



heroine

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY MARY JANE WELLS
DIRECTED BY SUSAN WORKFOLD
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

AN EVISCERATING NEW PLAY TELLS THE TRUE STORY ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE ARMED FORCES

EDINBURGH, UK – British actress and writer [Mary Jane Wells](#), known for her work in *How To Train Your Dragon 2*, *Dr Strange*, *Paddington*, HBO's *The Newsroom*, groundbreaking LGBT feature films *Elena Undone* (2010), *A Perfect Ending* (2012), *Crazy Bitches* (2015) and *Holy Hell* (Sundance, CNN 2016) is the writer and performer of this solo show based on the true story of a female soldier in the US Army.

Creative Scotland and Aberdeen Performing Arts awarded **Heroine** development funding in 2015, and a pared down performance of the full script is being performed at Edinburgh Festival Theatre March 31st and April 1st 2017 at 7.30pm. www.edtheatres.com/heroine

"Heroine was written from a sense of outrage, specifically for Danna Davis, but also for you, me and for those who still experience sexual assault and retaliation in the UK armed forces or the US army. It's a story we need to hear, that uses the literal, artistic and metaphorical power of the human voice to ensure that silence is no longer an accomplice. My bones said, write!" – Mary Jane Wells

Heroine is a human story of Danna Davis (her nom de guerre), a living survivor of military sexual trauma. Her story is both light and dark, and dives in to what healing and forgiveness really mean.

Danna served for 10 years in the US army as Drill Sergeant, Staff Sergeant and Squad Leader, helping Rwanda after the genocide and helping to tear down the Berlin wall. At the time she enlisted, was the only woman in her entire company and was awarded many medals during her service, including the Purple Heart. When leading a secret mission into the Middle East, one of her assailants was placed in her squad: they were two of the few to return. Embarking on probably her biggest mission yet, Danna speaks out for the first time about her experiences.

The Department of Defence (DOD) defines Military Sexual Trauma (MST) as rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment, and acknowledges that it affects both women and men in uniform. The Pentagon estimates that sexual assaults increased from 19,000 in 2011 to 26,000 in 2012 and the figures are actually higher for 2013 - 2016. According to these figures, female soldiers in the US army are statistically more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than they are to be killed in combat. As it stands, **there are 71 sexual assaults or related incidents EVERY DAY**, of which only 13.5% are reported.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) in the UK has no figures for military sexual trauma (referred to in the UK as 'Blue on Blue' sexual trauma) as they do not keep records.

For further information, please contact hello@heroinetheplay.com, or Mary Jane Wells on 07811 123623 www.heroinetheplay.com