

CHALK FARM

by Kieran Hurley and AJ Taudevin

Chalk Farm was written for *A Play, a Pie, and a Pint* at Oran Mor in Glasgow in September 2012 and was presented in a production by *ThickSkin* at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2013, before touring internationally.

The play's backdrop is the 2011 London riots, as witnessed by a mother and son who have recently moved into their new high-rise Chalk Farm council estate.

Here, Jamie is marvelling and musing about life from such a high vantage point.

JAMIE – 14 (UK)

So we head down to the tube and there's this big gang proper kickin in the bike shop. But there's smoke and light from further down the high street and so Junior points and says 'Fuck the bikes let's get down there' and so we run towards the light and noise, the two of us running, and Junior's giving it 'This is history Jamie, this is history being written tonight!'

And we get there and there's crowds all standing around the Sainsbury's and there is like mad electricity in the air, and in their eyes, everyone all totally buzzing, like wired. Like never seen nothing like it, and the street looks familiar and different all at the same time. And they're all holding bricks. All these people, kids with bricks, and older geezers too. All holding bricks. And I know it's stupid yeah but I'm thinking it's like Lego. Like Lego innit.

And I'm laughing 'cause it's all kicking off and –

Fucking BAM! There's this sharp shattering crash as a brick flies through the Sainsbury's window and the crowd all rush like ants towards it. There is this loud crackling noise like frying bacon and a bunch of kids are peeling the smashed window away like big strips of sunburnt skin. And suddenly before I've even got time to catch up with myself, I'm running in there with them, and it's almost like I'm watching myself do it, like it's not real.

And I'm watching myself running inside and I'm shouting