



BOOKING NOW...

Vamos Theatre presents a co-production with **Mercury Theatre Colchester** and a co-commission with **London International Mime Festival**, produced with support from **Jyväskylä Festival**, Finland.

A BRAVE FACE

PROMOTERS' INFORMATION



#abraceface

A BRAVE FACE

“Dear mum, things are a bit tough right now. But don’t worry – I’m ok. I’ll tell you about it when I get back.”

Afghanistan: 2009. Under bright blue skies, a small girl stands and watches the soldier. She smiles, just like his sister...

Ryan is there to see the world, learn a trade, get a life. Training is complete, combat is a buzz; he’s part of a team, and knows his job. But on one particular hot and desperate tour of duty, Ryan sees things he can’t talk about, to anyone. And then, when he returns home, the trouble really begins.

Vamos Theatre is the UK’s leading full mask theatre company. Praised by press and public alike for its consummate full mask skills, engaging storytelling, physical dexterity and emotional insight, the company continues to involve and engage audiences across borders and boundaries, taking on challenging themes with poignancy, humour and humanity.

Created from two years of research with ex and serving soldiers, families and health professionals, *A Brave Face* explores Post-Traumatic Stress in the military, an unseen and often unrecognised injury of war. With compassion and fearlessness, Vamos brings its trademark, wordless, full mask style to a story that needs to be told.



“Vamos are without a doubt one of the most thrilling and innovative mask companies out there. Whatever they do encapsulates so much about life, by making it real, accessible and fresh.”

**David Durant, Associate Director, The Courtyard,
Herefordshire’s Centre for the Arts**

THE MAKING OF A BRAVE FACE

In June 2015, Johnny Mercer, Conservative MP for Plymouth Moor, addressed the House of Commons:

“In 2012, we reached a very unwelcome threshold when, tragically, more soldiers and veterans killed themselves than were killed on operational service in defence of the realm.”

A Brave Face is a full mask theatre production born of real life stories, created from over two years of extensive research and development into Post-Traumatic Stress. During the research period we met, talked and worked with ex- and serving soldiers and their families, as well as a breadth of mental health practitioners, journalists, and staff from *Help for Heroes*, *Veterans First* and the pioneering Recovery Centre, *Chavasse VC House*. *A Brave Face* brings together all that we learned to create a poignant, playful and fearless production in Vamos’s trademark full mask style.

Throughout the production’s creation, we have renowned photo-journalist Kate Holt, a regular contributor to *The Guardian*, as Photo-Journalist in Residence.

★★★★★

“There is something just so tender and compassionate with the work of Vamos. They understand not only what makes us work as people, the very essence of humanity if you like, but also how best to portray that in a theatrical way.”

Love Shropshire



AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY

Over the years, we have developed a formidable reputation for creating work that attracts people who are often less engaged in arts and culture. Audiences find our full mask theatre entirely accessible, because it's highly visual and unerringly human. We connect with diverse audiences, and because there is no barrier of words to overcome, we attract people whose first language isn't English. We have a strong following among d/Deaf audiences who don't miss out on the action, as there's no need for signing.

We are experienced in delivering Relaxed Performances, and create assets and adapt our shows to make them accessible for all, including those with sensory and communication disorders, learning disabilities or autism spectrum conditions.

The themes of the show lend themselves to exciting and rewarding audience development projects and initiatives within communities local to venues.

FULL MASK WORKSHOPS AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

We offer a range of full mask workshops to accompany our performances. Suitable for all ages and abilities, our workshops provide participants with a unique experience of full mask and physical theatre, ranging from a show specific introduction to mask, in-depth training for professional actors or workshops for d/Deaf adults and students.

Designed alongside *Help for Heroes*, for *A Brave Face* only, we are offering mask making workshops for military and ex-military communities.

For our full range of workshops visit our Learning pages at www.vamostheatre.co.uk/learning



“Fun, relaxed and enjoyable. With the support I was able to produce a mask, which I did not believe I could of done on the first morning. Also shows mindfulness can come in many different forms!”
Ex-military participant, Mask Making Workshop

“I’ve been a teacher for 10 years and it was by far the most dynamic and worthwhile workshop I have ever seen delivered to students.”

**Kate Fonseca, Head of Drama, Uffculme School,
Devon**



“I emerged from the theatre brim-full of the sheer humanity of the story and glowing from the love lavished on this simple but deeply affecting production”

Daniel Buckroyd, Artistic Director, Mercury Theatre, Colchester

REVIEWS OF OUR PREVIOUS SHOWS

★★★★★ *“This production will not disappoint its enthusiasts and will charm newcomers...hugely rewarding”*

The Stage

“The mask work is terrific... the storytelling is always wonderfully economical too... We may have heard this story before, but Vamos make it seem fresh and necessary all over again”

Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

★★★★★ *“If you’ve never seen full-mask theatre, there could be no better introduction than Vamos – their ability to explore profound themes with the lightest of touches is magical... the irresistible mix of humour and heartbreak makes them a must see”*

Hereford Times

WHAT PROMOTERS HAD TO SAY . . .

“Vamos continue to provide the highest quality of non-verbal theatre available in the UK. Their approach is accessible and engaging and their work is guaranteed to make you both laugh and cry”

Neil Reading, Theatre Manager, Arena Theatre

“This show is truly exceptional and I’m pleased to declare yet another highly successful visit”

David Jack, Director, Theatre Severn

“EVERYONE was moved and everyone loved it. Book this company or regret it!”

Emma Dolman, Director, Cornerstone

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Please check the following essential technical requirements carefully when booking *A Brave Face*.

Total Tour Personnel

5 performers and 1 technician

Venue Technical Staff Requirements

A minimum of two resident technicians are required to assist running the show

Minimum Stage Area

7 metres depth x 7 metres width

Minimum height clearance of 3 metres to grid

Duration

Approximately 80 mins, no interval

Lighting requirements

We provide a technician and lighting design

A lighting pre-rig is essential prior to get in

Please note: blackout is required

Sound requirements

We use QLab on our laptop with external soundcard, 4 x 1/4" jack outputs to 4 speakers: venue to provide suitable FOH set up

Projection

We bring one floor-mounted projector, USC behind set

Minimum Get In Time

Approx. 8 hours, depending on venue and assuming pre-rig

Maximum Get Out Time

The get out will start immediately after the final show and will take a maximum of 2 hours



★★★★★

“simply beautiful”
What’s On Stage



★★★★★

“Life-affirming, funny, deeply touching and highly, highly recommended”

Plays to See

MARKETING ASSETS AND SUPPORT

We provide a comprehensive Marketing Pack which includes copy for a variety of platforms, target audience information, marketing angles, Press Releases, reviews and Box Office U.S.P.s.

We will supply social media assets, keep you abreast of our online plans and work with your teams to help you deliver targeted campaigns for your audiences.

BOOKING INFORMATION

To book, or for more information about the show and our workshops and residencies, please contact:

Claire Morton, Executive Producer

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