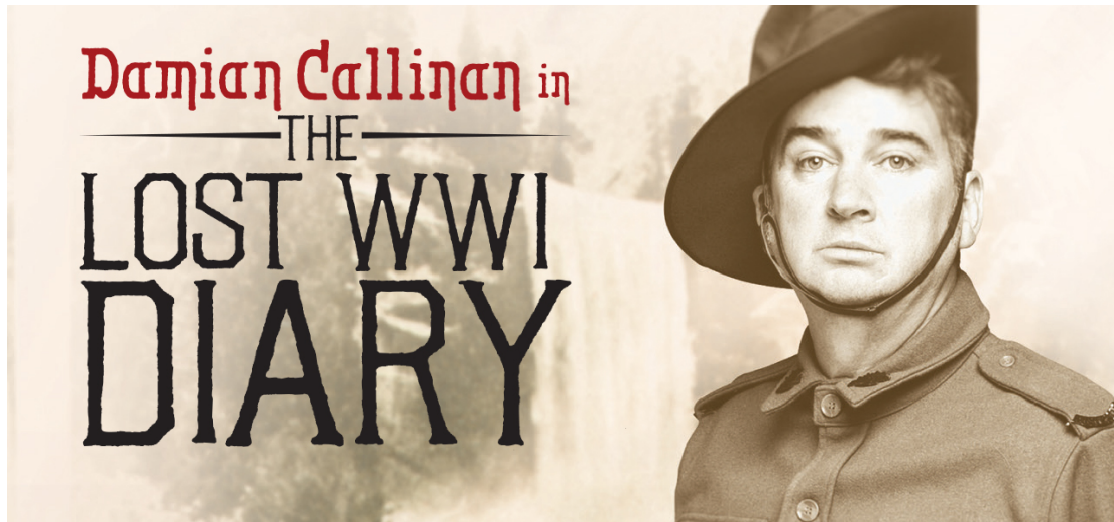


The Lost WW1 Diary

By Damian Callinan



Presented by Peta Spurling-Brown

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COMPANY PROFILE

Peta Spurling-Brown presents original works in the areas of comedy, theatre and music. Generally working with solo or duo theatre-maker/performers and singer-songwriters. Peta commenced operating as an independent producer in early 2015 following several years working in festival and touring environments as a marketer, publicist, company and tour manager.

Regional touring is a part of many of our artist's objectives in order to extend the life of the original works. Some pieces are specifically created with regional audiences in mind for this specific purpose.

ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Background

'The Lost WW1 Diary' was created in early 2014 as a co-production with the 'Lighthouse Theatre' in Warrnambool, Victoria. The show debuted at MIFC 2014 at ACMI with a mid season run of shows in Warrnambool. The Lighthouse Theatre provided the creative team [Damian Callinan and director Tim Overton] with accommodation and a rehearsal venue to develop the show in the area. As a result Callinan focused the writing on characters from the 1st AIF, 7th Battalion that drew it's enlistment from the men of Western Victoria. All the dates and events have been researched from the 7th Battalion history 'Our Dear Old Battalion' but the characters depicted are fictional. The battalion's insignia was 'Brown over Red' and they were nicknamed 'Mud Over Blood'. Callinan spent months reading and researching many war diaries, biographies and relevant texts before putting pen to paper.

Written with a view to touring throughout the 2015 Gallipoli anniversary, the show has proven to be one of Callinan's most successful shows to date with multiple 5 star reviews and a nomination for Best Comedy at Perth Fringe.

Synopsis

Obsessed from a young age by the Anzac legend and intrigued by the mystery surrounding the identity of two diggers from a family photo, Damian sets out on a quest to put names to the faces. Whilst holidaying in Warrnambool, a series of curious events lead him to the discovery of a war diary in an op-shop that may finally link him to the legend.

Callinan brings to life the pages of the diary as we meet Paddy Callinan and his 'push' as they set off for 'The Big Show'. Along the way we meet Stanza the prankster poet, Bluey the outspoken union leader, Mocka the mumbling ladies' man, Depot the scrounger and Pirate whose ability to talk could be the weapon that turns the war.

Callinan combines detailed research, hilarious but believable

characterisations, black humour, absurdity and deft writing to swing the mood of the story from rollicking farce to aching pathos in a heartbeat.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Damian Callinan – writer/performer
Tim Overton - Director

BIOGRAPHIES

Damian Callinan is a multi award-winning stand-up comic, actor and writer. He is best known to TV audiences for his roles on **Skithouse** and **Before The Game** as well as regular guest appearances on shows such as **Spicks and Specks** and the **Melbourne Comedy Festival Gala**. He is also a regular contributor on **774ABC Melbourne**.

