

# Wasteland

A short film

Produced by Lisa Nicoll

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Wasteland is a documentation of the lives of a group of teenagers in North Lanarkshire, Scotland.

The film which focuses on how they deal with the bereavement of a friend to a drink and drugs overdose a year previously was developed along with teenagers from three different youth organisations in an area of high deprivation in Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire over a period of 6 months.

The story, filmed as a narrative, uses the experiences and lives of the young people and the young people are involved in the process from start to finish.

The film is documented and filmed in this way so as not to over expose the young people's individual life and to allow them to open up in a natural way about their lives through the buffer of a character. This stops the young person becoming vulnerable and feeling too exposed about their own lives – even though in reality they are talking about their experiences, feelings and relationships.

Funded by North Lanarkshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership a motion was passed in the Scottish Parliament in June 2013 highly commending the work by Lisa and her team and the process involved in making of Wasteland.

Since 2008 Lisa Nicoll has been using this model and merging the arts and health and wellbeing, writing, directing and producing short films, theatre plays and literature based on research with teenagers and communities in Scotland.

These projects allow lifelong learning, social development and employment skills to be taken forward during the research process, filming process, the final film/theatre product and finally in taking the final product further afield within the wider communities of Scotland and beyond.

The focus is just as much on the process as the final film, play or book. To see how the process happens there is a five minute documentary on- line that shows the process of one of the projects <https://vimeo.com/62645734>

These projects act as diversionary projects through the arts as well as leaving a legacy of work that can be used all over Scotland to educate and stimulate discussion.

Her work has been funded by organisations such as NHS, Local Councils, Children 1<sup>st</sup>, The Scottish Government, The Scottish Collaboration for Public Health Research, Health Improvement Teams and Drug and Alcohol Partnerships all over Scotland. Two of her films have recently received awards - one from anti-sectarian charity Nil by Mouth and another from The Scottish Care Accolades for best community project.

Lisa's work is currently funded on a project to project basis and her aim is to get an established studio in Scotland that produces her work on a regular basis with eventually having the studios rolled out all over the country as centres of excellence. An idea which the Culture Minister of Scotland supports. There is also interest to work at an international level.

Playwright, producer and actress Lisa Nicoll trained at Glasgow's prestigious RSAMD in Contemporary Theatre and then at East 15 Acting School, London where she completed an MA in Acting for TV, Radio & Film, Lisa was awarded the Playwrights Studio of Scotland's mentoring scheme and has had numerous short plays read as part of Words, Words and Wildfire Evenings at The Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh. Currently in addition to her film work she is the associate producer at The Tron Theatre Glasgow.

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