

## **DIDN'T HURT**

**written / performed by Rodney DeCroo**

**directed / dramaturged by TJ Dawe.**

Directed by Canadian Fringe legend TJ Dawe, playwright and actor Rodney DeCroo tells his own story of growing up poor in a hard as nails working class neighborhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and isolated in the bush of northern B.C. amidst violence, addiction, suicidal thoughts, and being raised by a Vietnam war vet. DeCroo's story moves through his life from childhood (a tobacco-chewing 6-year-old boy who desperately wants to be a cowboy), to his antisocial adolescence, and finally, to his adulthood (how to destroy your music career and alienate your friends). His story is about toxic masculinity and learning to recover from it. It's about being accountable, healing, and forgiveness. *Didn't Hurt* looks at how PTSD can be named, harnessed, and exercised through art, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and connecting with others.