However it's for his prolific output of live shows that Callinan is best regarded. His most decorated one man show **The Merger** which earn him his third nomination for the prestigious **Barry Award** at the **Melbourne International Comedy Festival** for **The Merger** (his 10th solo show), is currently in development to be made into a feature film to be shot in 2016 & directed by **Mark Grentell**. His other award winning shows include **Sportsman's Night** [Barry Nomination & Best Comedy Melbourne Fringe] **Spaznuts** [Piece Of Wood Comedians Choice Award at MICF] **Proxy Heroes** [Barry nomination] and his comedy dance show **The Cave the Rave** [ABN Amro Edinburgh Foreign Exchange Award]

Callinan is a touring machine: The towns who have not had one of his show posters adorning their bakery shop window are now few and far between. In 2015 alone he has toured nationally with **The Merger** [SA & Vic] and **The Wine Bluffs** [SA & Vic] his new collaboration with comedian **Paul Calleja** which saw the pair sell out their **Melbourne Fringe Festival** season with their well cellared piss take on the pretensions of the wine industry. However **The Lost WW1 Diary** [TAS, Vic, SA & WA] has seen him clock up the most KM's. As he has toured this critically acclaimed work during the Gallipoli Anniversary, he has picked up a nomination for **Best Comedy** at **Perth Fringe** and earned a planetarium of 5 star reviews.

In recent years his other acclaimed national tours have included **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)** with **State Theatre Company SA**: The 5th time Damian has performed this celebrated work and **Road Trip** with **Mickey D** and a documentary film crew. The team visited 23 towns, spending 48 hours in each before presenting a 90 minute show based solely on their experience in the community.

Damian will be touring with the doco team again in 2017 to create **Townfolk**: a show about the people that give each town it's character.

In 2016, aside from his film commitments, Damian will perform **The Merger** [Perth Fringe] **The Lost WW1 Diary** [Brisbane Comedy Festival] **The Wine Bluffs** [Adelaide Fringe] and a new work **Swing Man** at [MICF]

Damian was recently seen in cinemas as one of the ensemble lead actors in the cult hit **Backyard Ashes**. He also recently appeared alongside Rhys Darby on **It's A Date** on **ABCTV** and will soon appear on **ABCTV** on **Sammy J & Randy: Ricketts Lane** and **Dr Blake Mysteries**

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

DURATION

Act 1 – 75mins (no interval)

SUITABLE VENUES

Theatre, hall, black box venue.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

4 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

180 minutes

LICENCING AGREEMENTS

10% ticket sales royalties to writer/creator Damian Callinan

APRA OBLIGATIONS

Less than 1%

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 2 people.

Name	Role
Damian Callinan	Performer
Zillah Morrow	Tech Operator/Stage Manager

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2015	Golddigger – Pleasure Gardens (Perth Fringe World)	7
2015	The Bakehouse (Adelaide Fringe)	12
2015	Melbourne International Comedy Festival - Town hall	6
2015	RAV Vic/Tas	17

2015	Country Arts WA	12
2015	Nexus Arts Schools Tour	10
2015	Polish Club, Hobart	1
2015	Palais Theatre, Franklin	1
2014	Melbourne International Comedy Festival - ACMI	20
2014	Lighthouse theatre Warrnambool	2

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

In previous tours with RAV & Country Arts WA the show has been used to connect the community with their particular WW1 experience.

DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

The show has been transformed into an event augmented by local history displays, live music performances of songs from the era played by community orchestras and pianists. Light Horse re-enactments and themed dinners. Damian mingles with the crowd after the show where many line up to tell them of their family connection to WW1, and a tour book is left open where people can record the names of family who served. A common response to the show is that they felt they better understood the men who were there by seeing the characters brought to life.

'I reckon my dad & Paddy would have been mates' - audience member from Warrnambool

Damian also adds local research and audience interaction to make the show connect on a more personal level. This has been one of the most popular and talked about aspects about the show. The audience left intrigued and wondering how he was able to incorporate so many local references into the work.

COST

Depends on the extent of the activity. Company would work with presenter to determine appropriate activity and costs.

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Target audience spans generations, but particularly relevant to those with an interest in or connection to WW1. Company works with presenter and local community groups to tap in to specific interest groups.

MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

One line

Renowned stand up and character comedian explores the ANZAC legend.

