



OH! I MISS THE WAR

by MATTHEW BALDWIN *and* DAVID JOHN PHILLIPS

Oh! I Miss the War

2 interwoven monologues

***I Miss the War* ***

by Matthew Baldwin

and

Oh!

by David John Phillips

Toronto Fringe Festival 2025

ABOUT THE SHOW

I Miss the War is one of eight monologues in the collection *Queers*, curated by Mark Gatiss and commissioned by the BBC to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. *Oh!* was written in response and homage to *I Miss the War*.

Sexual Offences Act

The Sexual Offences Act 1967 legalized homosexual acts in England and Wales, on the condition that they were consensual, in private and between two men who had attained the age of 21. While the law reduced some risks of some sorts of gay activity, there was also a clampdown on the homosexual activities that were not protected by the law. Prosecutions for gross indecency involving males tripled in the decade after its passage. Lord Arran, one of the bill's sponsors, noted its passage by asking homosexuals "to show their thanks by comporting themselves quietly and with dignity... [since] any form of public flaunting would ... make the sponsors of this bill regret ... what they had done."

Polari

Spoken in the theatre, navy, and by the criminal underworld, incorporating Italianate words, rhyming slang, and Romany, Polari became a secret vocabulary used by the queer community from the late 19th century until the 1970's. It was popularized outside the subculture in the 1960's through the radio program *Round the Horn*. Some Polari words survive in the queer argot: butch, camp, cottaging, trade, ... For a short film in Polari, search for *Putting on the Dish*.

*By arrangement with Nick Hern Books

ABOUT THE CREATORS

David John Phillips (Performer, Playwright, and Sound Design)

David works out of both Toronto and New York City. He recently created the role of Jonny Devine in *The Trunk* at The Flea Theatre and won the Best Supporting Actor Award at the New York Theatre Festival's Summerfest. Other NY stage credits include Gallimard in *M Butterfly* and Kreon in Ann Carson's *Antigonick*. In Toronto, he has played Bernadette in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, Pickering in *Pygmalion*, and Protasius in *Purgatory in Ingolton*. He has appeared in many films, including *Dim the Fluorescents* (Slamdance Grand Jury Prize), *Diamond Tongues*, *Pink Rabbit*, and *Almost Adults*.

He is a surveillance scholar and has co-created two immersive, kaleidoscopic romps through the practices and institutions of surveillance – *Cluster Fucked* and *Work and Play at the Threshold of Legibility*. www.DavidJohnPhillips.net

Matthew Baldwin (Playwright)

Matthew is a writer and actor who lives between Bangkok and London. He served as Chairman of Above The Stag Theatre in London from 2012 - 2023 and as Artistic Director from 2021 - 2022. Matthew is a fixture on London's Pantomime scene and is a founder member of He's Behind You Ltd - a company that produces London's best adult pantomime.

In 2013 Matthew and Thomas Hescott developed *The Act*, a play for one actor, for Oval House. Matthew was nominated for an Off West End Award, jointly with Tom, in the category of Best New Playwright. In 2014 *The Act* transferred to Trafalgar Studios in the West End. In 2020 *The Act* was made into a short film starring Samuel Barnett. It was selected for the BFI Flare, Raindance and Hollyshorts festivals among many others.

Anthony Misiano (Director)

Anthony is a multi-hyphenate living in New York City. His one man stage show *I Squeezed Really Hard*, co-produced by The Wild Project, received rave reviews and his short films have garnered awards at festivals around the globe. Most recently he directed the world premiere of *The Trunk* at The Flea in Tribeca, followed by a staged reading of *A Weekend Getaway* as part of the Rogue Theater Festival, also in NYC. When not directing he works primarily as an actor and editor in indie film, TV, commercials and voice over, having had roles in *Awkwafina is Nora from Queens*, *TURN: Washington's Spies*, as John Wilkes Booth in *Legends & Lies*, and as Nikola Tesla in *American Genius* among others.

He is delighted and humbled to be a part of this team bringing *Oh! I Miss the War* to life in Toronto.

Vishmayaa Jeyamoorthy (Lighting Design)

Vishmayaa is a lighting designer and researcher based in Tkaronto (Toronto). She has designed all over the world but calls Scarborough her home. Notable credits include designing for The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Soulpepper, and Theatre Kingston, and teaching lighting workshops on BIPOC centered lighting design. Outside of her theatre work, she is a soon-to-be Entertainment and Intellectual Property lawyer (2025 Call to the Ontario Bar, 2026 Call to the New York Bar) www.vishmayaa.com

Debbie Read (Stage Manager)

As one of the original House Techs at the first Toronto Fringe in 1989, Debbie has never missed a year, either as staff, volunteer, producer, stage manager or for the past few years, as an audience member. Debbie has stage managed for Toronto Operetta Theatre, Opera Hamilton, Calgary’s Quest Theatre, Carousel Theatre in St. Catharines, The Grand (Kingston) and Nippising Theatre, and at Tarragon, Factory Studio, Theatre Passe Muraille and Buddies in Bad Times. Working with young theatre artists brings a joy to her heart but as an Elder Dyke, the chance to be part of a team telling our history is deeply meaningful.

Dave Bell-Patterson (ASL Interpreter)

Dave has been interpreting for the past 15 years, with a particular focus in performance and the arts. He has been fortunate to work with the Deaf community at various events in his career, bridging arts and languages, performance and culture. With over 20 years working in languages, Dave currently works in various spheres in addition to the arts: in education, mental health and addiction, and other community settings. He works within the ally model of interpreting, bringing access and equity to the forefront.

THANKS!

Brawk Hessel, Elaine Bromka, Birch, John Fleming,
Russell Powell, Peter Campbell, Cameron Crookston

Everyone in the rooms, in the circles, at the tables.

Gary Smith Gary Smith Gary Smith

This production acknowledges and honours the ancestral caretakers of this land: the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabe, the Wendat, and any other Indigenous Nations who care for these territories (acknowledged and unacknowledged, recorded and unrecorded).

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Native Earth’s
AKI Studio

