

ART & RECONCILIATION

Project Profiles

CONFLICT

CULTURE

COMMUNITY



Minefield
Argentina and UK
Theatre



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Directed by the celebrated Argentine theatre director Lola Arias, Minefield is a collaboratively created documentary theatre piece that brought together British and Argentine veterans of the Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas war to share their first-hand experience of the conflict and life since. Co-commissioned by LIFT (London International Festival of Theatre) the project brought together 6 veterans who fought each other to be both the co-creators and performers of the play¹.

“Some of them got medals, and some were forgotten. Some of them continue in the forces and others started new lives as psychologists, musicians, teachers, security guards. Today the only thing they have in common is that they are all veterans. Digging deep into the personal impact of war, MINEFIELD is a collaboratively created new work that merges theatre and film to explore the minefield of memory, where truth and fiction collide.” Taken from Minefield promotional literature².

While both the Argentine and British governments continue to take strong positions on the sovereignty of the Falklands / Malvinas the play recognises that many of the people who went to fight were not there for personal ideological reasons but to do a job for their country. While there was no overt reconciliation agenda with the play, Arias’s aim was to get beyond the ‘recited’ version of history and explore personal memories and experiences of the war.

The collaborative process involved a constant back and forth between Arias and veterans whom also kept diaries charting their thoughts and feelings about revisiting the past. Arias created texts from what they told her which she gave to them to decide what was included and what was not. The veterans were able to change their minds at any point, including while it was being performed. Arias views authorship as a shared responsibility and process that everyone (her and the veterans) is involved in³.

Art and Reconciliation: Minefield

Minefield toured the UK and Argentine to wide acclaim in 2016⁴ and continues to tour internationally. A book is also now available from Oberon Books (2017)⁵.



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“What you discover is how far the past and present co-exist in all our lives and how much what once happened to us has an influence on who and what we are now. Whether we acknowledge it or not. This play is like a time machine. We see these men as they are now in their 50s and we also catch a glimpse of their younger selves, those young men in their late teens and early 20s who went to war.”

Lola Aris Interview, The Guardian May 2016

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References

(1) See Minefield trailer

<https://vimeo.com/185732707>

(2) Quoted from promotional material

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/minefield/>

(3) See account in Guardian article

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2016/may/26/minefield-falklands-theatre-veterans-battle>

(4) See press portfolio on Minefield

<http://lolaarias.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MINE-FIELD-press-jan17.pdf>

(4) See

<http://lolaarias.com/proyectos/minefield-campo-minado/>

(5) Guardian article

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2016/may/26/minefield-falklands-theatre-veterans-battle>