

# JACKS ASHES

a new play  
by Matt Banes & Tim Marriott

## Information for Touring

# ***“163 to win. We’ve got this lads.”***

Former professional cricketer Jack gives his team talk, but wickets fall like a ticking time bomb and the anecdotes from the ashes of his career prove less than inspirational...

As Jack pads up to be the last man in to go out and save the day, *Jack’s Ashes* offers a humorous insight into the mental frailties that can cloud the mind and the distractions that can lead to ruin.

Richly entertaining, informative, and performed by a comedy veteran with a track record of 5\* sell-out shows at festivals around the world, *Jack’s Ashes* is suitable for any space. The “worst team talk you’ve ever heard” is wrapped in humour and delivered direct to the audience as Jack’s hapless and harangued team.

Behind the comedy lies a serious message about mental fitness, the power of community, and the benefits of open, honest conversations. Developed in consultation with professional sports bodies and mental health charities, *Jack’s Ashes* is designed to engage through humour to reduce stigma and promote conversation about mental fitness. The play can be followed by a talkback with an Anxiety UK counsellor offering tips and practical strategies to better manage stress and anxiety. A booklet ‘Toolkit for Anxiety’ accompanies the performance.

**“Must be seen to be appreciated.”**

★★★★★ Adelaide Review

**“Compelling, heartfelt... packed a punch”**

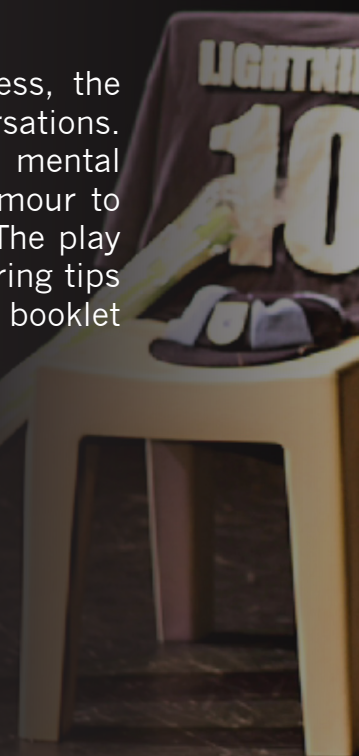
★★★★★ The West Australian

**“Perfect balance of humour & heart”**


★★★★★ South Western Times

**“A hilarious night out!”**

★★★★★ Bunbury Herald







Performed by  
Tim Marriott

Written by  
Tim Marriott  
& Mathew Banes



Featuring recorded contributions  
from the cricket world, including:

David 'Bumble' Lloyd  
Ed Cowan  
Robert 'Crash' Craddock  
Shane Watson  
Toby from 'Cricket District'

Originally developed with  
Hannah Maxwell, Jonathan Rice  
& Nicholas Collett

The piece was developed with  
support from Arts Council  
England.

# TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

<b>Running time</b>	70mins (interval optional)
<b>Get in time</b>	1.5hrs
<b>Company</b>	1x performer, 1x touring assistant
<b>Tech support</b>	1x operator from venue
<b>Playing space</b>	W:4m / D: 3m
<b>Lighting</b>	Generic rig, warm wash throughout
<b>Sound</b>	Venue PA, SFX run through QLab
<b>Video</b>	Projection to back wall, or TV screen SL VFX run through QLab
<b>Venue to supply</b>	Projection surface or TV screen Additional HDMI if required
<b>Company to supply</b>	Set (1x table, 2x chairs) Back-up PA Projector + HDMI (3m) Show computer with QLab
<b>Transport</b>	Car, parking required near venue
<b>Storage</b>	2m <sup>2</sup>
<b>FOH</b>	1 page programme Toolkit For Anxiety booklet available post-show
<b>Risk</b>	No content warnings Full risk assessment provided on request



# AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

*"Really nostalgic, really made you think about playing the game personally and your experiences growing up, seeing the kind of experience Jack's gone through."*

*"A fascinating insight into what happens behind the scenes and in the changing room."*

*"A sad element to it as well with the mental impacts experienced by a cricketer touring."*

*"Really brought a lot of memories to life, but was also really fun to see the story unfold and feel like I was part of it."*

*"I think you got the balance right, between entertainment and making a serious point."*

*"A lot of people will form their own opinions on what they see and relate it to their own cricket experiences."*



# TOURING

## 2022 Development

21 Apr - Grove Theatre Eastbourne (Rehearsed Reading)  
29 Apr - Kent County Cricket Club (RR)  
13 July - Quay Theatre, Sudbury (RR)  
24 Nov - Petworth Fringe

## ACA/Cricket Australia Tour

15 Jan - Hobart  
18 Jan - Perth (WACA)  
25 Jan - Bunbury Fringe  
3 Feb - Sydney  
10 Feb - Sydney  
9 Feb - Melbourne (MCG)  
13 Feb - Sydney (SCG)  
15 Feb - Adelaide (Oval)  
21 Feb - Brisbane (Gabba)  
3-18 Mar - Ayers House, Adelaide Fringe

## Upcoming in 2023

13 Apr - Questors Theatre, Ealing  
20 Apr - Quay Theatre, Sudbury  
12 May - Trinity Arts, Tunbridge Wells  
22 Jun - Stamford Arts Centre  
6 Oct - Lichfield Garrick Theatre

SEEKING  
DATES FOR  
AUTUMN 2023



# ABOUT SMOKE SCREEN

Founded by Tim Marriott, SMOKE SCREEN PRODUCTIONS aims to tell stories in cinematic style, supporting the work of charities with dynamic theatrical performance.

