

STRANGE MEETINGS

Strange Meetings is a fifty-minute-long performance which documents the final fifteen months of the life of Wilfred Owen, beginning with his admission to Craiglockhart Hospital with shell-shock, his auspicious meeting with (and befriending of) Siegfried Sassoon, the resulting flourish of poetry, his return to France, and his final and fatal battle in November 1918.

Owen's story is one of hidden strength, fragility, and the tragic cutting-short of potential, and is a tale well worth the telling. For *Strange Meetings*, I have studied Owen's letters alongside biographical accounts, working to incorporate and bring to life his thoughts and inspirations not just through his poetry, but through his letter-writing, picking up and highlighting his unique sense of humour, outlook, and syntax. This isn't some dry recital of poetry or letters, but a first-person perspective which is alive with language and wry humour, really showing him as the complicated and misunderstood person he was.

This presentation has been written and produced by Shaun Higgins for Spike Rose Productions. Previous shows include: *Black Dog*, which was presented at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2019, *The Girl in the Green Dress* and *The Hatter's Requiem*, which was performed at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2024. Shaun has been involved in almost forty productions in the past ten years and, as well as writing plays, he has staged six of his own pantomimes, and written two novels and several collections of short stories. His first children's book – *The Wizard of Oswestry* – has been well received, with the second in the series to be released shortly. Upcoming one-person shows include:

Frankenstein: Afterglow

An enthralling retelling of Mary Shelley's gothic tale, exploring the relationship between creator and created, told through theatre and puppetry.

Snowing Butterflies

A humorous but insightful look at the adventures of Charles Darwin and his adventures aboard the *Beagle*, a curiously clever meeting of theatrical narrative and Powerpoint presentation.

For more information, please visit: www.spikeroseproductions.co.uk