Icarus F**ked Up

PREPARATION MATERIAL (PRE-SHOW MATERIAL)

The play **Icarus F**ked Up** throws us into the life of a regular family stuck in a modern Labyrinth of sibling rivalry, parental stress and growing up under one roof that is slowly but surely caving in. We meet our protagonist in the middle of a mental health crisis. Sam is 15 and suffering from anxiety and panic attacks. Lately he is being followed by a strange shadow, with horns. His own personal Minotaur has come to stay. Family, teachers and friends are at a loss; until the day Sam takes a leap of faith and decides; it's time to fly. **Icarus - F**ked Up** shines a light on the stigma, fears and prejudices surrounding young people in emotional distress. We have combined powerful imagery with acting, puppetry and animation to create an arresting and authentic production.

Vocabulary list

subject matter	Thema
grade	Note
mythology	Mythologie
a bouncer	ein Türsteher*in
scallywag	Frechdachs
stove	Grill
bloke	Kerl
flesh	Fleisch
Meatless Monday	Vegetarischer Montag
take time off work	sich von der Arbeit freinehmen
feathers	Federn
dehydration	Dehydrierung
accountancy	Buchhaltung
scoop	Kugel
sprinkles	Streusel

to turn up	zum Erscheinen
My seat belt is not done up	Mein Gurt ist nicht zu
indicator	Blinker
to poke	zu stoßen
to hang out with someone	sich mit jemandem zu treffen
grounded	unter Hausarrest
to fail	nicht bestehen
scratches	Kratzer
I can’t put my finger on it	Ich kann es nicht genau sagen
ceiling	Decke (Zimmerdecke)
Stranger Things	Netflix Serien
thermals	Thermiken
wax	Wachs
to melt	schmelzen
well-known	renommiert, bekannt
to cope	zurechtkommen
to have a lot on one's plate	viel zu tun zu haben
overconfidence	Selbstüberschätzung
Hubris	Hybris, Arroganz
to live up to someone's expectations	jmndn den Erwartungen nicht gerecht werden
to manage	etwas schaffen
School Counsellor	Schulpsycholog*in

Character Descriptions

Sam - 15 year old boy, Sam loves drawing and illustrating. He usually doodles during classes. When we meet him, he is supposed to write and deliver a presentation about the myth of Icarus. He starts feeling the pressure of his family's expectations on him together with the pressure to perform well in school. This pressure escalates into panic attacks and visions of Icarus, Daedalus and the Minotaur. Sam feels lost and doesn't understand what is happening to him.

Nigel - 16 year old boy, Sam's best friend since primary school. Nigel is the class clown and is always late for school. He feels something is wrong with his friend Sam but doesn’t really understand how he can help him.

Teacher - Sam and Nigel's teacher enjoys teaching and cares about her students. She realises Sam is struggling but she doesn't know exactly what with or why. She tries speaking to his family and getting help from the school counselor but to no immediate avail.

Mum - Sam's mum is a business woman and main provider of the Wilkinson household. She loves her children dearly but struggles to balance her personal and professional life. She tries talking to Sam to figure out what's happening to him but can not get her son to open up to her.

Dad - Sam's dad often feels overwhelmed by having to take care of his children. He works as an accountant at Sonja Moore Accountancy. He believes his ways of handling conflict with his kids are good but keeps getting frustrated by not achieving the results he would expect. When things get worse however, we see him try a new approach with Sam.

Jackie - Sam's little sister is a very lively and imaginative 7 year old. She likes dressing up and wished her brother would give her more attention. She can be very annoying.

Examiner - The examiner is someone from outside the school that evaluates the students performance during thier final exams.

Counsellor - Social worker or professional pyschologist that comes to school from time to time to talk to students that are going through difficult times.

Minotaur - in our play the Minotaur represents Sam's anxiety and self doubt. *For information on the original myth see below.*

Daedalus and Icarus - in our play, Sam dreams of his versions of these two characters. *For information on the original myth see below.*

Daedalus and Icarus - the Myth – flying between extremes.

The story begins with Icarus father Daedelus. Who was an exceptional inventor. One day Daedalus took his nephew Talos as his apprentice. But Daedalus realised that the Young Talos was smarter than him. Afraid of being surpassed by his nephew, he threw Talos off a Cliff to his death. Because of this Daedalus was banished from Athens. Daedalus found refuge in the court of King Minos, in the island of Crete. During his time in the court of Minos, he had a son, Icarus.

One day King Minos asked Poseidon to send him a heavenly sign of in the form of a beautiful bull. The king promised that he would sacrafice the animal. But Minos decided to keep the bull and sacrifice another one in his place. Poseidon had honored his side of the deal, but Minos had not. Poseidon punished King Minos by sending his wife Queen Pasiphae mad. Queen Pasiphae became unable to control her urge to mate with the bull. She asked for Daedalus' help. Daedelus built a machine to enable her to mate with the bull. From the union of human and animal, the Minotaur was born, half man and half bull.