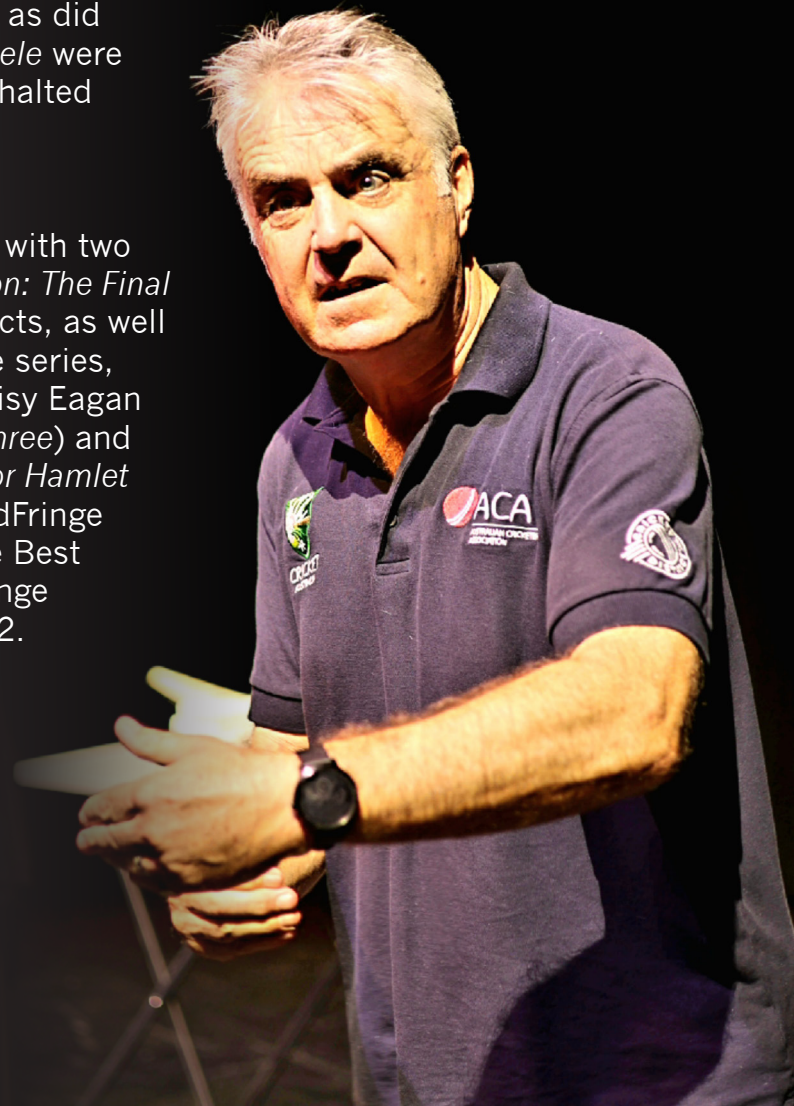
Smokescreen was awarded grants via the Chancellor's LIBOR fund to create *Shell Shock*, an adaptation of Neil Blower Watkin's biographical novel. Supporting charities such as Help For Heroes, Combat Stress, The Armed Forces Network, Heads Together and Time to Change, the play has toured to festivals, theatres and colleges in the UK, New York, Australia and New Zealand as well as 'behind the wire' at Plymouth, Saffron Waldron, Aldershot, Larkhill, Tidworth, Colchester, Catterick, Christchurch and Auckland (NZ).

*Mengele*, inspired by the Holocaust themed novel *Right to Live* by Philip Wharam, is endorsed by the Amud Aish Memorial Museum in New York. Following 5\* reviewed performances at the Edinburgh Fringe, both plays were selected as 'Encore Winners' to transfer to the SoHo Playhouse in New York.

*Mengele* sold out at both Edinburgh and Adelaide Fringe where *Shell Shock* won Best Solo Show. *Shell Shock* went on to complete a long tour of Australia from Brisbane to Melbourne to Sydney for the Invictus Games. *Mengele* was again a Sell-Out Show at EdFringe in 2019 and won the Lustrum Award as did a new show, *Judas*. Both *Shell Shock* and *Mengele* were at Adelaide Fringe in 2020 where touring was halted due to Covid-19.

Lockdown led to a period of intense creativity with two new productions, *Waiting for Hamlet* and *Watson: The Final Problem* becoming audio and then stage projects, as well as developing David Visick's online monologue series, *Baby Zoomers* featuring Rita May (*Trollied*), Daisy Eagan (Tony Award Winner), Ross Marshall (*Tea for Three*) and Nicholas Collett (*Waiting for Hamlet*). *Waiting for Hamlet* was nominated for Best Play (Dark Chat) at EdFringe '22, where Tim Marriott won the award for the Best Performance. *Watson* was The Scotsman's 'Fringe Favourite' and sold out at EdFringe '21 and '22.

Smokescreen Productions is affiliated to the film production company Smokescreen Visuals. *Shell Shock* is in post-production as a vlog-style film project created for the Armed Forces Network. *Revelation*, a feature-length drama, based on a novel by Tim Marriott, is currently in development.



## DOCUMENTATION

Interview with Tim Marriott

Trailer

Introduction

## CONTACT

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