

Play gets meth message across to students

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Staff Reporter

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Thumping bass, double entendres, the occasional bleep and hip-hop made the message stick.

Fourteen-year-old Gordie Whitehouse remembers one nasty fact about the corrosive quality of meth.

"I was surprised that it could melt a stick," said the Maple Ridge secondary student.

Cranked is a hip-hop exploration of the world of crystal meth, addiction and recovery, featuring Kyle Cameron and beats by Vancouver hip-hop artists Kyprios and Stylust.

The play performed by Green Thumb Theatre at Maple Ridge secondary on Thursday rapped the message home -meth is bad.

Cranked follows Stan, aka "definition," a horror film buff and a freestyle DJ, as he preps for an upcoming freestyle competition without the crystal meth habit that dominated his previous life. His memories of the films, the meth highs and the rush of music all collide as he struggles to recapture his life.

At 17, Stan has lost a coveted recording contract, his family and lives on the streets.

He steals and hustles to score his next fix.

He picks at fossilized chewing gum on the sidewalk, sure it's a shard of meth. He never sleeps. Cranked captivates the audiences because Stan tells a compelling tale. He is hip and speaks a language the students can understand. He doesn't preach.

Grade 12 student Amanda Harris has heard there is a lot of meth in Maple Ridge. "And it's really addictive," she said.



Colleen Flanagan/black press Kyle Cameron plays the role of Stan, aka "definition" in Cranked, a performance about crystal meth at Maple Ridge Secondary School Thursday afternoon. The Rotary Club and Gordie Robson Foundation sponsored the performance.

Meth use isn't an issue at school, but performances like Cranked get students talking about the effects of the drugs, Harris notes. On Thursday, school corridors were buzzing with raving reviews about the cool play.

"By the end of the day everyone was talking about it," Harris said.

" It was the presentation that made us listen. I think if we see more stuff like this, I guess we do take meth more seriously."

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