

WATSON: The Final Problem

TOUR INFORMATION



Trailer: <https://youtu.be/RE-e4yywsqI>

Full length audio version: <https://youtu.be/QGEtGG7caQ>

There is a shadow in the gutters, a spider's web of poisonous intrigue plagues the city and Dr John Watson must face his greatest ever challenge.

It is 1894. Watson is alone. Sherlock Holmes and his beloved Mary are both gone. London seethes with false reports and rumour. It is time to set the record straight.

So Watson tells his story. A tale of long buried secrets, betrayal and death, where the intrepid detectives must finally face their nemesis; Moriarty... The Napoleon of Crime. But as Watson takes us across Europe to the Reichenbach Falls, is the game really over?

In this brand new play, Tim Marriott (TV's *Brittas Empire*) re-enacts the last Sherlock Holmes adventure from the perspective of unsung hero, Dr John Watson.

Watson: The Final Problem is created in collaboration with Bert Coules, the BBC's Head Writer on the Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, who says "Watson is often overlooked, but is more than Conan Doyle's alter ego. Deeply affected by the effects of war in Afghanistan and appalled by dishonesty and falsehood, he is a remarkably contemporary character to bring to life on stage."

"5 Utterly brilliant."* The Edinburgh Review

"Superb, authentic, an excellent production" - Broadway World

"Highly recommended, Tim Marriott is tremendous in the title role" - Emporium

"A grippingly fine display - outstanding" - Broadway Baby

"Edinburgh Festival Fringe Favourite." - The Scotsman

Smokescreen Productions was founded by Tim Marriott in 2017, travelling to festivals around the world with acclaimed PTSD play *Shell Shock* (Best Solo Show, Adelaide) and Holocaust themed *Mengele* (Lustrum Award, Edinburgh, NY Encore).

90s sitcom star Tim played Gavin in seven seasons of *The Brittas Empire* and British Airman, Tigger Thompson, in *Allo, Allo*, before moving into teaching in Eastbourne. He returned to the stage in 2018, committed to producing educational and thematic drama.

Suitable for GCSE English Literature and Language students, 'Watson' is inspired by two Sherlock Holmes adventures Sign of the Four and The Final Problem. (GCSE: Victorian Literature, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, AQA text: Sign of the Four)

THE COMPANY

Smokescreen Productions CIC is a not-for-profit company founded by Tim Marriott, returning to the stage after a 17 year career break in education. The company was set up to produce issue based theatre. A 'Sell-Out' season at Edinburgh Festival in 2017 with MENGELE and SHELL SHOCK resulted in an invitation to Adelaide Fringe, where MENGELE was once again a Sell-Out show, including four extra performances, and SHELL SHOCK was awarded Best Solo Show (*Sunday Mail*). Further 'Sell-Out' festival seasons were achieved at Edinburgh 18 and 19, winning multiple 5* reviews and two Lustrum Awards.

Smokescreen Productions work with Smokescreen Visuals to create a cinematic style of naturalistic thematic theatre set against high quality audio and visual effects to create atmosphere and to inform the action. The intention is to also to offer experienced guidance and collaboration in working with and facilitating artists to help create impactful, thinking theatre to combine a background in education and the arts. Tim Marriott is an associate producer at Printers Playhouse in Eastbourne, a creative hub promoting new work, theatre and music including live and online performances, workshops, classes and coaching. Smokescreen have continued to make new work through the pandemic including WATSON: THE FINAL PROBLEM, which has just completed a 5* reviewed Sell Out run at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 21 where it was selected as 'Fringe Favourite' by The Scotsman

MENGELE and SHELL SHOCK have already proved to be successful touring productions and WATSON seeks to build on that growing reputation. All shows are practically simple to stage, with broad audience appeal and proven box office potential. The objective is to identify further opportunities for the show to be performed world-wide. WATSON is currently available in rep with award winning Shakespearean comedy WAITING FOR HAMLET – details below.

WATSON COMPANY: 1 performer + 1 tech
RUNNING TIMES: **One Act:** 60 mins + post show Q&A as required
Two Act; 40/40 to include additional material

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

All our shows have grown out of the festival environment so are not difficult to stage. A minimum performance space of 4M x 3M, basic lighting and a sound system are all that is required. A facility to project is ideal but we travel our own equipment as necessary.

AV and lights may require a resident technician as well as our own.

