



THIS EVIL THING

written and performed by Michael Mears
directed by Rosamunde Hutt

NEW TOWN THEATRE, (MAGIC) Venue 7
96 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3DH
August 4-28 2016 (not Aug 16 or 23)
12noon (duration 75mins)
Tickets: £13/£11 (Sat/Sun) £11/£9 (weekdays)

Tickets can be bought at the door
www.thenewweetheatre.co.uk
On the Fringe App.
0131 220 0143

'For God's sake! This protest of yours – is it really worth losing your lives over?'

January 1916: Bert Brocklesby is a young schoolteacher, and preacher at his local Methodist church; Bertrand Russell is one of the greatest mathematicians of his time. With the advent of military conscription their worlds are about to be turned upside down.

THIS EVIL THING is the compelling, shocking and inspiring story of the men who said no to war; a rarely told story involving a dizzying journey from a chapel in Yorkshire to the House of Commons; from an English country garden to a quarry in Aberdeen; from a cell in Richmond Castle to a firing squad in France.

'18? You're too young to have a conscience!'

With military conscription still in force in many countries today, and prisoners of conscience still languishing in jails, the questions posed by **THIS EVIL THING** are as relevant and urgent as they were one hundred years ago.

Michael Mears – 'The Fringe-First Award winning master of the one-man show' *The List* (on Soup) –portrays a gallery of characters from conscientious objectors to army generals, from Prime Ministers to world-famous mathematicians, with breath-taking physical and vocal dexterity. This highly original piece of storytelling uses verbatim testimonies, a multi-layered sound landscape and vivid visual imagery.

As well as two previous acclaimed solo plays on the Fringe (*SOUP*, about homelessness, and *TOMORROW WE DO THE SKY*, about factory canteen workers) Michael Mears has written and performed five specially commissioned solo plays for BBC Radio 4.

'Michael Mears is that rare combination of fine writer and formidable actor.'
– **BONNIE GREER**, *Time Out*

'One exceptional man' – *The Observer*

Rosamunde Hutt has just directed the critically acclaimed *LOVE, BOMBS AND APPLES* (Turtle Key Arts/AIK Productions) at the Arcola Theatre, London and on a UK tour.

THIS EVIL THING is part of the NEW TOWN THEATRE (Edinburgh) programme of international theatre, music and dance at Fringe 2016, supported by The Famous Grouse and WEST

For further information, press tickets or images contact
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