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Theatre

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The actors have a slightly tense moment.

Talking passionately

By Karen Slater

Your child is murdered. His killer gets rich. What would you do? Well, with an introduction like that I had to go check it out, tissues in hand for a sobbing session...

Ok, the basic idea behind Talk about the Passion is the mental demise of a father after his son is murdered.

As he slowly goes mad, the opportunity arises for revenge, but who does he really want revenge against - his sons killer, or the woman who made the killer famous?

No beating around the bush here, the play starts with creepy music, and an office scene, instantly putting the audience on edge.

In walks the main character, Evelyn Ayles, played by Phillipa Peak. Having worked her way up the professional ladder, she holds her head high as Jason Carroway, played by Daniel Ainsleigh enters the room behind her, looking shaky and humbled.

"What would I have done in his situation?"

I wondered

As the story unfolds, Jason has arranged the visit under false pretences as he blames Evelyn for the death of his child. As Jason explains why, the play takes a very sombre turn.

This is possibly the most gripping play I've ever seen, no one dare move through the entire show, the two actors creating a very realistic tension on stage as we get pulled through a highly believable emotional ride, hearing about Jason's treatment in the public eye after his child's murder, and a detailed explanation of how exactly he died.

Talk about the Passion managed to hit a nerve, not only with its Middlesbrough accents and local references, but because this is an issue we seem to be dealing with far too often these days, children being murdered, and their killers being "let off lightly".

Even though Jason's actions are manic and emotionally driven, I



BBC Tees' Karen Slater

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