



Joint RIS/RIST “Blood Brothers” Theatre Trip

by Ray Stafford, RIST Drama Teacher

On November 24, RIS and RIST high school students attended an excellent performance of *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell at the Alliance Francaise in downtown Bangkok. The aims of the trip were to extend drama learning outside the classroom, to expose the students to musical theatre conventions, and to develop the relationship between the students of both schools. RIST students are presently exploring status relationships in drama class and therefore this was an ideal opportunity to support their practical work.

The other big factor was to support Boom in RIS Grade 12 who had been rehearsing with Bangkok Community Theatre for three months. Having a main acting part in a production outside of school is definitely an excellent way to get experience within the theatre industry!

The story is about Mrs. Johnstone and her big family that lives in Liverpool. Her husband walked out on her (for a girl they say looks a bit like Marilyn Monroe). When she finds herself pregnant again with twins, she agrees to give her employer Mrs. Lyons one of her children. However, as the twins grow up, they become best friends, (they even cut their thumbs and become blood brothers). What follows is a high-paced drama that mixes comedy, music and performance together, and was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for teachers and students alike.

Many thanks are due to Mrs. Mars for her excellent organization of this event and to Darren Scully and Ms. Sudarat for accompanying me and the students on the trip.