

MOST WANTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LITTLEMIGHTY PRESENT

[MOST WANTED]

EST 2013
LITTLEMIGHTY
- MAKING THEATRE HAPPEN -

LIFE BY THE THROAT

TOUR PACK



**"GRIT AND WIT... HONEST
AND DEEPLY AFFECTING."
- THE SCOTSMAN**

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

THIS IS THE STORY OF ONE MAN'S LIFE FROM BIRTH TO DEATH - WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY A WOMAN

James Joseph Patrick Keogh is a force to be reckoned with. Born into poverty and madness, he survives on wit, laughter and one ingenious scheme after another.

But whether it's sprinting on sports day, chasing oblivion or running away from cops, a fall is sure to come. Question is, will he survive it?

Former *Coronation Street* actor turned award-winning writer/performer **EVE STEELE** channels the life of this remarkable individual in a performance that is spectacular, funny and heartwrenching.

It's a celebration of the men she has known, loved and wanted to punch in the face.



WHAT'S IT LIKE FOR THE AUDIENCE?

Life By The Throat is fierce yet tender piece of solo storytelling written by award-winning writer and performer Eve Steele, who is well known for regular roles in *Coronation Street* and *Peak Practice*, as well as having written for BBC Radio 4, Bolton Octagon and many more.

The show played at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2016 to rave reviews. It was highly praised for its authentic portrayal of a man caught up in a chaotic life.

The script draws on her own personal experiences of crime and addiction. She also conducted hours of interviews with men in recovery to give the show its truthful, realistic edge. Eve makes you feel like you've been there yourself – and got away with it.

Eve had rightly been highly praised for her incredibly skilled and sensitive performance, which is full of warmth and humanity. Her lyrical and dexterous storytelling lights up the darkness and makes the grit sparkle.

SUITABLE FOR AGES 14+ (CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE AND ADULT THEMES)

IS THERE A TRAILER?

Yes! Follow this link for an extract from the show:

www.vimeo.com/188429748



"IMMEDIATELY EXHILARATING... [PERFORMER] EVE STEELE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE IS THE SOLITARY OCCUPANT OF THE STAGE, IS A DYNAMIC TOUR DE FORCE."

- ZANI

WHAT HAVE PEOPLE SAID ABOUT THE SHOW?

The show received universally enthusiastic reviews and audience responses. Here is a selection of what's been said:

"LIFE BY THE THROAT WAS THE BEST THING I SAW AT THE FRINGE IN 2016... IT HAD BUCKETS OF CHARACTER, REALLY STRONG WRITING AND EXCELLENT, HEART-BREAKING, EXHILARATING PERFORMANCE. CAN'T FAULT IT."

- CLARE CLARKSON, STUDIO PROGRAMMER, CAST DONCASTER



"WE MEET PROTAGONIST JAMIE AT THE MOMENT OF HIS BIRTH, AND FOLLOW HIM THROUGH A LIFE OF HIGH RISES, ABUSE, PETTY CRIME, MAJOR CRIME, DRINK, DRUGS, SEX... ALL OF WHICH MIGHT SOUND LIKE A ONE-NOTE, GRIM-UP-NORTH HOUR WERE IT NOT FOR STEELE'S SENSE OF HUMANITY AND HER ABILITY TO SPOTLIGHT MOMENTS OF FUN, HAPPINESS AND EVEN EXTREME JOY IN JAMIE'S LIFE."

- THE SCOTSMAN



"GRIPPING... EVE STEELE IS PHENOMENAL... THE PERFORMANCE IS VISCERAL... THE WRITING IS POIGNANT, TAUT AND CHARGED, FULL OF HUMANITY."

- THREE WEEKS



"THE TENDERNESS OF JAMES' STORY WILL STIR YOUR SOUL AND MOVED ME TO TEARS... STUNNING."

- FRINGE BISCUIT #PICKOFTHEFRINGE



"SUCH FEROCITY AND SKILL... A MUST SEE... A TRULY ENTERTAINING HOUR OF DRAMATIC PATHOS."

- BROADWAY BABY



"EXHILARATING... JOYOUS... STEELE IS A DYNAMIC TOUR DE FORCE."

- ZANI

TWITTER RESPONSES

"#LIFEBYTHETHROAT IS AMAZING. DOES NOT OFFER PLATITUDES TO VIOLENCE, SUBSTANCES, OFFENDING OR LOVE. SO MOVING."

"MOVING, SOMETIMES DEVASTATING, ULTIMATELY FULL OF LOVE."

"A POWERFUL, MASTERFULLY PERFORMED ONE WOMAN SHOW."

"POWERFUL PERFORMANCE FROM EVE STEELE... EMOTIONAL, FUNNY AND SAD."

"A PHENOMENAL PIECE OF THEATRE, DEFINITELY ONE OF THE BEST SHOWS I'VE SEEN SO FAR!"



HOW WAS THE SHOW DEVELOPED?

The idea for the show has been bubbling under in Eve's mind for a few years and burst out of her for the 2016 Edinburgh Festival Fringe when Most Wanted teamed up with LittleMighty to stage the show's premiere at the prestigious Underbelly venue.

Once she'd decided now was the time to write the story, Eve set about interviewing as many (ex) rogues as she could – and she knows a few!

