

CHALK FARM

by Kieran Hurley and AJ Taudevin

Notes

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)

I used to love it, just staring out that window. Like a watchtower. Like I do now, up on the roof. But it started with me and mum, at that window. Just staring out, like you could keep an eye on things for everyone if you wanted to. I would sit there at night-time just watching. And I know it's corny but the times when I was watching with mum those was the best times of all. Back before her face was tripping her all day and she used to like, I don't know, smile sometimes and shit. When I was like a kid you know? We'd sit there just watching out for all the people down below. We even saw 7/7 from up here, me and mum watching all the madness and disaster from the window.

7/7 and I was like 7. 777. Ha. Wicked. You know how 666 is the code for the devil? Well maybe like 777 is the code for like, I don't know, like whoever the opposite of the devil is. Like, angels and shit. But, like, cool angels. Watchtower angels. Hero angels. Like a cross between Batman and angels. Bat Angels. Bat Angels what can look out their windows and be like calling out 'Be careful, people of Chalk Farm! There's like smoke and bombs and fire and shit. You grannies and granddads and babies and, like, old people, you should all stay at home where it's safe and have a nice cup of tea until we tell you it's all over. Don't worry, we got you covered.' 'Cause we can see it all, yeah? All of it. The whole city. Watching out for you, like keeping it safe.' Like Bat Angels!