

Bullets & Daffodils



To commemorate the centenary of Wilfred Owen's enlistment into World War One, this unique musical biography represents a passionate tribute in song and spoken word.

Original Associate Director Christopher Timothy

Narrated By Nicholas Ball and Mark Reed

The British Theatre Guide:

'Thought-provoking, moving and different'

"Bullets and Daffodils is and has a good contemporary way of introducing people of all ages, but particularly the younger, to Wilfred's poetry."

(Peter Owen, Wilfred's Nephew)

War poetry as it's never been heard before:

Wilfred Owen - A Voice Reborn!

Bullets and Daffodils is the world's first musical production to be based on the war poetry of Wilfred Owen.

Dean Johnson has set many of Owen's greatest poems to contemporary music. This revolutionary new setting of Owen's words attracts a new mainstream audience that would not normally approach Owen's work, selling out West End theatres and enjoying regional capacity audiences. Owen is a cultural icon and attracts a highbrow audience. Ticket prices have always been pegged at a premium to reflect the subject matter and quality of the cast, and have sold well, with a profit achieved at each performance.

The script contains contributions from Doctor Who writer David Quantick, whilst the score includes There's No Way Out Of Here, donated gratis from Pink Floyd's David Gilmour.



Wilfred Owen (1893-1918), born in Oswestry, and brought up in Birkenhead and Shrewsbury - is widely recognised as one of the greatest voices of the First World War. At the time of his death he was virtually unknown - only four of his poems were published during his lifetime.

In 1915, Owen enlisted in the British Army. He was killed on 4 November 1918.

Wilfred Owen's reputation has grown steadily. Modern scholarship regards Owen's work as the most significant poetry to come out of the 1914-1918 war years, and his influence on later generations of poets and readers is widely acknowledged.

Watch trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybCw8Y5poSk>

A lifelong Wilfred Owen admirer, Nicholas Ball is best known for playing the title role of James Hazell in the cult 70s TV series *Hazell*.

He has numerous film credits and remains a familiar face on TV. He portrayed gangster Terry Bates in *EastEnders* between 2007 and 2009, and also played Garry Ryan in *Footballers' Wives*.

He has narrated books by such authors as Christopher Hitchens and James Maybrook. He has also narrated the recent BBC TV series *Channel Patrol*.



Mark Reed is a voiceover artist whose work encompasses film, TV, music and radio. He hails from a dramatic lineage — his father was the late, great Oliver Reed, and his grand-uncle, the Oscar-winning film director Sir Carol Reed.

Mark's great-grandfather, Sir Herbert Beerbohm-Tree, built Her Majesty's Theatre in London, and founded The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Pauline Fleming's TV credits include Willy Russell's *Terraces*. She has also been in three major British soaps: *Brookside*, *Emmerdale* and *Coronation Street*, where she is best known for playing Penny King.

Pauline's theatre credits include *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Vagina Monologues*. She is looking forward to returning to The Liverpool Royal Court in 2015 in *Canoeing For Beginners*.

She has also appeared in a number of plays on BBC Radio 4.



Dean Johnson has been called the best songwriter in Merseyside. He was discovered by Squeeze's Chris Difford.

Over a 30 year career, he has recorded 16 albums. His 2001 single, *Everybody's Got It*, was a BBC Radio 2 Single of the Week.

Dean has undertaken 25 UK and US tours, taking him from The Liverpool Cavern Club to The Royal Albert Hall; Ronnie Scott's to Wembley Arena.

He premiered *Bullets and Daffodils* in 2011, and also established the UK's only permanent exhibition to Wilfred Owen in Birkenhead. He is an old boy of the war poet's school.

View the BBC1 Inside Out film featuring Christopher Timothy and *Bullets And Daffodils*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKu1eaH8Db0>

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