Audience are Tramway stars

ONCE going to the theatre meant parking your behind on a seat in a darkened room and watching actors on a stage.

Not so any more at the Tramway, which is inviting complete strangers to stand, six-piece, in a fabric cubicle in front of a rain screen and get out within half an hour.

This is the new, truly interactive production from Blast Theory, which opens tonight and runs until July 8.

It's called Desert Rain, and it explores the media manipulation and propaganda, which surround the Gulf War.

Each audience of six people is zipped into a small cubicle and has to stand on a foot pad in front of a screen which transmits images of different environments.

They must interact with each other and the virtual world and the challenge is to find their target and exit the cubicle within 30 minutes. Tickets, priced £8 and £4 concession, are available by telephoning 0141 287 3900.

Curtain call for youngsters

TWO of Glasgow's most popular theatres are throwing open their doors this summer to young people who want to Go Wild.

The City Council's popular summer theatre skills workshops series for seven to 15-year-olds includes dance, song and drama.

The King's course is for 12 to 15-year-olds and runs from July 3 to 7.

This year the theme is West Side Story and workshops will include dance, drama, music and singing and will end with a 45-minute performance on stage in the theatre.

The programme at the Mitchell Theatre, for seven to 11-year-olds, has an environmental theme this year, and it runs from July 10 to 14.

Integrating drama, art and music, the workshops will provide a fantastic opportunity for young people to work alongside professional artists and musicians.

The children will finish off the week with a final performance for family and friends on stage at the Mitchell.

The workshops cost £55 or £35 concession - call 0141 287 5522 to reserve places.