human potential to hopelessness, drugs, even crime and the streets.

Contemporary society has unwittingly, in many cases, left boys behind. When the equality pendulum swung so far back to close the large gap of opportunity-inequity between girls and boys, many boys fell through the cracks.

In time the pendulum will swing back to the centre, but in the interim we must help these boys find their way, find themselves, and finish school. We must help them channel destructive behaviours, frustration and anger, into positive behaviours, responsibility and empathy.

Founded by two Vancouver secondary school educators, The Boys Club Network identifies and lifts these lost boys up, and with a proven curricula of H.O.P.E. - Hope, Opportunity, Positive mentorship and Education, restores their personal accountability, and their confidence in themselves, in adults, and in society's collective future.

Our formula is based on the foundational principles of mentorship, connectedness, trust and accountability. We strive to help boys:

- Find their way, find themselves, and finish school.
- Channel destructive behaviours, frustration and anger, into positive behaviours, responsibility, compassion and empathy.
- Recognize, respect and reach their human potential.

The Boys Club Network is a registered charity (Westcoast Boys Club Network Foundation) and relies solely on small private donations from individuals and community leaders, and in-kind support and assistance from stakeholders like the Vancouver Police Department and Foundation, BCIT, the Vancouver School Board, the North Vancouver School Board, the West Vancouver School Board, and the Abbotsford School Board. The Network plans to expand throughout the province.

For more information about BCN, please visit www.boysclubnetwork.com

