

Press Release: May 2012

the MolinoGroup presents

desert

at The Bike Shed Theatre, Exeter
21-23 June 2012, 7.30pm



“If you had unprecedented access to classified networks 14 hours a day 7 days a week for 8+ months, what would you do?”

Private Bradley Manning allegedly leaked the Collateral Murder video and 250,000 classified documents to Wikileaks and has since been vilified and celebrated in equal measure. By June 2012, Manning will have been in prison without trial for over

700 days. This urgent new play explores the intriguing contemporary figure behind the media and internet reports – national traitor or heroic whistleblower? Damaged young soldier or embittered opportunist? Aiding the enemy or protecting the people?

Blurring between real and imagined events, *desert* takes us on a journey from a cell at Quantico Brig, Virginia, through Northern Iraq, to the not-so-distant future. Through the eyes of Morgan, an aspiring Welsh hacktivist, we move backwards and forwards in a constantly evolving contemporary narrative as she tries to make sense of Bradley’s story. Blending text, movement and media, *desert* probes how far the campaign phrase ‘*We are all Bradley Manning*’ really goes in a world where the individual and global powers are continuously in conflict.

the MolinoGroup is a theatre and performance collective established in 2011 by Bethany Pitts (Director) and Edward Fortes (Dramaturg).

Working with an acting ensemble in a collaborative way, the company develops new writing from a different angle, workshopping text alongside a more physical approach. In doing so we aim to bridge the gap between new writing and devising practices.

desert will be available to tour in 2013.

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