

ESSEX



THE REGION'S TOP-SELLING WEEKLY

CHRONICLE

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PLANNING MEETING: Pictured, left to right, are Guillaume Dumont who plays "Teacher" in the play, Kryisia Dodson of Essex Youth Services, writer/director Stéphane Tournu-Romain and translator Nicole Bonnet.

Youth theatre with a message

YOUNG people between the ages of 13 and 19 are being invited to take part in a theatre project designed to encourage them to embrace the values of sport and inter-cultural understanding.

Essex Youth Services has joined forces with Temps de Foot, a French theatre project currently touring 11 European countries, to produce a play about football and xenophobia written and produced by Stéphane Tournu-Romain.

The touring company, which incorporates three professional actors, invites young people to join them in the play which, it is hoped, will demonstrate to them and their audiences, the benefits of sport played fairly and in a manner that can be enjoyed by people of all cultures.

The main actor in the play is the well-known coach of French

football team France Espoir, Raymond Domenech.

In France, the play is audio-narrated by Arsenal footballer Robert Pirès whereas, in England, Temps de Foot will be obtaining the services of either Liverpool's Michael Owen or Arsenal's Thierry Henry for the role.

"This is educational theatre," said the company translator Nicole Bonnet. "It is a project that Stéphane has been working on since the 1998 World Cup. It incorporates songs, text and choreography."

"My play has been adapted into English," said Stéphane. "It's title translates to Time for Football. It's a message for non-violent sport - the history of the game and of a country's hopes for football success.

"I wrote the play because I love both football and the the-

atre, and I was fed up with seeing violence at football matches."

"There are only 30 vacancies on this project which are expected to be quickly snapped up," said Kryisia Dodson, Chelmsford Locality Leader from Essex Youth Services.

"Places are free to anyone from the Chelmsford area. You do not have to be an expert in drama or dance, all that is needed is a desire to join in the fun.

"Anyone interested in taking part or wanting tickets should telephone me on 01245 349143 as soon as possible."

Rehearsals will be held from 9.30am to 4pm in Galleywood Youth Centre from Tuesday, April 2 to Saturday, April 6.

The venue for the main performance on April 6 has yet to be decided, although it will be in Chelmsford.