THIS EVIL THING written and performed by Michael Mears

The compelling and inspiring story of the men who in 1916 said no to war

SOME PRESS QUOTES 2016-2019:

‘The CO’s story is still a tale rarely told, and rarely presented with this level of wisdom, perception, compassion and balance.  This Evil Thing represents the great tradition of storytelling at its very best, and offers an up-close-and-personal insight into the human condition, for better or worse.’  (Melissa Blease, Bath Magazine)

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

‘An inspirational and disturbing work’ (Festmag)

‘Magnificent storytelling’ (Amnesty International judges, Edinburgh Festival; play longlisted for Freedom of Expression Award)

‘Gripping’ (The Scotsman)

‘Exemplary acting…a superbly crafted play…a master storyteller at work.’ (Stratford Herald)

'Stimulating, thought-provoking, the play was an absolute tour-de-force.'  (Sir David Bell, vice-chancellor, University of Reading)

Comments on performances in schools, 2017:

JUDITH GILLETT on Facebook:
I saw this at Sibford School. Outstanding in all ways. I think this is a play for main stream schools and would provoke deep and vital discussions. I say this as a former senior teacher in a large comprehensive. Do hope it can be widely seen. It seems somehow vital in this time to explore conscience and the issues it raises. I was deeply moved by it, a brilliantly written piece, and wonderfully performed.

Jane Flynn, Senior Vice Principal, Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry:
What a piece of drama! It was thrilling to see such a beautiful piece of work presented by such an accomplished actor. It was indeed very moving, very revealing…
TOBY SPENCE, Headmaster at Sibford School:

Thank you for coming to see us and perform on Friday. I thought the play was excellent and you have stimulated many minds here.

MOUNT SCHOOL YORK  Louise Williams – Head of English:

Thank you so much for bringing This Evil Thing to The Mount. The feedback was really positive and the girls found the play moving and thought provoking. Our GCSE Drama students were also very enthusiastic about the play and your performance- it will give them plenty of stimulus material for their exam and own practical work.

BOOTHAM SCHOOL, York

'This Evil Thing' provides a thought provoking insight into the contentious issue of conscientious objection in the First World War. Michael's gripping one man play portraying the life of Yorkshireman Bert Brocklesby kept students enthralled whilst challenging their preconceptions and inspiring them to consider their own role in society.

Elizabeth McCulloch (teacher)

McAuley Catholic High School, Doncaster

“An absolutely exceptional experience.
Live theatre is always a thrilling treat but Michael Mears’ personal and powerfully written, carefully staged performance maximised the impact of such a minimal set that I and the students who watched it were left not only moved but shifted in our perspective of ‘this evil thing.”

John Rooney
Headteacher