

Lottery grant is a curtain raiser!

THE curtain is to go up on four new plays thanks to a Lottery grant awarded to a Penicuik theatre group.

The Engross Theatre Group has received £9,368 in Awards for All cash to commission four education plays for young people with additional support needs.

The first of the plays was recently performed at Saltersgate School, Dalkeith. The funding will also pay for fees for the actors, directors, technicians

and writers, for costumes, props and hall hire. Engross was founded by Penicuik husband and wife Bobby and Yvonne Moore last July, who recognised the problems attending the theatre could be for people with learning difficulties.

Mrs Moore said: "It is incredible. We have got funding to produce client-based plays for special schools."

Auditions were held last month and the first of the works, which has a Scottish theme, will be performed in

front of the entire school at Saltersgate and then at a special school in Pilrig later in the year. Mrs Moore said the group produced curriculum-based plays for special schools across the Lothians.

The group's first piece of work was 'Jimmy and the War' about life during World War Two.

Its current plays include the Scottish-themed 'Wayne and Wallace', 'Mark and the Romans', 'Fiona the Victorian' and 'Bobby the Viking'.