

VIOLENCE AND SON

by Gary Owen

Violence and Son was first presented at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs, Sloane Square, on 3 June 2015.

The play is set in a small town in South Wales and deals with violence, love and loss. Liam is still grieving the loss of his mother. His father is a violent drunk and they both seem to enjoy winding each other up. Liam, an avid Dr Who fan, brings home Jen; both are on a high from a Dr Who convention. He really likes her but she has a boyfriend and his father's uncouth behavior doesn't help matters.

It's late and Jen is staying the night. Liam has unsuccessfully tried to convince her to be his girlfriend. Feeling sad, he uncharacteristically opens up to Jen about how much he misses his mother.

Please note Liam doesn't have a Welsh accent.

LIAM – TEENS (UK)

I think about it all the time. I think – how long now till she comes through the door and takes me home? You know you get pins and needles? Say in your leg. And you can't walk. But you don't really worry about it because, you know it'll go and you'll be fine in a minute? This is like that. I'm not worried cos, it'll be fine, in a minute. Cos like, if my mum died but she was a bitch, I wouldn't mind so much? She was nice. I mean, probably since I was thirteen I slightly thought she was a twat but, after getting the diagnosis and then the surgery and the chemo and then, when it became clear she was really going to die, I probably, some point in that process, started to see her good points, quite a lot more than I had. No I don't miss her. Why would I miss her? She's coming to get me any second. Listen, that's her. Here she is – Which means you don't need to worry about me. Or feel guilty. Or make an effort to be nice, or do anything. You definitely don't have to be with me, if actually you want to be with your boyfriend.

You know you're supposed to go through these stages. When you know you're gonna die? Like ... anger, denial, pathetic last minute embrace of religion, then acceptance. You accept you're gonna die. It just means you, accept that you're dying. You accept, the life you got, was what you got, and you stop