Pre-Rig:

A: Centre Spot Special (Steel Blue Lee 117 or similar)

B: Warm Wash (mixed colour)

C: Near Vertical Special (Red 106 or similar)

Ideally, but not essential

F1: 1 Steel Blue Birdie or floor mounted minim

AV/FX Qlab/Keynote cues provided on external hard drive and/or Mac Laptop

Amplification and speakers with fold-back. (This can be provided for smaller spaces - we carry a 200W 'boom box')

Script available on request or provided on the day - to be operated by in-house operator or travelling tech.

Stage

Our shows require only a bare, clean, open stage with clean black tabs with cyclorama or pale backdrop for projection (we carry a grey gauze if necessary). Space Required Min 4m wide x 3m deep - Max 7m x 5m (lit space). Suitable for any auditoria, performances have ranged from intimate, fringe style studio theatres (50 seats) to large scale outdoor auditoria seating up to 1000. Clean black flooring, tabs & cyc or backdrop are required. If the floor is very scuffed, please repaint or lay dance floor.

Set up & Rehearsal Approximately 2 hours depending on the size of the space

PAST SEASONS & AWARDS:

Edinburgh Fringe: Sold-Out 17, 18, 19 & 21 Lustrum Award 18 & 19,

FRINGE FAVOURITE, The Scotsman 21

Fringe Encore SoHo Playhouse New York, 18

Adelaide Fringe 18, 19, 20: Sold-Out, Sunday Mail Award, Best Solo Show,

Amnesty International Certificate of Achievement, 18

INVICTUS GAMES tour of Australia Sept-Nov 18

Brighton Fringe 19, 20 & 21 Best New Play (Nominated)

CONTACTS:

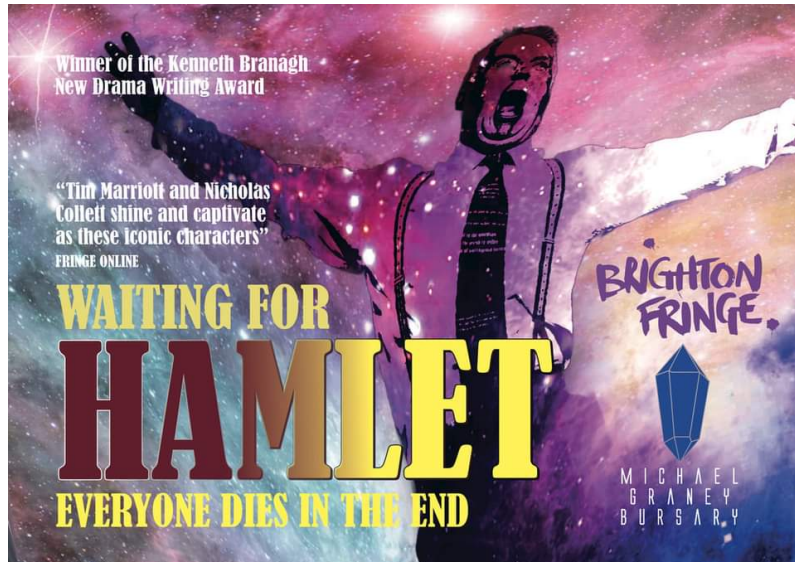
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You Tube Channel: [Tim Marriott Smokescreen](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Also Available:
WAITING FOR HAMLET
By David Visick
Winner Kenneth Branagh New Drama Writing Award



ALL DETAILS at
www.waitingforhamlet.com

TRAILER:
https://youtu.be/4Lj1q_xEtFk

Two old fools are stuck in the afterlife, one fool who knows he's a fool, and another fool who doesn't...

A King seeks revenge on his wicked brother, who has stolen both his kingdom and his wife. Exiled with his old mate Yorick, he's banking on the help of his son, Hamlet, to restore his crown. But there's just one problem - the King and his fool are dead. Languishing in limbo, they have to decide whether to act, or to take it lying down. Because life's not a question of being or not being. It's much more complicated than that...

Hamlet: The Prequel? What could possibly go wrong...

"Excellent Show" - Fringe Review

"Absolutely superb performances" - Broadway World

"A delight... a comedy that glows from within" - Fringe Online

STAGING

Designed for festivals, all that is required is an open space. The set consists of a trunk, two old crates and two old fools...

Running time: 55 minutes

Workshops 'Accessing Shakespeare' are available