

"A tour de force."

– J Clinch

"Evocative and  
haunting"

– A Irvine

"Spellbinding"

– A Jacobson

"I was gripped."

– Rachel, Hackney

"Came in exhausted  
after a day's work,  
went out renewed  
with vigour and  
passion."

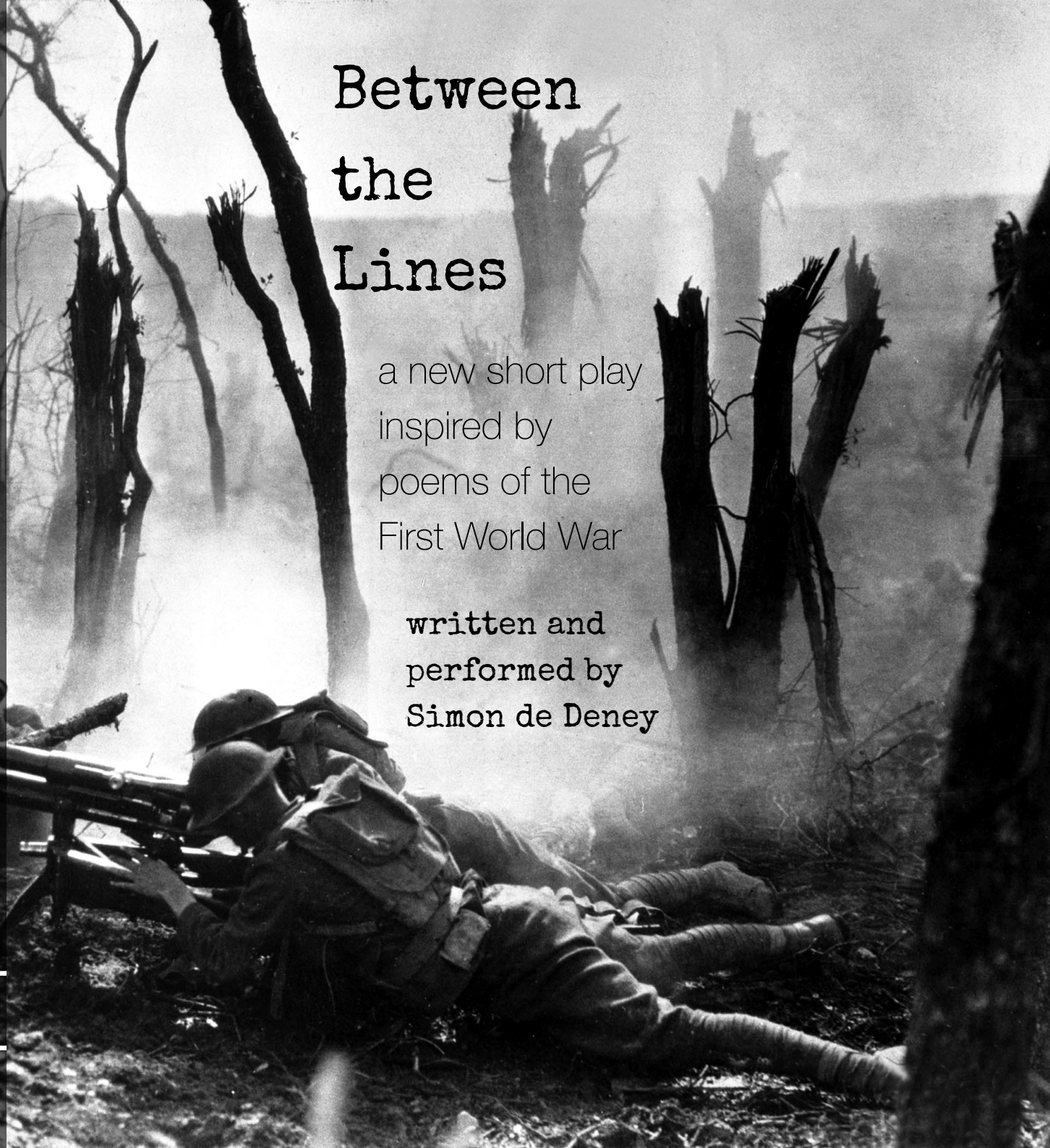
– C Denning

# Between the Lines

a new short play  
inspired by  
poems of the  
First World War

written and  
performed by  
Simon de Deney

NEW COMPANY





## About *Between the Lines*

*Between the Lines* is a passionate play about the war to end all wars. A keeper of the graves in an old war cemetery is compelled to unravel a 100 year mystery.

Written and performed by Simon de Deney, Artistic Director of New Company. Directed by Doctor Who actor and writer David Banks. Music by Ben Babbage. It features the poems of Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen, Isaac Rosenberg, Siegfried Sassoon and others.

*Between the Lines* premiered at Dalston's new Ophelia Theatre in February 2014 to a great audience reaction. It is touring to various venues throughout the UK and is available for both theatre and site specific performances.

## What are the staging needs?

*Between the Lines* has been designed to be performed in any space. It relies for its effect - like the First World War poetry it's inspired by - on the language and the power this has on the imaginations of its audiences.

So there are no lighting changes and there is just one simple sound cue at the start of the show. We can deal with virtually all sound and lighting set ups.

## The show's aims

*Between the Lines* was written and created with the aim of bringing vividly to life First World War poetry. The idea was to go beyond a simple series of recitations, however beautiful. Instead, the intention was to place the poems in a dramatic context that captured the creative spirit which originally gave life to the words.

*Between the Lines* is an evocation of Peter Brook's 'The Empty Space' or what actors love to call 'bare boards and a passion'. It avoids lighting and sound effects, using only the skill of the actor and the imagination of the audience to create rapid changes in place and character. It uses a strong storytelling structure that doesn't just tell the facts, but also expresses the emotional and imaginative truths underlying the different characters' situations and dilemma.

