



Photo: SIMON RICHARDSON Design: JERRY WILLIAMS

1942. On a squash court in Chicago an experiment takes place which three years later will destroy a city and change the world – forever.

THE MISTAKE

a new play by Michael Mears

directed by Jatinder Verma

performed by Michael Mears and You-Ri Yamanaka (tbc)

The dropping of the first atomic bomb is referred to on the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima as “*the mistake*”. In this 77th anniversary of Hiroshima, Michael Mears’ new play explores personal stories surrounding that catastrophic event.

Shigeko Nomura is a young woman living in war-time Hiroshima.

Leo Szilard is a Hungarian scientist and ‘father of the atomic bomb’.

Paul Tibbets is the American pilot chosen to fly the plane that drops the bomb.

At 8.15am on a Monday morning in August, their lives become fatally entangled.

Opening at the Edinburgh Fringe 2022

The Space on North Bridge, Argyll Theatre, Venue 36

from Aug. 5 – 27th 2022 (not 14th) at 10.45 a.m.

Running time: approx. 80 minutes.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT : Michael Mears on: thehalfitalian@aol.com

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Partly using verbatim testimonies, quotes and remembrances from eye-witnesses, **THE MISTAKE** interweaves the stories of survivor, scientist and soldier to create a compelling and powerful drama - of what happens when scientific discoveries unlock the awesome power of nature, and “the genie is let out of the bottle”.

‘How can I sleep – convinced that the world is now headed for grief?’

‘Would you do it again? If you had to?’

‘Morality doesn’t enter into it. There’s no morality in war.’

Michael Mears teams up with Japanese performer You-Ri Yamanaka (tbc) to present the momentous events leading up to the dropping of the first atomic bomb, and the disastrous consequences that result.

Directed by Jatinder Verma.

MICHAEL MEARS actor/playwright...

Michael Mears’ has been working as a professional actor for four decades, in theatre, film and television. He has worked for all the major theatre companies, including the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Peter Hall Company, and performed in London’s West End on numerous occasions.

He has written three solo plays for the stage and seven solo plays for BBC Radio 4, all of which were performed by himself. His play about homelessness, **SOUP**, won a Scotsman Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival.

His recent acclaimed solo play **THIS EVIL THING**, depicting the struggle of Britain’s WW1 conscientious objectors, has been performed over 100 times in the last three years, in many parts of the UK as well as in 17 venues in the USA – playing at festivals, in theatres, churches, schools and even in Bristol Cathedral.

REVIEWS for MICHAEL MEARS’ previous play - ‘THIS EVIL THING’ :

‘A moving and dynamic retelling of a hidden story’ The List

‘An inspirational and disturbing work’ Festmag

‘Magnificent storytelling’ Amnesty International

‘The conscientious objectors’ story is rarely presented with this level of wisdom, perception, compassion and balance... This Evil Thing represents the great tradition of storytelling at its very best.’ Melissa Blease, Bath Magazine

‘Stimulating, thought-provoking, ‘THIS EVIL THING’ was an absolute tour-de-force.’

Sir David Bell, vice-chancellor, University of Reading