

Feast of Crispian: Shakespeare with Veterans presents:

And Comes Safe Home...

A Play of Homecoming

Created by the company
with
Music written and performed by Jason Moon
and
John (Jack) Nicholson and Susan Nicholson, *Frogwater*

The Actors

Bob Balderson · Carissa DiPietro · Ronnie Graham
Raymond Hubbard · Mike Keppert
William Martin · Jan Masalawicz · Nic Osvatic
Jeff Peterson · Michael J. Pikuleff

The Designers

Maylan Thomas (Scenery) · Chris Guse (Sound)
Stephen Roy White (Lighting) · Kristian Wiborg (Assistant Sound)

Feast of Crispian

Nancy Smith-Watson · William Watson · Jim Tasse
-Directors-

Jordan Watson
-Prompter and Graphic Designer-

Therese Philipp
-Production Stage Manager-

***In association with the
UW-M Peck School of the Arts, Department of Theatre
And
Military and Veterans Resource Center***

Our Producing Sponsors:

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"What should such fellows as I do, crawling between Earth and Heaven?"

This, from Hamlet, evokes the question that lodges in the chest of many returning warriors: Who am I now?

Our work, at Feast of Crispian, has always been to offer this question both a playground and a workshop. Using the evocative and beautiful words of Shakespeare, vets can explore their now freed and sometimes confusing and lonely, sense of self. With, *And Comes Safe Home...* we enter into what has naturally come next in that exploration – personal story. Our twofold mission, to support veterans and to help the civilian population better connect with the challenges that veterans face, is met. We have sat in many circles with veterans who trusted us, and each other, with personal stories of horror, loss, heartbreak, deep camaraderie and hilarity. These true tales have now been crafted into an evening of entertainment and, hopefully, new understanding of our brothers and sisters who served. Although we won't forget those who never returned, this "two hours traffic of our stage" is about those who came home only to struggle to find their place among us. Shakespeare woven in with the personal stories gives the big feelings expression, and shows that in 400 years little has changed.

As our lives have been transformed by this work with so many beautiful men and women, we hope that you walk away ready to reach out to veterans with - no pity - but a deeper sense of gratitude and connection to your wider community. Stories must be told. Please listen.

Please, note: Although true, the stories that you will hear are gathered from many vets, in and outside the cast, and are told by many voices. The prompter on stage is a permanent feature of our work. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), which makes memorization difficult, is a common injury among our vets.

For more information about Feast of Crispian, Inc. visit www.feastofcrispian.org

THE ACTORS

Bob Balderson grew up outside Philadelphia, served two tours in Viet Nam, retired after a 20 year career in the Army and holds an MFA in Acting from Binghamton University. A Milwaukee resident since 1993, he has performed with the MRT, Wisconsin and Texas Shakespeare Festivals, and theaters throughout the country. Bob received the Purple Heart.

Ronnie GQ Graham, US Navy, served as an AS-3 aboard the USS America CV-66. He will be graduating from the UWM BFA Acting program where he performed in "Hot L Baltimore", "The Crucible", and "Giants have us in their books" as well as Feast of Crispian's, "Julius Caesar". Ronnie is excited about sharing veterans' stories. He has four awesome kids

Carissa DiPietro is from Dousman, WI. She served active duty Army from 1999-2003 and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC. Carissa has a wonderful husband, 5 children (all teenagers!) and a service dog named Teddy. She loves everything Disney, dreams of owning an RV, and continuing in theater.

Raymond Dan Hubbard served his country with distinguished service from 2003 to 2008. He's a Purple Heart recipient and was named Wisconsin's 2007 Soldier of the Year, by the American Legion. He continues to serve our country through motivational speaking and connecting to veterans who have experienced trauma.

THE ACTORS CONT.

Jeff Peterson served in the USN, 1972 – 1977 aboard the USS Camden AOE-2 and the USS Ramsey FFG-2 off the Pacific coast, crossed the equator into the South China Sea. He visited 11 countries and many islands. A talented mural and portrait artist, he is also a veteran member of Feast of Crispian.

Mike Keppert was a combat engineer in the regular Army from 2003 – 2009. He now volunteers with Adaptive Adventures and is a member of their Dragon Boat team. Mike is an aspiring recreational therapist and has two sons, DeVante and Christian.

Bill Martin was a member of the USAF from 1982 to 1990. He was a medic at Travis AFB in California, Clark AB, RP and Ramstein, Germany. He performed in several community theatrical productions during this time and was in Feast of Crispian's inaugural production of Julius Caesar.

Jan Masalewicz was born and raised in Milwaukee WI, and enlisted in the Marine Corps 1966-1970. Jan's service years included a tour in Viet Nam Dec 1966-Jan 1968. Jan retired after 30 years of service with AT&T. He is married, has two children and two grandchildren. This is his second production with Feast of Crispian.

Nic Osvatic served in the Army infantry. He is currently a junior at UWM in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. With the help of the VA and Feast of Crispian he is starting a new life past his military service.

