

Shetland

Youth Theatre

IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT HAVE WE WEPT

A powerful & moving performance based on the poetry
of the First World War

directed by
John Haswell

Programme



In The Still Of The Night Have We Wept

I have always been fascinated by the poetry of the Great War, not by the more jingoistic work, but by the highly personal testimony of those who felt compelled to share their experiences through the intense medium of verse.

I do not see war as one great tragedy. I see it as hundreds of thousands of individual stories and tragedies; of those that fight and experience the horror of combat; of those who are maimed; of those who lose a loved one; civilians in a destroyed village. In constructing the show I wanted to select poetry that did not attempt to tell the story of the war (an impossible task) but rather gave a series of individual experiences within a general time framework from the start of the war to the armistice (and beyond).

I also wanted to use poetry that in some cases had a direct connection with Shetland. I therefore made a conscious decision to avoid the work of the best known poets (Owen, Sassoon etc). The bulk of the work in the piece is poems written by two Shetlanders, Jack Peterson and Ben Morrison. I have also 'imported' some other poems (from England, America and Canada) that have a specific story to tell. Of these, the majority are by women, bringing a different viewpoint to the whole show.

The company spent the first half of the rehearsal process workshopping ideas. Much of the show tonight was developed by the cast. As we acknowledge the centenary of WWI we asked ourselves a very basic question; why is it still relevant? The answer became blindingly obvious in the rehearsal room – human emotions are universal and timeless, no different now from then. Furthermore, the great tragedy is that it was not 'the war to end all wars'. The emotions expressed then are still being felt and expressed today. IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT HAVE WE WEPT is a response of young people in the 21st century to events of a century ago. It is also tragically, their response to the world of today.

John Haswell (Director)

Shetland Arts would like to thank the families of the various poets who gave kind permission for the use of the poetry in this production. Every effort was made to contact the estates of each poet.

Poems

(in order of presentation)

War.....	Jack Peterson
For Britain's Sake.....	Ben Morrison
Knittin' Fir Da Boys.....	Ben Morrison
The Sorrow of the Sun.....	Jack Peterson
The knitters Song.....	Ben Morrison
The Toll of War (fragment).....	Ben Morrison
The Waste.....	Jack Peterson
Billets.....	Jack Peterson
RIP.....	Jack Peterson
The Unknown.....	Jack Peterson
War Girls.....	Jessie Pope
Forget-me-not.....	Ben Morrison
Mothers.....	Kay Boyle
The Home-farer.....	Jack Peterson
He Went for a Soldier (adapted).....	Ruth Comfort Mitchell
Didymus to the Trench Rat.....	Jack Peterson
Grief.....	Jack Peterson
Gramophone Tunes.....	Eva Dobell
Arras.....	Jack Peterson
Roses.....	Ben Morrison
The Shell.....	H Smalley Sarson
A Memory.....	Margaret Sackville
Bones.....	Jack Peterson
Peace.....	Jack Peterson
Restore.....	Jack Peterson
In Flanders.....	Jack Peterson
The Ridge 1919.....	Wilfred Gibson
Will You Forget?.....	David Mackie jnr.
Dedicated.....	Jack Peterson
Remember.....	Jack Peterson
The Monument.....	Jack Peterson
Great Wars.....	Jack Peterson

In The Still Of The Night Have We Wept

Grace Anderson

Hermione Boyes

Jessica Falconer

Ellie Gocher

Tegan Hendren

Callum Leask

Logan Nicolson

Maddison Reynolds

Charlie White

Laura Bisset

Joseph Briggs

Abbie Galbraith

Amber Grieve

Isla Johnson

Ishbel MacKenzie

Carys Nield

Xander Souter

Eldon Wigram

Joe Black

Martha Brown

Crystal Galbraith

Shaela Halcrow

Vaila Laurenson

Juliet Mullay

Rose Roberts

Ellie Thomson

Molly Williams

Text researched & created by	John Haswell
Directed by	John Haswell
Assistant Directors	Izzy Swanson
.	Freya Garden
Image Research	Freya Garden
.	Liam Brannan
Sound/Vision technician	Liam Brannan
Lights	Gary Smith
Music	Jonathon Bulter
.	Daniel Inkster
.	Carol Jamieson
.	Philip Taylor
.	Eamonn Watt
.	Bobby Leaper
.	Adrian Ratter
All Accordion music	Ian Lowthian
Last Post played by	Lauren Doughton
Set Construction	Derek Hendry
.	Angus Leask
Administration	Cara McDiarmid
Poster photograph	Jenny Leask
Show photographs	Stuart Hubbard
Production filmed by	J J Jamieson

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