



## Press Information: Theatre

The Courtyard at Covent Garden, Wellington Street WC2

ACTIVATED image

# Amy Evans' Strike

by John Finnemore. Directed by Adam Barnard. Designed by Anna Bliss Scully.  
Lighting by Kevin Leach. Music by Peter Michaels. Produced by Miranda Curnew.  
With: Hannah Boyde, Susie Cousins, Paul O'Mahony, Simon Masterton, John Sheerman, Rachel Sternberg

## THE MOVING TALE OF A MINOR'S STRIKE...

...at London's hottest new theatre in the heart of Covent Garden

Amy Evans. 12 years old. Well behaved. Polite. Clever. Teachers like her. She's no trouble. Kids think she's OK. Quiet, but cool enough... Until the day Amy puts down her pen and announces she's going on strike from school. No more lessons, no more homework, no more detentions. No more time wasted on pointless SATs and GCSEs that she doesn't need anyway. Amy knows what she wants do with her life and what she needs to do it. And the National Curriculum, thank you very much, can stuff itself.

So begins *Amy Evans' Strike*, which opens the first season at **The Courtyard at Covent Garden**, London's newest professional studio theatre, located below the Theatre Museum in the heart of the West End. In this colourful and vibrant ensemble play from admired new writer John Finnemore and emerging company Activated Image, a schoolgirl's simple stand spirals into a national scandal. As teachers fail to halt her defiance, support swells for Amy's strike. The press - first the local rag, then a national tabloid - pick up the story. Is this the final nail in the coffin for the Government's embattled Education Minister? A decision made shortly after 9am in history class becomes political dynamite. One question: what does Amy really want?

Six adult actors leap between more than 30 roles, from schoolchildren to teachers, parents, journalists and politicians - accompanied by bright, cartoon-like design and a lively original soundtrack.

Activated Image's previous productions include the European premiere of Canadian playwright Jason Sherman's *Patience* at the Finborough Theatre in January: "A fringe triumph... let us hope 2005 brings more of this company" (*Evening Standard*), John Finnemore's *The Straight Man* (★★★★★ *Metro*), *The Principle of Motion* and Stephen Fry's *Latin!* (King's Head). "One of the best new theatre companies around" - *Edinburgh Evening News*.

John Finnemore ("A name to watch" *Evening Standard*) penned the musical *Told You So* (Courtyard Theatre at King's Cross); his stageplay *Tails You Lose* was turned into a BBC Radio Four drama. Other TV and Radio credits include *Dead Ringers* and *Mitchell and Webb*. As well as directing for Activated Image, "up and coming young director Adam Barnard" (*Observer*) has worked extensively at the Orange Tree Theatre, where his productions include *The Little Years* and the forthcoming *Three In The Back*, *Two In The Head* by Jason Sherman. He recently directed for the Old Vic's *24 Hour Plays*.

A workshop version of *Amy Evans' Strike* was presented by Activated Image at the 2001 Edinburgh Festival Fringe where it was nominated for a Fringe First Award and praised as "★★★★ Brilliantly devised" (*Scotsman*) and "★★★★ One of the gems of 2001" (*The List*). *Amy Evans' Strike* is touring regionally from December 2005 including Clwyd Theatr Cymru.

PRESS NIGHTS: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> & THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 2005, 7.30PM  
PHOTOCALL: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 2005, 3.30PM-4.00PM

The Courtyard at Covent Garden, Wellington Street, London WC2E 7PA

Box Office 020 7833 0876 [www.thecourtyard.org.uk](http://www.thecourtyard.org.uk)

Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 2005.

Tuesday to Saturday evenings 7.30pm, Sunday evenings 6.30pm. Tickets £15, £12 concessions.

Performance length: approximately 1 hour 45 minutes including interval. Suitable for all ages.

For more information or to arrange press tickets contact: Tim Gill, The Courtyard, 020 7833 0870

Or: Miranda Curnew, Activated Image: 07968 180 201 or [miranda@activated.co.uk](mailto:miranda@activated.co.uk)

Images available at [www.activated.co.uk](http://www.activated.co.uk)

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