

TOUR PACK 2016

**MUCH FURTHER OUT
THAN YOU THOUGHT**

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY
GILES ROBERTS

DIRECTED BY
BETHANY PITTS

IDEASTAP-UNDERBELLY AWARD WINNER
2015

Presented by THE MOLINOGROUP



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1 - COPY & PRESS

Lance Corporal James Randall left tours of duty in Helmand six years ago. But as he's about to discover, Helmand is still very far from leaving him.

On Remembrance Sunday he delivers a birthday message to his young son from his living room in south London; a last-ditch attempt to reconcile their broken relationship. Surrounded by action figures and boyhood memorabilia, James unfolds a fragmented story in which the worlds of civilian Britain and front-line Afghanistan brutally, and catastrophically, collide.

Written and performed by Giles Roberts, and directed by Fringe First award winner Bethany Pitts (*Spine* 2014), **MUCH FURTHER OUT THAN YOU THOUGHT** shines a different light on the very human cost of war.

***WINNER** - IDEASTAP / UNDERBELLY AWARD 2015*

***LONGLISTED** - AMNESTY FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AWARD 2015*

'A THOUGHT-PROVOKING PIECE ABOUT THE LASTING, DAMAGING EFFECTS OF WAR ON SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME.'

—THE SKINNY ★★★★★

'ROBERTS' DISTURBING PORTRAIT OF A BROKEN MAN CAPTURES THE HORROR OF THE WAR ON TERROR.'

—THE SCOTSMAN

'A NEAT AND COMPASSIONATE SCRIPT ... *MUCH FURTHER OUT THAN YOU THOUGHT* IS PRESENTED SIMPLY BUT INVENTIVELY.' —EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS ★★★★★

'A HAUNTING AND GRIPPING THRILLER' - BARGAINTHEATRELAND



2 - CREATIVE TEAM

Writer & Performer: Giles Roberts

Director: Bethany Pitts

Assistant Director: Kate Lovell

Dramaturg: Edward Fortes

Producer: Dan Baker

Production/Stage Manager: David Putnam

Designer: Alison Neighbour

Sound & Music: Jon McLeod

Lighting Design: Elliot Griggs

3 - ABOUT THE PLAY

The idea for **MUCH FURTHER OUT THAN YOU THOUGHT** sprung from watching a 1980s documentary entitled *Four Hours in My Lai*: an account of a massacre carried out by US soldiers during the Vietnam War. It was an operation that resulted in the death of hundreds of men, women and children, many of whom were killed in the most barbarous means. Discovering that this event had actually taken place was horror enough, but what resonated with me strongly were the personal testimonies of the soldiers who had participated in the operation. It was plain to see just how broken they were, how detached they'd had to force themselves to become from their domestic selves once returned to civilian life.

The last British soldiers were airlifted from Camp Bastion in Afghanistan in October last year, as Britain's base in Helmand Province was finally closed down. For these men and women – many of whom will have seen and experienced more in their short time on the front-line than many of us will do in our whole lives – the war is officially over. But as the statistics for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among veterans in the UK demonstrate, leaving war behind is far easier said than done.

MUCH FURTHER OUT THAN YOU THOUGHT is a glimpse into the fictional life of a fictional soldier. Lance Corporal James Randall doesn't exist. But the traumas that live inside him most certainly do.

- Giles Roberts, July 2015

4 - WORKING WITH VETERAN ORGANISATIONS

During the development of **MUCH FURTHER OUT THAN YOU THOUGHT** we spoke to a number of veterans and Armed Forces charities. Most prominent among these were **Veterans for Peace** and **Jake Wood**, ex-soldier and author of *Among You*.

Our experience of working with these organisations would also inform an associated **Outreach Programme** for the production while on tour, and we have already discussed how we would collaborate with our partner Veteran organisations to facilitate talks and workshops around performances in a tour setting.

As a company dedicated to seeking out stories which examine the personal in the political and the surreal in the everyday, we see the provision of a strong, engaging outreach programme as integral to our work on tour and plan to have an Associate Director / Workshop Leader on tour with the show.

'MUCH FURTHER OUT THAN YOU THOUGHT is a brutal portrayal of a soldier returned from conflict trying to reconcile his life in the army with his life back home. It reveals the gap between the public perception of life after military service and the often grim reality. I hope that its run at the Edinburgh festival will bring these themes and issues to light for many more people and will inform the public of the hidden costs of conflict that we don't often see in the media.'

-Ben Griffin, Veterans for Peace (August 2015)

'Absorbing, darkly comedic and grittily authentic'

-Jake Wood, ex-Soldier and author of *Among You*
(August 2015)

5 - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Performance Space			
Stage Dimensions	4m x 4m minimum	Seating	End-on. Other options possible (such as shallow thrust)
Height Clearance	2m	Back Drop	Black back drop
Flooring	Plain black floor	Wings/ Crossover	None
Access to Stage	20 mins with sound and lights	Get-In	Same day

Set

Set comprises a 4 x 4 m floorcloth which is covered with sand and vermiculite. A small amount of this moves during the performance, meaning there is some debris post performance. Otherwise includes a large armchair, coffee table, TV stands with LED and a number of small props.

