

Soldier Bear Show Pitch Letter

The True Story of Soldier Bear is coming to Philadelphia Fringe Festival

Leila Ghaznavi's Pantea Production's is bringing an unlikely story of a World War II hero to the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. **Soldier Bear** is a true story, which will take you on a journey through five countries along side two orphaned soldiers, one being a bear. It has a captivating message of love. The audience will learn family comes in many different forms when a Polish soldier adopts an orphaned cub. The show will be performed September 9 - 19 at Plays & Players Theatre, 1714 Delancey Place. Tickets cost \$5-\$13 and can be purchased at <http://fringearts.com/event/soldier-bear/>

The story centers on a Polish soldier stationed in the Middle East during World War II. Eventually, a bear named Woitek becomes a popular member of the 22nd Transport Company, Artillery Division, 2nd Corp. Woitek spent most of this time with the soldiers of the 4th Platoon and developed a taste for beer and wine, as well as, cigarettes.

Woitek grew to be a strong bear and was happy in the company of his fellow soldiers. As the Polish Army prepared to enter the war zone in Italy during 1943, Woitek was given a rank position as a soldier who moved crates of ammunition close to a truck where he was chained. After a Battle against German defenses at Monte Cassion in Italy, the official badge of the 22nd Transport Company became a likeness of Woitek holding a shell.

The audience will sit on the stage of Plays & Players to experience this heart-warming tale through a combination of puppetry, dance, Shadow Theater, and animation. The Jim Henson Foundation funds this production. . Ghaznavi developed sections of this piece at the Eugene O'Neill Puppetry Conference.