CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

TIM MARRIOTT
Tim is probably best known for BBC TV’s leisure centre sit-com The Brittas Empire, appearing in every episode as deputy manager, Gavin. Other TV credits Allo Allo, Doctors, The Bill, An Actor’s Life for Me and film credits include the forthcoming features; The Real Thing, Love Type D and Revelation. He has recently returned to the stage achieving Sell-Out seasons and won multiple awards at Edinburgh, New York and Adelaide with Shell Shock and his holocaust themed drama, Mengele. He is currently developing new projects, including a Sherlock Holmes adventure, Watson: The Final Problem, and a Shakespearean themed comedy, Waiting for Hamlet.

NICHOLAS COLLETT
Nelson performed there by Nicholas Collett. Nick is a classical actor with huge theatre experience. He has appeared in shows at the Edinburgh Fringe over many years, recently writing and producing his own solo work such as Nelson and Spitfire Solo – a deeply poignant piece set in the year 2000, about an elderly former Spitfire pilot reassessing his life at the turn of the century.

MAGGS VIBO
Iraq War veteran, military spouse, and scholar Maggs Vibo utilises multiple disciplines in her work. Her collaborations in Arts Advocacy span print, broadcast, and online media and she has contributed to an anthology of poetry by military veterans entitled: ‘My teeth don’t chew on shrapnel’. Here’s three visually illustrated poems Maggs has worked on.

CLAIRE HUGHES
Claire served in the RAMC from 2008-2013, she has recently completed her MA in Creative Writing and lives in Staffordshire. Claire’s approach is more direct but rooted in authenticity and integrity.

Offering a lighter take on the subject matter, GAVIN ROBERTSON is a well-known regular at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, appearing in recent years as his alter ego, GREG BYRON, STAND UP POET. He is a highly experienced performer with an enviable CV including multiple seasons in the West End in shows as diverse as Thunderbirds FAB and One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest. Here, he is ‘Greg Byron’.

BRIGADIER TIM HODGETTS is the Head of the Army Medical Services. As a specialist emergency medicine doctor he has deployed to war and conflict zones for 30 years, where he has been responsible for treating numerous casualties who have been critically injured in combat. Tim’s way of dealing with what he has seen and done has been to reflect and record traumatic experiences as an anthology of war poetry. The paintings that accompany Tim’s poems were created by landscape and war artist GORDON RUSHMER, a renowned landscape painter and war artist who has worked in and experienced conflict in Bosnia, Kosovo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Iraq. He has paintings in major collections around the world and recently had exhibitions at the Imperial War Museum and at Tate Britain.
NANISE QALOBULAWASAIAKABARA is from Fiji and married to a serving member of the Armed Forces in the British Army. She is a wife and mum of four, whilst also working at the MoD as a Commercial Manager and aims to balance all the demands of life “without guilt or stress”. Nanise has no formal creative writing training, but has kindly contributed a heartfelt response that speaks for itself.

NEIL ‘BLOWER” WATKIN is a former soldier who served in the Royal Tank Regiment including the Gulf War and is now an NHS paramedic. His semi-biographical novel “Shell Shock: The Diary of Tommy Atkins” was written as part of his journey through PTSD. Adapted for the stage and produced at Army@theFringe in 2018, Shell Shock has toured the world and is followed by talkbacks led by a professional counsellor ensuring that Neil’s inspiring story of recovery provides a kick-start for others. His tale is a story of resilience and recovery. He’s now reinvented and finally qualified as a paramedic. His poems are read for us by TOBY HARRIS MARRIOTT.

MATTY DEVESON is a young writer and performer from Brighton. In response to our brief he sent in these few words inspired by the story of a Somalian athlete, whose only escape from the hell of civil war was to run. They are read for us by Toby.

JAMIE BRODIE is a US veteran who took part in the Oxford Brookes Veteran’s Poetry Workshops. Hers is a poignant and deeply affecting story best told by herself. MATTY DEVESON and writing partner WILL PAGE are otherwise known as NOBLE JACKS who finish our sharing session with a specially recorded Covid secure acoustic song.

NOBLE JACKS are a hard working touring folk-rock band with sold out shows across the UK as well as at festivals such as Glastonbury, the Isle of Wight and Bestival. Their second album, Stay Awake went straight into the top 10 Official Album Charts. The band write foot stomping tunes and are particularly known for beautiful, poetic and poignant lyrics often about difficult issues and based on traumatic personal experiences. They say they have “embraced the notion of music as an antidote to unhappiness”. As one reviewer put it: “a Noble Jacks gig is the place to be; because Noble Jacks do care, and do want to bring a little light into the darker corners of our souls.”