Lights

Required: Full exclusive use of in house

lighting equipment and provision for boom side lights. A DMX controllable hazer, with inclusive fluid, should also be provided. Full lighting plans can be provided by the company

Sound

Required: Professional quality stereo sound system with full range speakers and separate sub-bass speakers. One rigged upstage left and one upstage right.

Running Time

65 mins - NO INTERVAL

Company on Tour 1 performer, 1 CSM

Genre Drama / New Writing

Suitability

12+ - parental guidance. Contains some swearing and disturbing material.



6 - BIOGRAPHIES

Giles Roberts - Writer & Performer

Giles Roberts trained as an actor at The Oxford School of Drama. Acting credits for the MolinoGroup include [*Roland : a collage*] (Bike Shed, Exeter) and *DESERT* (Latitude Festival & UK Tour). Other acting credits include: *Hamlet* (Harrogate Theatre/UK tour); *Babel* (WildWorks/BAC/Lyric Hammersmith); *The Taming of the Shrew* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Price* (Theatre Uncut); *Bingo* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *Time of Your Life* (Finborough Theatre); *Punch & Judy* (Arcola). TV and Film includes: *The Invisible Woman* (BBC Films); *The Boat That Rocked* (Working Title); *Road to FA Cup* (Chancer Productions).

MUCH FURTHER OUT THAN YOU THOUGHT is Giles' debut play

Bethany Pitts - Director

Bethany Pitts is a director specialising in new work, both scripted and devised. She co-runs the MolinoGroup and has directed all of their previous productions, including *DESERT* (Bike Shed, Exeter / New Diorama / Latitude Festival / UK Tour). She has also recently directed *Tether* by Isley Lynn (Underbelly 2015) *Spine* by Clara Brennan (Underbelly, Edinburgh / Soho Theatre London - Fringe First & Herald Angel award 2014) and *Free Fall* by Vinay Patel (Pleasance Theatre, 2014 - Nominated for 3 Off West End awards, including Best Director). She was the Assistant Director at Theatre Royal

Plymouth from 2012 - 2013 and, prior to that, Resident Assistant Director at Theatre503. Other previous assisting credits include *Dark Vanilla Jungle* by Philip Ridley (Pleasance Edinburgh / Soho London - Fringe First award 2013) and *Theatre Uncut* (Young Vic, 2013).

Edward Fortes - Dramaturg

Edward is a dramaturg, translator and co-founder of the MolinoGroup. He created the text for the MolinoGroup's productions of **DESERT** and **Roland: A Collage**, and his work has been seen at BAC, Theatre503 and the V&A Museum. A former Literary Associate of Ovalhouse, in 2013 he was selected as one of twenty European dramaturgs to take part in a workshop led by Florian Borchmeier (Schaubühne Berlin) at the Venice Biennale. He translates from French and Italian.

Alison Neighbour - Designer

Alison Neighbour designs for theatre, film, events and installations. She trained at RADA. She is also founder and co-artistic director of Bread & Goose theatre company. Her most recent design work includes the award-winning *Spine* by Clara Brennan, and *Roland: A Collage* (The MolinoGroup). Other work includes *Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco* (Chapter Arts Centre & touring); *Phenomenal People* (Camden People's Theatre & ARC, Stockton); *I Told You This Would Happen* (ARC Stockton & touring); *Spine* (Underbelly & Soho Theatre, Fringe First & Herald Angel winner); *Square Bubble* (National Theatre: Watch

This Space); *The Eyes Have It* (Imagine Watford); *Wedding* (Shoreditch Town Hall); *The Literary Ball* (L'institut Francais); *Followers* (Southwark Playhouse); *Used Blood Junkyard* (Arcola).

Jon McLeod - Sound & Music Design

Sound and music credits include: *A Conversation and Party Skills for the End of The World* (Nigel Barrett and Louise Mari); *Lost in the Neuron Forest* and *The Eyes Have It* (Bread and Goose); *Spine* (Underbelly, Edinburgh / Soho Theatre - Fringe First & Herald Angel award 2014); *Arthur's World* (The Bush); *Free Fall* (Pleasance Theatre); *Roland: A Collage* (The MolinoGroup); *The Fanny Hill Project* (TheateState); *Borderline Vultures* (The Lowry); *66 Minutes in Damascus* (LIFT Festival); *The Invisible Show* (RedShift Theatre); his own

piece *Organs of Little Apparent Importance* (HighTide).

Elliot Griggs - Lighting Design

Elliot trained at RADA. Lighting designs include: *Lampedusa* (Soho Theatre / HighTide Festival); *Bravo 22* (Royal British Legion); *Benefit* (Cardboard Citizens); *Yen* (Royal Exchange); *Fleabag* (Underbelly, Edinburgh / Soho Theatre / UK tour); *Henry IV* (Associate Lighting Designer, Donmar Warehouse); *Pomona* (Orange Tree Theatre); *CommonWealth* (Almeida Theatre); *He Had Hairy Hands* and *The Boy Who Kicked Pigs* (The Lowry, Manchester / UK tour); Awards: Best Lighting Designer (Off West End Awards 2014); New Talent in Entertainment Lighting (Association of Lighting Designers 2014); Francis Reid Award (Association of Lighting Designers 2011); ShowLight Award (NSDF 2009).

7 - CONTACTS

FOR TOURING ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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