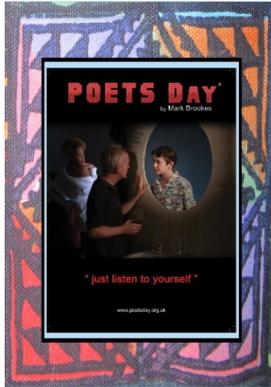


POETS Day by Mark Brookes



Category: Theatre

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Book title: POETS Day
By: Mark Brookes

A guilt-ridden builder takes a Friday afternoon off to binge on drugs, booze and exotic dancers in an attempt to escape a tragic anniversary, but despite the pub fun, his youth still haunts him demanding he faces his worst nightmare ... before time is called! Mark Brookes originally wrote *POETS Day*, in 2013, for his teenage Son as a cautionary tale about pubs, the adult playground. Quickly it became a more serious piece and in 2016 was performed for four nights at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham in aid of the children's charity Barnardo's. Since the premier, Barnardo's have received considerable donations, A level drama students have studied it as part of their curriculum and the BBC have accepted its submission into their Writers' Room for Drama.

POETS Day is the first play in a trilogy telling the story of a dysfunctional family. The second and third plays are also independent dramas and work seamlessly within the trilogy plot.

About the author

Mark Brookes was born and grew up in Middlesex, England. Mark's passion for creative writing began in his late teens and in 2013, inspired by his son's own approach into manhood, he penned the play *POETS Day* as a cautionary tale of the adult playground he would soon encounter. As the owner of two construction firms and a theatre company he finds relaxation in writing fiction, music, acting and building stage sets for local theatre.

Review

A most unusual and challenging play. There is a bit of humour but that is to counterbalance the ongoing grim struggle of the players who deal with alcohol and substance abuse, violence and the corrosive legacy of a historic tragedy. The play is arranged so that there is a fixed set of a pub with toilets (where some of that action happens!) front and to the sides. The action can be directed simply by the use of lighting. Low budget to stage but still intense in the action. Decent price. Worth a look if you are a community group or work with people affected by the issues. It could be staged in a modest space or just used as a reference for discussion groups. Nice work by Mark Brookes. This is his first published play. One to watch.
Malcolm Jackson



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