

BMO



Official bank of the  
Canadian Defence Community

*"I immediately felt at home upon entering the theatre; the set looks like every legion I've ever been in all melded into one."*

- A View from the Box



**SOLDIERS IN THE ARTS**

**TUNNEL AT THE END OF THE LIGHT**  
PROMOTIONAL PACKAGE

# ABOUT THE SHOW

Late November 2022. The night before the funeral of a decorated Afghan Veteran and his buddies have come together in secret at The Legion, to give their own unique farewell, dressed as Superheroes, and ready to play Beer Hunter one final time. But uncertainty hangs over the Veteran's death in a hotel room. The uncertainty comes lifting of a twelve-year-old lid on who was actually responsible for an ill-fated patrol in Kandahar Province - Their betrayal, an ambush and a fatal IED.

Now that Eric 'Top Gun' McCracken has gone, and without his protection, is this the night when old scores finally get settled? As the clock ticks down, how many more fatalities will there be if they don't learn to forgive and move on?

In this darkly funny and poignant new play by Jonathan Guy Lewis, he explores the very raw emotions that the Veteran community are feeling after the sudden fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban. What was the point of it all? They thought they were there to make a difference, for the long haul. But it turns out that was a lie. So...who betrayed who?

***"I fear Tunnel at the End of the Light will go underseen because it exists outside usual theatrical paradigms. This would be a shame: it is exhilaratingly playful, thematically complex, and has a clearly defined raison d'être."***

***- Intermission Magazine***



## CREDITS

Writer/Director: Jonathan Guy Lewis

Executive Producer: Roland Gossage

Producer: Jennifer Grose

Associate Producer/Assistant Director: Liz Best

Performer(s): Cassidy Little, M. John Kennedy, Tony White, Reece Presley, Andrea Greening, Ryan Hawkyard, Will Matheson, Alexandra Floras-Matic

Stage Manager: Heather Lacey

Assistant Stage Manager/Costumes/Props: Fiona Cradock

Set Designer: Marysia Bucholc

Lighting Designer: Mary Ann Boon

Lighting Operator: Julie Rush

Technical Director: Connor Price-Kelleher

Sound Designer: John Corcelli

Photography: Kat Rizza Photography

Trauma Counsellor: Katherine Hambleton

# TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

## PROGRAM

- Show Length: 100 minutes
- Max # shows/day: 2
- Set-up Time: 1 to 2 days minimum for set; 30 minutes pre-show set up
- Strike Time: 20 minutes post show; 4 hours for entire set
- Q&A after-show: available as an option, if requested

## STAGE SETUP

- Wooden floor
- Wooden stage flats (braced and secured to floor) painted to recreate a legion basement
- Coffin (secured to wooden floor)
- Various chairs and tables, generally old and wooden

## RIGGING

- No specific rigging required for the set
- Masking legs would be useful if available
- Front curtain is not necessary but can be accommodated with the set depending on the theatre layout

## STAGE

- Minimum stage size: originally performed on a proscenium stage 32' wide by 24' deep
- If not using our installed flooring, the existing floor needs to be easily washable

## PROPS/COSTUMES

- Superhero costumes and contemporary clothes
- Various hand props
- In addition to cast dressing rooms, a quick change area is needed behind the set
- Many cans of soda water, relabelled to look like beer, are opened each performance

## LIGHTING

- The original design was created in a small theatre setting and may be recreated using a small-scale lighting board with a few added specials.
- General stage wash with some specific area highlights

## ACCESSIBILITY

We would love to have an on-site interpreter for ASL as well as wheelchair accessible seating and entrance/exit to and from the theatre and bathrooms. Much of the onstage work is deeply personal and a trauma councillor is on site before, during, and after all performances for the cast, crew and audience members. As many of our cast and crew are Veterans, it is important we keep everyone safe when working with potentially triggering material.

## AUDIO & VIDEO

- Appropriate sound system and speakers to fill the theatre
- Hanging microphones or wireless individual microphones for performers would be needed for a large size of theatre; not necessary for a small theatre
- Sound is pre-recorded, play-back from touring computer
- Audio inputs for Mac computer

## LOBBY

- Various military artifacts displayed for pre-show
- History of the time served in Afghanistan
- Pictures and descriptions of cast and crew
- Music





**MISSION:** Soldiers In The Arts will create opportunities for veterans and their families to explore their creative potential and discover a path to training in the arts. In our inaugural Workshop, participants will be introduced to basic principles of Creative Play. We will use group exercises, fun games and a supportive environment to explore the basics of Improv theatre as it's used throughout the world.



Our program, Soldiers In The Arts, uses Theatre to address traumatic stress and related problems encountered by veterans and their loved ones. Working closely with actors, directors, producers, dancers, writers, poets and artists the SITA creates opportunities for participants to fulfil their artistic potential. The program aims to give Veterans and their families new skills and experiences they may have never considered before. It will help participants improve their own confidence, self-awareness, and motivation to support their individual recovery and the transition into civilian life.

The objective of SITA is to provide arts based training in order to further the healing journey for veterans and their families. Through arts based workshops we look to bridge the gap between the veteran family and the arts world. This will foster creativity and help bring to light suppressed emotions, in an inclusive and supportive environment. Art therapy is an evidenced based approach to the healing process of PTSD and has shown to be beneficial to veterans and those who support them at home.



**"New stage play helps Canadian veterans heal through the arts"**  
- City News Everywhere

## **CONTACT**

### **PRODUCER**

**Jennifer Grose, [jennifer@rolandgossagefoundation.com](mailto:jennifer@rolandgossagefoundation.com)**