

Rebecca Johannsen
(California, USA)
Women at War



New play sees global conflict through a new lens - Women at War explores how women change combat in the US Military

A new play from Dr **Rebecca Johannsen**, established US producer, director and educator, explores the role women play in combat. The project was conceived seven years ago, and devised from interviews conducted with the US Army's Female Engagement Team (FET). Dr Johannsen initially put the project on hold for several years while establishing her academic career, but after successfully teaching for 6 years at NYU's Tisch Drama Department, and co-producing playwright Erik Ehn's epic collection *Soulographie: Our Genocides* at La MaMa in New York City, Dr Johannsen decided to pursue to project full time.

Dr Johannsen's research is based on interviews conducted with the US Army's FET Unit deployed to Afghanistan from 2012-2013. The unit's mission was to engage with the local female Afghan population, build relationships and gather intelligence. They often found themselves in combat zones before women were legally allowed in combat, and received intensive physical training to prepare for the mission. The play has had readings in the US and the UK, but the Edinburgh Fringe performance will be the world premiere of the full play.

Collaborating with UK-based choreographer **Jodie Cole**, set and costume designer **Mayou Trikerioti**, and visual artist **Eden Orfanos**, **Women at War** will be performed as a solo piece by **Rebecca Johannsen**. Exploring the voices of four of the soldiers interviewed, the play utilises verbatim dialogue, movement, poetry, and visual art to explore the nature of trauma, conflict and misogyny in the first and third world. The production asks various questions: What happens when women engage in combat? Does it change the way we engage in conflict? What does it uncover about expected gender roles? How does it impact men and women deployed to a part of the world where women have no voice?

Dr. Johannsen holds a PhD in Theatre from the University of California Irvine. She was the founder and artistic director of the San Diego based **StoneSoup Theatre Company** for 10 years before moving to New York City. She has taught at NYU's Tisch Drama, Fordham University, Mercy College, UC Irvine, US San Diego, and California State University Northridge. She is a member of the Young Vic Director's Network.

Listings Information

Venue C cubed, Brodie's Close, Lawnmarket, EH1 2PS, venue 50
 Dates 3-28 Aug (not 15)
 Time 21:10 (1h00)
 Ticket prices £8.50-£10.50 / concessions £6.50-£8.50
 C venues box office 0845 260 1234 / www.CtheFestival.com/2017/women-at-war
 Fringe box office 0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

C venues

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 Shannon Steele
 artistic director
 Hartley T A Kemp

year round administration
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during the Fringe in August
C venues Edinburgh
 Press office at C royale
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 Ticket collection at any C venue

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