

**PROGRAMME**

**Susanne Crosby's**

# **DUTY**



# DUTY

*Why this play? Why now?*

**Between 2014-2019** I ran projects around Sussex through Sound Architect Creative Media on the First World War for the centenary commemorations. Working with community groups and community researchers and partnering with schools, we all discovered in depth knowledge about specific aspects of the War, to be able to share this with future generations.

The projects included “The Right to Refuse”, about conscientious objectors, “Twelve and Sixpence” about life on the Home Front, and “The Day Sussex Died” about the Battle of Boars Head. What struck me were the



stories of ordinary people: family members telling me about their father or grandfather in the War, and interviewing veterans of the Second World War and hearing what it was actually like on the Front Line. I stood on the battlefield in France, the exact spot of the Battle of Boars Head, one hundred years to the day later. I also had the privilege of attending the Commemoration at Westminster Abbey on 11 November 2018, one hundred years after the guns fell silent, which was incredibly emotional.



Here were people just the same as us: with hopes and dreams, lives, humour, disagreements and loves. I wanted to write about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, that make those people extraordinary. I could see them: John, Joe and Harry, on the farm, with John’s mum Mags. So while the characters in this play are fictional,

what surrounds them is fact.

**Including, a piece you will hear of the real sounds of the end of the War, recorded at the time.**

It's impossible to *really* know how we would react when something comes out of nowhere to test us on our values, our beliefs and our



sense of self, and this idea of not knowing what's around the corner is an underpinning concept in this play. I present different viewpoints here not as truth but as something to think about. Duty is still as relevant today and people feel it in so many large or small ways, and it still divides us and polarises us, and the consequences of our actions often take us on emotional roller coasters.

I have been so privileged to work with fantastic actors: Matt Vickery, Jordan Southwell and Jake Marchant who originated the roles in May this year. The rehearsal process this time has seen them even stronger and deeper: they are such a joy to work with, this time from the unexpected viewpoint of playing alongside them. I also want to thank my husband Andy for being so supportive and being part of the production team. And thank you all for coming; I really hope you love it.

*Susanne Crosby*

### **Heartfelt Thanks To:**

Everyone at The Lantern Theatre ~ Gladrags Costume Hire ~ Sound Architect Creative Media and the contributors to the projects ~ Wick Theatre Company ~ Sam Nixon ~ Julian Batstone ~ Russell Pittman ~ and everyone who has supported this production

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### **Matt Vickery – John**

Matt is an actor and writer who graduated from ArtsEd in 2021 with an MA in acting. Matt is the co-star and co-author of THE KENNINGTON LOOP (Funded by Arts Council England). His recent stage credits include A ChCHRISTMAS CAROL (ADG European Tour) Charlie in Artlandish Productions' MUSIC FOR CATS (Brighton Fringe), James in LUCY'S PHARMAKON (Femfest, Actor's Theatre), Jordan in Oxia Theatre's ASSISTED.

### **Jordan Southwell – Harry**

Jordan trained at Sylvia Young Theatre School. Theatre includes *Oliver!* at Theatre Royal Drury Lane and most recently *Suddenly Last Summer* at Brighton Open Air Theatre. TV includes *Doctor Who*, *Holby Blue* and short films for *Blue Peter*. He has worked as a presenter for Children's TV channels including Boomerang and Cartoon Network.



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## Cast

### Jake Marchant – Joe

Jake Marchant studied Theatre and Drama at Sussex University. Jake won the Mike Padley Award for Best Supporting Actor in Wick Theatre's *Deathtrap* playing Clifford. Jake has been involved in short film work for local directors, most recently appearing in Sam Milletti's latest production. Most recently he has been part of *Ghost Stories* for Peppercorn Theatre and NYX Theatre.



### Susanne Crosby – Mags (Mum)

Susanne trained in Swansea and again at the Academy of Creative Training in 2017. She is a character actor known for her versatility in dramatic roles as well as comedy characters, including immersive theatre and improvisation work with crowds in open air theatre and panto. Recent credits include the Kaiser in *Oh! What A Lovely War* (Identity Theatre), Davina: Mother of the Bride in *The Wedding Party Immersive* (In The Event Productions) and the films *Harmless* and *Amelia* for Macroverse Films. Represented by ND Talent Group.

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## Susanne Crosby – Writer & Director

DUTY premiered at the Brighton Fringe in May 2025 and was hugely well received by critics and public alike.

★★★★★ (Theatre in Brighton) 'EXCITING WORK' (Fringe Review)  
"gripping" (Brighton Source)

Audience Feedback includes "profoundly moving" and "unmissable".

Susanne is an award winning playwright and director. She is the founder and Creative Director of Twilight Theatre Company and has been making theatre for over 27 years. She has had popular and critical success with all of her plays, including *Days* ★★★★★ (Reviews Hub) Brighton Fringe 2023, and *Waiting for Curry* ★★★★★ (Meridian FM) and 'Highly Recommended' (Fringe Review), was picked up by a London Theatre in 2019. In addition to directing for Twilight Theatre she also directs for Wick Theatre Company, Southwick Players and Brighton Little Theatre as well as professional freelance work for theatre and film. Her research and project work for Sound Architect Creative Media forms the tapestry on which this story is told. *DUTY* is her 14<sup>th</sup> performed play.

[www.susannecrosby.com](http://www.susannecrosby.com)



## Behind The Scenes Team

**Sound Design:** Susanne Crosby, Andy Crosby

**Lighting Design:** Susanne Crosby

**Tech Operation:** Andy Crosby, Julian Batstone, Russell Pittman

**Set construction:** Andy Crosby

**Costumes:** Gladrags Costume Hire, Wick Theatre, Sam Nixon, Cast