

## Face-to-face with alternative justice

Alternative justice was the focus of David Williamson's most recent work "Face-to-Face", performed as a play reading at the Supreme Court by the Darwin Theatre Company in conjunction with the Juvenile Justice Board of Management.

The performance drew attention to alternative justice in a realistic and powerful way, highlighting the benefits of victim conferencing to all parties affected by crime.

Based on the success of the play reading, Face-to-Face will be made into a full production by the Darwin Theatre Company and be performed in March 2000.

"Face-to-face" is the result of extensive research carried out by the playwright through observing and participating in community conference workshops.

The main character Glen assaults a co-worker and is sacked from the job he loves. As an act of retaliation, Glen rams his car into his ex-boss' Mercedes and is arrested.

With the support of his Mother and best mate, he is confronted by his ex-boss and co-workers and must deal with the consequences of his actions face-to-face.

The play is based on actual transcripts with very real characters who are steered by the facilitator to unravel the web of bullying, shame and guilt.

Within the Territory, diversionary programs are available to provide alternatives for the sentencing of young offenders aged 15 and 16 years who appear in court for their second property offence.

One such diversionary program is victim/offender conferencing.

The Juvenile Justice Board of Management is concerned that victims have so far not been willing to participate in conferencing in appropriate cases because they believe it is "Letting the kids off too easily". A mandatory jail term results.

The benefits of victims meeting offenders is that both parties get to understand the circumstances of the offence and how everyone has been affected by it. It allows them as a community to come up with an agreement that will endeavour to prevent the young offender from committing further offences. Agreements are monitored and reported to the Court if not complied with by the offender.

Diversionary Programs are the responsibility of Northern Territory Correctional Services. The Coordinator is Bill Munro who can be contacted on telephone 8922 7124 if you require any further information.

## Legislative Assembly sitting dates for 2000

The Honorable Terry McCarthy, MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has announced the proposed sitting dates for the Legislative Assembly for 2000.

February/ March  
22, 23, 24, 29, 1, 2  
May  
9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18  
June  
13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22  
August  
8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17  
October  
10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19  
November  
28, 29, 30

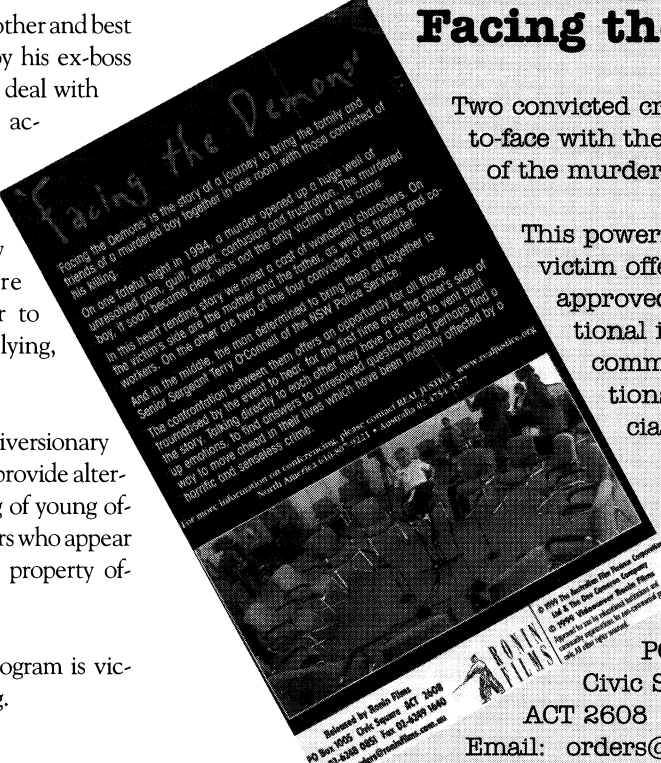
### Facing the demons

Two convicted criminals come face-to-face with the family and friends of the murdered victim...

This powerful video about a victim offender conference is approved for use by educational institutions and community organisations for non-commercial purposes.

For information and order details contact:

Ronin Films  
PO Box 1005  
Civic Square  
ACT 2608  
Email: [orders@roninfilms.com.au](mailto:orders@roninfilms.com.au)



*Facing the Demons* is the story of a journey to bring the family and friends of a murdered boy together in one room with those convicted of his killing.

On one fateful night in 1984 a murder opened up a huge well of unresolved pain, guilt, anger, confusion and frustration. The murdered boy, it soon became clear, was not the only victim of this crime.

In this heart rending story we meet a cast of wonderful characters. On the victim's side are his mother and the father, as well as friends and co-workers. On the other are two of the four convicted of the murder.

And in the middle, the man determined to bring them all together is Senior Sergeant Terry O'Connell of the NT Police Service.

The confrontation between them offers an opportunity for all those frustrated by the need to hear, for the first time ever, the other's side of the story. Talking directly to each other they have a chance to vent built up emotions, to try answers to unresolved questions and perhaps find a way to move ahead in their lives, which have been indelibly affected by a horrific and senseless crime.

For more information on this award-winning, please contact: Ronin Films, PO Box 1005, Civic Square, ACT 2608. Tel: 02-5200 1000. Email: [orders@roninfilms.com.au](mailto:orders@roninfilms.com.au)

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