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The Cultch presents

THE CEASEFIRE SERIES

**An exploration of past and present warfare to commemorate
the 100th anniversary of the armistice of WWI**

(Vancouver, BC) – The Cultch is pleased to present The Ceasefire Series. From Oct 30 – Nov 17, The Cultch's three venues will be fully immersed with three shows that explore the causes, effects, and traumas of war from different lenses. The series features two Canadian premieres and a local world premiere from renowned playwright Amiel Gladstone: one taking place during WWI (*SmallWaR*), one taking place during WWII (*Three Winters*), and one taking place in contemporary times (*The Believers Are But Brothers*).

On Nov 11, 1918 Allied and German officials signed the armistice that would end fighting on land, sea, and air. 100 years later as the anniversary of that armistice approached, Cultch Executive Director, Heather Redfern considered how she wanted The Cultch to engage with such a significant centenary. What resulted was the programming of three distinctly different shows; a high tech and interactive show about the ways modern young men (in particular) are recruited online (*The Believers Are But Brothers*), verbatim reflections from soldiers and nurses in WWI, from star Belgian performer, Valentijn Dhaenens (*SmallWaR*), and the world premiere of Amiel Gladstone's *Three Winters*, a show with seven young women performing a play about prisoners in Stalag Luft III—the famous WWII POW camp—who put on theatre to maintain morale.

“As you watch these productions I ask you to remember, and I ask you to think about what comes next if we dare to forget. I want to thank all of the inspirational artists who have brought us this work for their roles as agitators and initiators in society. Their contributions are a political force because they speak to people’s hearts and emotions” — Heather Redfern, Cultch Executive Director

Details for the individual Ceasefire Series shows are below:

THE BELIEVERS ARE BUT BROTHERS

Javaad Alipoor and Kirsty Housley (UK), part of Diwali in BC

WHEN: Oct 30 – Nov 10, 2018

Oct 30, 8PM: Opening

Oct 31 – Nov 03, Nov 06 – 10, 8PM

Nov 03-04 & 10, 2PM

Nov 04, 7PM

WHERE: Vancity Culture Lab, 1895 Venables Street

TICKETS: Tickets \$35. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or tickets.thecultch.com. See all three Ceasefire Series shows for as low as \$65 with The Cultch's Choose 3 Subscription package.

Canadian Premiere. An electronic maze of fantasists, meme culture, 4chan, the alt-right, and ISIS. We live in a time where old orders are collapsing: from the postcolonial nation states of the Middle East, to

the EU and the American election. Through it all, tech-savvy and extremist groups rip up political certainties. Amidst this, a generation of young men find themselves burning with resentment, without the money, power, and sex they think they deserve. With phones in hand, and interactive elements taking place through WhatsApp, audiences participate in this bold one-man show that explores the smoke and mirrors world of online extremism, anonymity, and hate speech.

“After 9/11 we had an idea that there is a 'problem' with young Muslim men and violence, but as soon as one scratches away at the surface, we see that we have a problem with violence and young men, period.” —Javaad Alipoor

Produced by: **Rohit Chokhani**, Artistic Director of Diwali in BC
Writer and Performer: **Javaad Alipoor**, Co-Director: **Javaad Alipoor**, Co-Director: **Kirsty Housley**,
Producer: **Luke Emery**, Associate Director and Dramaturg: **Natalie Diddams**, Dramaturg: **Chris Thorpe**,
Assistant Director: **Heather Knudtsen**, Sound Designer: **Simon McCorry**, Video Designer: **Limbic Cinema**, Stage and Lighting Designer: **Ben Pacey**

SMALL WAR

SKaGeN (Belgium), Richard Jordan Productions & Theatre Royal Plymouth (UK)

WHEN: Nov 6–16, 2018

Nov 06, 8PM: Opening

Nov 07 – 10, 13 – 16, 8PM

Nov 10 – 11, 2PM

WHERE: York Theatre, 639 Commercial Drive.

TICKETS: Tickets from \$24. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or tickets.thecultch.com. See all three Ceasefire Series shows for as low as \$65 with The Cultch's Choose 3 Subscription package.

Canadian Premiere. A companion piece to the 2016 smash-hit *BigMouthH*. *SmallWaR* looks at the man-on-the-ground and the consequences of what our leaders tell us. Through verbatim reflections from soldiers and nurses in WWI, we discover the human cost of conflict. No row of mics this time, just performer Valentijn Dhaenens—five times over—with a projection screen spanning the entire width of the stage. We find ourselves inside the room of a dying frontline soldier who, together with the nurse, looks back at his life and the why and wherefore of warmongering. *SmallWaR* is an emotional reflection on the trauma and the repetitiveness of war, concentrating on the deadlock instead of the action.

“What most struck me in lots of soldier’s diaries was the difference between the sheer excitement and optimism about entering the war, and then not much later the total horror of being stuck in the muddy trenches, fearing to die”— Valentijn Dhaenens

Produced by: **Richard Jordan Productions**
Director and Performer: **Valentijn Dhaenens**
Lighting and Sound Designer: **Jeroen Wuyts**

THREE WINTERS

Written and Directed by Amiel Gladstone (Vancouver)

WHEN: Nov 7–17, 2018

Nov 07, 8PM: Preview

Nov 08, 8PM: Opening

Nov 09 – 10, 13 – 17, 8PM
Nov 10 – 11, 2PM

WHERE: Historic Theatre, 1895 Venables Street.

TICKETS: Tickets from \$24. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or tickets.thecultch.com. See all three Ceasefire Series shows for as low as \$65 with The Cultch's Choose 3 Subscription package.

World Premiere. Throughout art and history, the biggest roles and adventures have been given to men. Not in this play—a fictional re-contextualization of real-life events. In *Three Winters*, a troupe of seven millennial actresses play WWII soldiers captured in the Stalag Luft III POW camp. Those men not only infamously hatched escape plans—immortalized by 1963 film, *The Great Escape*, they performed plays sent by the Red Cross, which required the men to play both male and female parts. When these historical events are acted by modern young women, not out of circumstantial necessity, but by choice, *Three Winters* asks audiences to question their assumptions about who we allow to play what parts and why.

“If it weren’t for their ability to make theatre, my Grandpa said he would have died in those WWII POW camps. This play is about that reality, told with immediacy and connection” — Amiel Gladstone

Writer & Director: Amiel Gladstone, **Performers:** Ghazal Azarbad, Raylene Harewood, Olivia Hutt, Camille Legg, Julia Siedlanowska, Naomi Vogt & Libby Willoughby, **Set Designer:** Adrian Muir, **Costume Designer:** Jacqueline Firkins, **Lighting Designer:** Sara Smith, **Sound Designer:** Sammie Hatch, **Stage Manager:** Allison Spearin, **Assistant Stage Manager:** Siobhan Powell, **Assistant Director:** Amanda Testini, **Dramaturg:** Amy Lynn Strilchuk

ABOUT THE CULTCH:

Since 1973, The Cultch (formally the Vancouver East Cultural Centre) has been one of Vancouver's most diverse and innovative arts and cultural hubs. The organization operates three theatrical venues, a gallery, and various ancillary spaces in the heart of East Vancouver. The Cultch offers dynamic contemporary programming in theatre, dance, music, and the visual arts, bringing world-class cultural presentations to thousands of citizens each year through its own programming and through providing rental opportunities for community users. Our purpose is to provide a venue for performance that serves a diverse and engaged public and provides space for artistic experimentation and development, building an audience for local companies and presenting cutting-edge national and international work.