When Minos saw the terrible creature, he asked Daedalus to construct a Labyrinth in order to hide it there. The labyrinth was said to have been one of Daedalus' greatest creations. It was constructed in such a way so that anyone sent into the labyrinth would become hopelessly lost and unable to escape. Minos then used the Minotaur to maintain a reign of terror over Athens by asking for 14 young people from the city to be fed to the beast every year. Eventually, Prince Theseus, an Athenian hero, came to Crete and, with the help of Minos' daughter, Ariadne, and Daedalus himself, was able to slay the Minotaur and return from the labyrinth. Theseus then sailed back to Athens with Ariadne.

After learning about his role in Theseus' escape, King Minos arrested Daedalus and his son Icarus. Both were thrown in the Labyrinth. Daedalus, in his creative fever to escape, built two pairs of wings using feathers and wax. When Daedalus finished, he explained to Icarus how he should avoid flying too high or too low. But during the flight, Icarus found his tragic end. He flew too high; the wax that held the wings together melted and he fell to his death.

Point of Discussion/Questions for the class after reading the Myth?

- *Who was Talus?*
- *Why did Daedalus move to Crete?*
- *Who was King Minos?*
- *What is the connection between Poseidon and the Minotaur?*
- *Who killed the Minotaur and how?*
- *Why were Daedalus and Icarus imprisoned?*
- *How did Icarus die?*

Example of a Scene

SCENE 5 - DINNER

MUM & DAD & JACKIE & SAM are sitting at the table.
SAM wants to go out, it's a school night.

MUM Mmm, look what Dad's made for us kids. Thank you Scott. Mmmm

MUM and DAD go to take Jackie's and Sam's hands.

SAM Do we have to?
MUM Honey.
JACKIE Sam wont take my hand!
DAD Could have done it by now

SAM's taken JACKIE'S hand too hard.

JACKIE Ow!
MUM/**DAD**/
JACKIE Two little eyes to look around
Two little ears to hear a sound
SAM Oh my god.
JACKIE Sam's not saying it!
MUM/**DAD** Sam…
MUM/**DAD** One little nose to smell things sweat
MUM/**DAD**/
JACKIE One little mouth that likes to eat
MUM Thank you
DAD Oh it's hot. Careful Jackie.
MUM It's lovely.

SAM I'm not hungry.

JACKIE Can you blow on it?

DAD Just try it.

JACKIE Dad, blow on it!

MUM I think you can do that yourself.

DAD What do you mean you're not hungry?

SAM I don't like potatoes, Dad. You know that.

MUM Of course you do like potatoes. You ate them last week.

SAM Last week 5 years ago.

DAD It's colder on the edge -

JACKIE Too hot, too hot, too hot.

DAD Sorry honey

MUM How was school Sam?

DAD Yes Sam! How was school?

SAM Fine.

JACKIE Fine, fine, fine, fine.

MUM Jackie, this thing stinks, we have to wash it.

DAD Just fine?

SAM Just fine.

JACKIE But I`m an angel.

DAD What did you do?

MUM She`s an Angel.

SAM Nothing.

MUM I'm sure that I saw a book in your bag. Jackie, angels eat broccoli too.

SAM Can I go out tonight? … Please …

JACKIE But I`m the Angel of Death - you're dead, Broccoli!

DAD It's a school night.

SAM It's for a school project.

MUM What's the project?

SAM Err, I dunno. It's like err… greek mythology.

DAD Ooh Greek Mythology.

MUM We went to Greece didn't we?

DAD Oh yes we did, we went to Greece.

MUM Before you lot were around.

SAM So can I go out?

MUM Ahh, your dad's right, it is a school night.

SAM I'll be back by 9:30.

DAD Who are you meeting?

SAM Nigel.

DAD Ah Nigel…

MUM The tall one?

DAD Oh his dads the bouncer….

SAM So can I go?

MUM No, eat some more of your dinner.

SAM I don't like potatoes, mum!

MUM Then eat your… your carrots.

SAM But I'm not hungry.

MUM Tell us about your project then.

DAD Look at Jackie. She's doing great.

JACKIE I'm not Jackie!

MUM Except for her broccoli, you little scallywag.

DAD You used to love potatoes.

SAM It's about Icarus - alright?

MUM I think we went to a restaurant called Icarus. The one by the beach. It went into the ocean a little bit. - And he cooked the fish next to the table - I swear it's called Icarus.

DAD Oh yeah - On the stove.

SAM I'll be back by 10:00.

DAD No Sam, you haven't touched your..

MUM Sam!

DAD Sam!

JACKIE Ha, the Angel of Death wins.

Labyrinth Game

Find your way out of the labyrinth without flying out:

