

Smokescreen Productions Draft Press Release



Shell Shock, an “astonishing and astounding” multi-award winning 5* comedy drama, comes to (venue) on (date) at (time) in support of (charity).

Adapted from Gulf war veteran Neil Blower Watkin’s acclaimed biographical novel ‘***Shell Shock: The Diary of Tommy Atkins***’, the play tells the story of one old soldier’s post service return to everyday life. After all, following a long military career, with everything that throws at you, life back on civvy street should be a breeze... right?

‘Tommy’ shares his rapid fire comic observations on the absurdities of the everyday with the audience but as he pokes fun at everything from post office queues to Ikea, computer games to ‘phone zombies, so the cracks in his military grit become apparent. Described in multiple 5* reviews as “comic and convincing”, “fabulously witty” and “poignant and haunting”, ***Shell Shock*** takes us on a roller coaster of a journey through the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress and out the other side, ultimately offering a positive message of hope and a pathway to recovery.

Awarded a ‘Fringe Encore Winner’ season to New York and voted Best Solo Show at Adelaide Fringe, this performance piece was originally created in association with military and mental health charities as a stigma reduction project for the military community and beyond. A conversational style of performance is followed by an informal interactive feedback session, or ‘Fire Circle’, where others are encouraged to share their own stories.

Shell Shock began its journey in the UK and has played theatres and festivals around the world in Edinburgh, New York, New Zealand and Australia. The play is currently performed by renowned TV comedy veteran Tim Marriott, a regular in BBC sit-coms including seven series of *The Brittas Empire*.

“Tim’s performance in *Shell Shock* is real and relatable. The play provides a palatable and hope-filled insight into the suffering and isolation of returned vets who carry the multi-layered psychological ravages of the battle front. Tim’s sensitive reading of the audience adds to the power of the production. Well worth seeing and a very important piece of work to support mental health.” - Clinical Psychologist, Integra.

Tickets are available from (venue) or (online agency)
Press contact: (PR contact)