



THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

A one-man, one act original live music and narrative production
An up-close alternative to all that Pomp and Ceremony
Now booking until & including Armistice Commemorations in 2018
Written and performed by Darren John Poyzer,
ex-Royal Navy, Falkands Conflict veteran

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Please note: website promotion is ongoing and includes video samples and audio recordings.



THE WAR TO END ALL WARS PRODUCTION NOTES

The War To End All Wars is a one man theatre-style production centred around the line of duty that connects a modern day conflict to the 1st World War, 1914-1918.

The production consists of live music performance (original songs, acoustic guitar, piano, voice), alongside pre-recorded narrative (think radio play-style, allowing the imagination to create picture), switching from one to the other and seeking as it does, to inspire learning and discussion around The Great War, and the human condition in and around conflict.

This production is not a shock and awe event, therefore there are no flashing lights, loud bangs or similar. Neither is it age restrictive, there is no 'adult content'. However it is age advisory based on how a young child without prior knowledge or understanding of real war and conflict, might not be entertained by such a production.

This production lends itself to an 11+ educational setting, and is written in 'segments', to allow a bespoke version to be presented to a school or college audience, to support formal learning.

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The following equipment is required, and can be provided:

- Sound System and Engineer for live music performance
- One Vocal Microphone on boom stand
- Two D.I. Inputs for Acoustic Guitar (1) and Piano (1)
- One Audio Input for computer sound

Set-up time is no more than 2 hours. Take down approximately an hour and a half.



THE WAR TO END ALL WARS SYNOPSIS

Darren John Poyzer is troubled. Even now, approaching middle age and as life goes, running out of time if he's going to find a recipe for World Peace ...

Age 18 he was welcomed home a Royal Navy war hero somewhat reluctantly, from The Falklands Conflict of 1982. Overwhelmed and thirsty, he took a month's rent, got very, very drunk, and bought an acoustic guitar he couldn't play. This was the first day of a long running nervous breakdown that hit the brick wall of a Lancashire psychiatric ward, as a big clock chimed, as the 20th Century closed its book and nailed Two World Wars deep into our psyche.

Plotting his escape, songs and stories were written as internal conflict held conversations with a great spirit; as intelligent people he respected condemned him for being a combatant; as history whispered, niggled and screamed that to survive and reclaim his senses, he must see a bigger picture.

~ ~ ~

It's July 2013. He is travelling through France and Belgium to research the first of those wars, to experience the battlefields and monuments that remain, as testament to The Great War of 1914-1918.

Homeward bound he is armed - not this time as a crew member of hi-tech whizz-bang of a battle-scarred 20th Century warship - but with personalised video captures, poignant photography, new songs and stories, and a very worthwhile contribution to the world of music and theatre that sets out to provide a unique insight into personal and global conflict.

~ ~ ~

Together in the theatre, we enjoy a song called 'Over The Moon' played and sung by a man with an acoustic guitar, written on a wave of youthful recklessness as though a toiled-up boy might take us on a night out with a one way ticket. There is excitement, a righteous sense of conquest, a touch of irony as the song celebrates both a call to arms, then a declaration of peace, before poetically setting out in search of some greater reason for being.

As the song fades, spoken word provide facts and comment, setting the scene for the start of WW1 in 1914. A number of comparisons are made with our world in the present day, and reference is made to the 'line of duty' that he, as an ex-Armed Forces professional followed himself, in a similar tradition to the combatants.

~ ~ ~

We are told how, during one particular game of football between opposing soldiers during an unofficial soldier-led truce, Christmas 1914, the Germans won 3-2; how even in adverse conditions and surrounded by atrocity, the human spirit (in this case the friendlier side of a young man's competitiveness), seeks to survive amongst friends and help turn things around.

The musician plays a song called 'Sunday Morning Footballer'. It is auto-biographical, and recalls how healing can be difficult, but takes place as familiar surroundings and gatherings are found.



**THE WAR TO END ALL WARS
SAMPLE TEXT**

This is sample narrative and song lyrics, that are included in the present script draft.

TANK

(Narrative)

Planet Earth's first combat 'tank' was the British Mark 1, sent into action across a Somme battleground on the morning of 15 September 1916. Lord Kitchener described it as a *"pretty mechanical toy but with very limited military value"*. The tanks of Planet Earth didn't take too kindly to this, and throughout the next century would strike fear into the heart and mind of every continent and city, leaving skin, bone, fire and brimstone in their wake ...

(Song)

Heavy Heavy Heart, 28 tons, tracks and great wheels
 Rolling through thunder, lightning and diamond, fire and steel
 Where're you gonna go, when you run out of road,
 Are you heading for the coast? Bitter memory,
 For your ghosts to reveal, for your ghost to conceal

~ ~ ~

TECHNOLOGY

(Narrative)

As well as the introduction of tanks, WW1 saw the first introduction of fighting planes. Like everything else at the outset of these exciting times, the idea of flying into battle was seen as greatly heroic and a must for any young daredevil. In the race for air superiority, around 70 types of aircraft were developed and used in combat. The life expectancy of a WW1 fighter pilot was just a few weeks.

(Song)

History shows there's no light at the end of their day
 See the graves of the slaves and the millions who get in their way
 As men and machines, fight with men and machines
 Men and machines, steal from men and machines
 So that men and machines, can go about their business
 Whatever that means

~ ~ ~

REWARDED FOR VIOLENCE

(Song)

My mind it lives in a bottle
 Thrown out to sea long ago,
 From a land that was troubled and why
 I guess, just a few people know ...



**THE WAR TO END ALL WARS
THE WRITER / PERFORMER**

Darren John Poyzer is in the right place at the right time to present this production. Known and respected as one of the most experienced, accessible, and entertaining songwriters, he is also a Falklands War veteran who delivers respectfully, with intelligent observations in abundance.

"memorable ... rabble rousing ... excellent" - **Acoustic Magazine**

"Darren's songs are heartfelt with poignant lyrics, and a beautiful sensitive touch"
- **Andy Powell, Wishbone Ash**

"... a very, very brilliant writer" - **Richard Digance**

"Inspirational ... a cross between Slade The Leveller & Frank Sidebottom" - **The Guardian**

"A masterclass in live performance" - **Tina Redford, Brighter Sound**

"Great, fantastic, brilliant, mind blowing and inspiring"- **Manchester Is Music**

"I am very impressed by his approach to music ... all his words are brilliant as far as I'm concerned ... what an unusual delivery and how effective. Excellent!" - **Frank Hennessy, BBC Radio Wales**

"One of the Manchester scene's best loved music personalities" - **Manchester Evening News**

"Where Darren Poyzer appears, unusual things happen and people enjoy themselves ... natural acoustic sound with trademark warmth, firmness and tenderness from his guitar and seemingly effortless projection of the distinctive voice that shares those same qualities ... Darren Poyzer had once again produced an evening that mattered" - **Leeds Music Scene**

"Darren Poyzer has a truly unique energy and gift for orchestrating live performance, armed as he is with a seemingly endless delivery of uplifting stories and images of passion, conflict, and the human condition" - **Raise Your Banners Festival**

"Darren performs beautifully crafted songs of life" - **The Halton Show**

"A perceptive and moving singer-songwriter" - **Adur Festival**

"... acclaimed songwriter and an inspired performer ... superb" - **Audlem Music Festival**

"... this was a gig you didn't want to finish ... With songs that explore and analyse all aspects of human life and behaviour, Darren is in a class of his own" - **Yorkshire Music Promotions**