

Tom Heath - Producer
BA English with Creative Writing (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -
Producing: Bottleneck, Yours and Mine (NNT)
Directing: Hinged, Infirmary (NNT)



Doing a play about the First World War is always a difficult thing. It's a harrowing moment in human history and so that demands to be approached respectfully and with genuine consideration. *The Accrington Pals* however is unlike any play I've done before. It's a domestic and simple style, but that makes the emotional points even more poignant. The stories of these women were something that I couldn't help but be struck by, and no matter how many times I see it in rehearsals the cast always finds new ways to make me view it, and to make me really consider not only the men who went to fight in the war but the people who were left behind as well.

It's that same cast that I've really enjoyed working with through this process. Not only because of how they approached the topic, but the work they've put into delivering the most sincere and honest performance they can. They've put their all into it, and for that I'm thankful. As well as that our huge crew of stage managers, lighting and sound designers, makeup crew and set designer have undertaken a massive task of making this play happen. It's them as well that have brought this performance to a point where we can really be proud, and although I can't possibly sum up their work in this brief note, their effort and skill has made the rehearsal process a real joy to be a part of.

Finally, and definitely not least, I have to admire my director Ed's work. Over the past weeks he's managed to bring his vision of this monumental play to light, which was no easy task. I know that I'm not only in admiration for the insight he's brought to this project, but also looking forward to see his future ones too. I hope you enjoy seeing this production which, as with any great task, has only been accomplished with the dedication of many people.