

SHARPE

LAMDA ACTING PROGRAMME 2020

GRADE SIX – CONTEMPORARY PIECE 1 (GIRLS)

Chatroom by Enda Walsh

LAURA: Jim, this is Laura. I've spoken with Jim before. We know each other. Why exactly are you harassing him like that? I know he's not feeling well. He hasn't been feeling good about himself. He's lonely. He feels detached.

Why is it you're doing this? You're talking to him like there are no options. You're making him believe that there's nothing else. That suicide is some romantic gesture. Like one fifteen-year-old's death will be held up by other fifteen-year-olds and celebrated for something. Will make a big statement for all those "trapped" average teenagers! If you think of yourself as some blob who's moulded into this empty child and sent on a set pattern through life... If you think that - it will happen. Every single moment in life there's possibilities.

The statement being made is yours. But what are you saying, William? That you've got power? That you're smart enough to take advantage of someone vulnerable and talk them into the corner where they might kill themselves? And this is some joke to you two, right? Some big comedy. Because you can't see him it's easier. It's easier when you don't have to see a dead boy and just imagine it like you read it in a book or something. It's easier than murder, isn't it William, 'cause Jim's faceless to you - but it's just like murder. In these rooms words are power and you have all the right words.

This isn't some competition about who's the most sad here! And if you need to know, I have tried to kill myself! I did slit my wrists. It did come from a very real place! But I'm happy I'm alive. And some days are better than others and the future scares me, but I'm ready for the struggle! And I like the struggle! I like it a lot more than being dead and stuck in the ground and watching over my family and friends who I've torn apart. Stay alive and they can help me! There's always a life!

Jim, I'm still here to talk to