The show has the unmistakable scent of lived experience. Though it is a fiction, many of the details of the interviews made it into the show almost verbatim, while others added influenced the events that take place in the story. Plus Eve herself used to be a Manchester junkie and thief - but she's cleaned up her act now so your purses and wallets are safe!

Before Edinburgh the show was previewed at the King's Arms in Salford to a full house mostly made up of recovering addicts and former prisoners. The show received a rapturous reception from this "non-theatre" audience, as well as from the theatre regulars who squeezed in.

A former armed robber said afterwards: "I laughed and I had tears in my eyes. That was my story. I felt like it was me up there on the stage. I've never seen that before, I couldn't believe it!"

"LIFE BY THE THROAT IS PHENOMENAL."

– SARAH MACDONALD HUGHES,
MONKEYWOOD THEATRE



WHO IS THE SHOW FOR?

Life By The Throat is very human, savagely funny and genuinely moving.

Its key selling points are the virtuosic performance from Eve Steele (well known to TV audiences from her appearances in *Coronation Street* and *Peak Practice*), and the gritty, true-to-life script.

It has a wide appeal to both regular theatre-goers (who will enjoy the level of craft and skill on display) to non-regular audiences, who will recognise elements of their own experience.

In particular, the company can support venues in working with rehab and recovery centres, many of which are very keen on engaging with cultural activities. We have had great experiences of mobilising these audiences.

These centres can also be used to access networks of NA and AA meetings, tapping into a wider local network of individuals hungry for culture as they undergo recovery.

The show can also be targeted at local activist networks, who may be interested in the political backdrop to the social issues discussed in the play.



WHO ARE MOST WANTED?

Most Wanted are a new writing / theatre-making company committed to telling stories that are fresh, real and need to be told. We combine physical theatre, bags of humanity and sharp dialogue to give a voice to the voiceless and a shape to the unseen. We aim to inspire and excite, open your eyes and mind and we're not afraid to entertain. Get ready for a good night out!

The company is led by Eve Steele and Ed Jones. Between us we have an impressive CV of arrests, jail sentences, drug addiction and psychological disorders. Theatre is where we try to make sense of it all.

 [@MOSTWANTEDSHOWS](https://twitter.com/MOSTWANTEDSHOWS)
 [/MOSTWANTEDTHEATRE](https://www.facebook.com/MOSTWANTEDTHEATRE)

WRITER/PERFORMER: EVE STEELE

Eve is an award winning playwright and actor. As an actor her work has been nominated for Royal Midland TV Award (for *Peak Practice*) and she played Ann Malone for two years in *Coronation Street* (the character who stalked Curly, for fans of the programme!).

Eve's first play, *Lub You*, was part of the 24:7 theatre festival in 2009 and was nominated for Best Play of the Festival and Best New Play in the Equity North West Theatre Awards, and for both Best Fringe Production and Best New Play in the Manchester Evening News Awards.

From there Eve became a playwright on attachment at the Octagon Theatre, Bolton. In 2011 the theatre commissioned Eve to write *Should Love Hurt This Much*, which premiered at the theatre and toured schools and community venues. Eve has written extensively for BBC Radio 4, with her most recent play, *Bright Spark*, broadcast in December 2015. She is currently working on another Octagon Bolton commission.

Eve grew up in Moss Side, had a criminal record by the time she was 16, a heroin habit by age 20, and is now clean and sober with two children and a lot of stories to tell.



DIRECTOR: ED JONES

Ed Jones is a writer and director. He has written extensively for television dramas such as *Brookside*, *The Bill* and *Holby City*, as well as original series *Case Notes* for BBC Wales. He has also written five original plays for Radio 4.

Ed's most recent play, *A Political History of Smack and Crack*, has just been announced as a finalist for the prestigious Theatre 503 Playwrighting Award. Ed directed Eve in the award-winning *Lub You*, and collaborated with her on *Stitched Up* for Bolton Octagon in 2012. He currently teaches drama at the University of Bolton.



HOW DO I BOOK THE SHOW FOR MY VENUE?

Most Wanted is produced by LittleMighty, who work with remarkable artists to make brilliant theatre happen. Recent work includes Unfolding Theatre's *Putting the Band Back Together* ("Fantastic – funny, big-hearted, moving and truthful" - *The Guardian*) and Testament's *Blake Remixed*, co-produced with West Yorkshire Playhouse ("An entertaining fusion of hip hop, rap and beatboxing that thrusts the Blake mythology into the 21st Century" - *The Stage*). Other successes include Move to Stand's *Fat Man* ("Full of wounded heart, this is a show that lingers in the mind" – Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*; VAULT Festival Pick of the Year Award).

If you are interested in bringing *Life By The Throat* to your venue please get in touch with Dick Bonham to discuss dates and a financial package.

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T 07956 573 679

WWW.LITTLEMIGHTY.CO.UK

[@LITTLEMIGHTYUK](https://twitter.com/LITTLEMIGHTYUK)

WHAT ABOUT THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS?

Full technical specification will be made available in advance of the tour.

COMPANY

1 performer, with 2 on the road

MINIMUM PLAYING SPACE

3m x 3m

GET-IN

Minimum 4 hours

GET-OUT

30 minutes following performance

SET

Hazard tape on stage floor marks out the performance area

SOUND

PA suitable for venue. Pre-show and incidental music to be provided on CD by company.

LIGHTING

Full design available on request. Pre-rig if available.



[MOST
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