

## BOTTLENECK

by Luke Barnes

*Bottleneck premiered as part of the 2012 Edinburgh Festival. The production transferred to Soho Theatre London and then toured theatres across the UK. A revival production of the play took place at Edinburgh Festival in July 2014.*

*The play is set in Liverpool, 1989, and features only one character, Greg, who is thirteen. He has just started secondary school. He earns pocket money sweeping up hair in a barber's. Girls are aliens. Liverpool FC are everything. It's written in quite a strong Liverpudlian dialect which can be modified if need be.*

*In this first piece Greg is mouthing off about his Dad, primarily because Greg has just been given free tickets to see his beloved Liverpool team but as his father believes he shouldn't get anything for nothing, he takes him down to his friend's barber shop to earn some money. Greg has a laugh at his father's expense on his first day.*

## GREG - 13 (LIVERPOOL)

My Dad's a hypocrite because he's not looking after me when he goes out is he? Does that mean I don't matter? Don't care anyway. I'm not going to wash tonight. I'm going to bed. Just because he thinks I should doesn't mean it's true.

He's got all moral since mum left. He says 'when we die, she'll be in hell so I'm doing everything possible to get into heaven.'

When I get in from school he's got it all sorted. He's got me a job in 'is mate's barber's and he marches me around holding my hand. It's gay.

We get there and it's this big bald guy with loads of magazines with tits in everywhere and he keeps me there for 4 hours. 4 hours 'e keeps iz 'airdressers open til ten. 4 hours! I sweep up 'air. Ginger hair, black hair, grey hair, beard hair, muzzie hair you name it and I sweep it up. It's disgusting. 'e goes the toilet do you know I do? I pick up this big bit of black 'air, like mine, and I get some glue ... and I ... glue ... the hair to my face, like this, to make it look like a muzzie and go 'Look mister