Michael Pikuleff, USN 1960-62: Mediterranean, Caribbean. Mike has enjoyed a career as an English teacher, and teaches part-time at MATC. His avocation is theater: favorite roles include Julius Caesar, Willy Loman, Charlie in "The Foreigner," and Elwood P. Dowd. He valued his participation in "Julius Caesar" and looks forward to this production.

THE BAND

Jason Moon is singer-songwriter, a veteran of the Iraq War, and an advocate for veteran's issues. His first CD, *Trying to Find My Way Home* (2011). is an "accidental concept album" based on Jason's own war experiences and on his attempts to regain the man he was before he was deployed. Jason founded the nonprofit, Warrior Songs, which seeks to heal veterans through music. Awards include: WNPG Peace Maker of The Year (2009), Special Recognition Gold Medal in Songwriting, VA Creative Arts Competition (2012), WAMI Singer/Songwriter of the year (2016), 105.5 Triple M Project M Winner (2016), and The Global Peace Award for Folk Music (2016). Working with the cast of ACSH... , Jason wrote *What will I Say When I Get Home*

John "Jack" Nicholson is excited and honored to be a part of FoC's project, and always looks forward to theater involvement. His performances include: Renaissance Theaterworks' RED PEPPER JELLY 1, 2 & 3 and THE BALLAD OF EMMETT TILL. Mr. Nicholson

has performed with First Stage Children's Theater in A MIDNIGHT CRY, 2003 and 2013, 2009's HOW I BECAME A PIRATE, & U BUG ME, 2011. He composed the score and was Music Director for the world premier of First Stage's SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS. Jack (& Susan Nicholson) have recorded various projects with Jason Moon and perform as Jason Moon & the Moonlighters.

Susan Nicholson is extremely honored to be involved with this theater community, and always looks forward to the collective creative process. She has performed in Renaissance Theaterworks' RED PEPPER JELLY 1, 2 & 3 and was on board with First Stage Children's Theater's HOW I BECAME A PIRATE, '09. Ms. Nicholson appears whenever and wherever possible with her husband, Jack in their duo, Frogwater. (frogwater.us) She believes music is the universal language which offers great healing benefits to all!

THE DESIGNERS

Chris Guse - Based in Milwaukee, Chris has been actively designing sound and video as well as composing music for just about every theatre company in the area for the past 20 years. Stand out productions include "The Detective's Wife" at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, "Neat" with Uprooted/Renaissance Theatreworks and "The Congo Code" for Kohl's Wild Theatre. As an associate professor at UWM, Chris has worked on over 30 productions and teaches in the areas of sound design/technology, multimedia arts, computer drafting and technical direction.

Maylan Thomas, BA/MFA Army 1999-2008 serving with 1/37 Armor, 1/16 Cav and The Army Entertainment Detachment. Maylan is the technical director at Shorewood high school. Prior to this he was a technical designer at Tait Towers designing tours for artists such as Beyoncé, The Rolling Stones and Cirque Du Soleil.

Stephen Roy White - Lighting Designer at UW-Milwaukee, designs scenery and lighting, and serves as a theater consultant. Recent/future credits include scenic and lighting designs for *Corktown* and *Translations* at UWM; lighting designs for *The Train Driver*, *The Detective's Wife* and *Lobby Hero* at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre; and *The 39 Steps*, and *Chapatti* at Peninsula Players.

Kristian Wiborg is a Junior in the BFA Technical Production program. His main interest lies in sound design but is passionate about all aspects of storytelling in general. He has previously worked on shows such as The Royal Mexican Players Project and The Hot L Baltimore. He is looking forward to continuing his work at UWM and beyond.

FEAST OF CRISPIAN

Jim Tasse (USN 1971-1975) is an actor, director and Senior Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has performed with Milwaukee Rep, Chamber Theatre, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Next Act and In-Tandem. He received his training with the Professional Theatre Training Program at UWM. He and his wife Amy have two daughters, Jennifer and Isabelle.

Therese Philipp says: "Every show I work on teaches me something. This cast and process have taught me an abundance of new and unique things. I want to thank this cast for all they do for themselves, each other and their communities!" Therese has been a part of Milwaukee's theatre scene for the past 42 years.

Nancy Smith-Watson is a founding member of FoC, an actor and a somatic bodywork therapist. Her favorite acting memory was a MT Repertory Theater national tour featuring

her entire family. Nancy thanks her FoC partners for this next great adventure and all the veterans for "staying in the room".

Bill Watson, an actor, director, and teacher is an Associate Professor of Theatre at UWM. He has worked with Shakespeare and other professional companies from Seattle to Massachusetts and has been seen on Milwaukee stages in productions with Milwaukee's Chamber Theatre, In Tandem and First Stage Children's Theatre among others.

Jordan Watson, a theatre graduate of Western Washington University, trained at Shakespeare & Co. in MA and began working professionally at the age of 12. This Spring she will appear at In Tandem Theatre's production of *Time Stands Still*. Jordan is currently working with FoC in the unique position as professional prompter and graphic designer.