Short

Obsessed from a young age by the Anzac legend and intrigued by the mystery surrounding the identity of two diggers from a family photo, Damian sets out on a quest to put names to the faces. The discovery of a war diary in an op shop finally links him to the legend. A renowned stand up and character comedian, Callinan (*Backyard Ashes, Spicks & Specks, skithouse, 774ABC*) brings to life the pages of the diary as we meet Paddy Callinan and his 'push' as they set off for 'The Big Show'.

Extended

Obsessed from a young age by the Anzac legend and intrigued by the mystery surrounding the identity of two diggers from a family photo, Damian sets out on a quest to put names to the faces. Whilst holidaying in Warrnambool, the discovery of a war diary in an op shop may finally link him to the legend.

A renowned stand up and character comedian, Callinan [*Backyard Ashes, Spicks & Specks, skithouse, 774ABC*] brings to life the pages of the diary as we meet Paddy Callinan and his 'push' as they set off for 'The Big Show.'

Along the way we meet Stanza the prankster poet, Bluey the outspoken union leader, Mocka the mumbling ladies man, Depot the scrounger and Pirate whose ability to talk could be the weapon that turns the war.

Callinan combines detailed research, hilarious but believable characterisations, black humour, absurdity and deft writing to swing the mood of the story from rollicking farce to aching pathos in a heart beat.

MARKETING SUMMARY

Target Audiences are 35-45 occasional theatre-goers, female skew on ticket purchase. Some history or connection with WW1.

Previously we've had good response with publicity, particularly radio interviews and press.

MEDIA QUOTES

"Some performances move you with such force they're in your thoughts well after the theatre lights dim and you've left the venue. This is one of them... We laughed, we gasped and wiped tears from our eyes. Memorable, moving, brilliant." ★★★★★ – Katie Spain, *The Advertiser* (Adelaide 2015)

"This is a cleverly written and pitch-perfect delivery of a piece of theatre... the humour, is topical, witty and best of all, it feels real" ★★★★★ – Nick Richardson, *Herald Sun* (Melbourne 2015)

VIDEO LINKS

Promo: https://youtu.be/bpt_HEauO2Q

Broadcast quality footage coming: December 2015

IMAGES

High Res images can be downloaded [\[HERE\]](#)

MARKETING MATERIALS

Existing Marketing Collateral includes:

- Print Collateral and publicity images.
- Social media videos.
- Review quotes.

Raw broadcast quality footage to come December 2015.

CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

The show has minimal coarse language and some adult themes so it's not recommended for audience under 14. That being said many younger folk have come along to the show and they have reacted positively. The show is comedic but dramatic, particularly in the latter stages. Bar service should be stopped during the show.

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Co-produced in association with Lighthouse Theatre Warrnambool (logo acknowledgement)

PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Staging

- Minimum 4m wide by 4m deep
- Surface – no specifications
- Stage treads [if on raised stage]

Sound

- Audio will be run from Qlab on Mac. Require mini jack input to sound desk
- No microphone required

Lighting

- Full stage open white from front
- Colour changing LED's from side or back x 4
- Special – stage centre
- Special – stage right [focused on stool & Chair]
- Dimmable house lighting able to be operated by technician.

- [We have toured with 6x LEDS & 4 fresnels on two trees & this has been adequate]

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

2pm - Arrive venue & rig lighting & audio & set stage

3:30pm - Focus LX

4:30pm - Plot LX

5:00pm - Set audio levels

5:30pm – Finish

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

Require technical operator for orientation and briefing for our technical operator

STAGE

Minimum 4m wide by 4m deep

Stage treads [if on raised stage]

[Company] to supply

Chalk board

Hat rack

stool

Venue to supply

Chair with back, no armrests

LIGHTING

- Full stage open white from front
- Colour changing LED's from side or back x 4
- Special – stage centre
- Special – stage right [focused on stool & Chair]

[We have toured with 6 x LEDS & 4 fresels on two trees & this has been adequate]

[Company] to supply

none

Venue to supply

Full stage wash, centre special, stage right special, LED colour wash or equivalent colour wash options, dimmable house lights

SOUND

- Audio will be run from Qlab on Mac. Require mini jack input to sound desk
- No microphone required

[Company] to supply

Mac to run audio with mini jack

Venue to supply
PA – sound desk with mini jack input

AV
None

[Company] to supply
NA

Venue to supply
NA

WARDROBE
Damian's uniform + hat

[Company] to supply
all

Venue to supply
Dressing room supplied please

FREIGHT NOTES
All props and set carried with crew.

CRITICAL ISSUES
Performer needs to be able to enter the audience from the front of the stage.

CONTACTS

Peta Spurling-Brown – Producer:
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