While *Between the Lines* focuses primarily on the poetry, the story traces a change in general attitudes to the war from excitement and patriotism to disillusion and cynicism. The play brings to life moments such as the recruiting halls, King George V's message to the British Expeditionary Force on August 12th 1914 and the first day of the Somme. As with the poetry, the aim of the play is to bring vividly to life the experience of ordinary soldiers in the conflict.



If you'd like to talk to us about booking *Between the Lines* please call on 07958 673543 or email us on [btl@newcompany.org.uk](mailto:btl@newcompany.org.uk)





## Audience reactions to Between the Lines

"Evocative and haunting, distilled and poignant but ultimately uplifting. A honed and crafted clever piece of theatre made all the more intense by the space." A. Irvine

"de Deney's latest performance combines poetry and virtuoso storytelling to create a poignant revisiting of the themes of war, love and loss." M Teusink

"I really enjoyed last night, your performance was captivating, you played all your

characters so believably, both male and female, loved the humour and the emotional end left me with a tear in my eye." J. McKay

"Spellbinding and emotionally challenging. WW1 is recreated in 3D. Poetry from the depths of the trenches. WW1 recreated past present and future. A must for all of us and essential for our children to witness first hand the horrors of war." A. Jacobson

"I just had to write to congratulate you on what you've created. They say that one of the marks of a good play is how much people talk about it afterwards. Peter and I on our way to the airport at 5 am were discussing WW1 and found ourselves moved to tears again by some of the moments in your play. The way it brought "The Great War" down from its historical heights and cliches to the voices of suffering people was so poignant. The idea of choosing a single grave from a cemetery so you can feel it was such a rich one and really representative of what you've done so well. We are coming back for more!" L. Kingstone

"de Deney's piece is a powerful story, delivered in a masterful way. It's insightful, it's sad, and at times it's even funny." M. Carandini

"Great story. Thought-provoking and moving - what more do you want from an evening out?" S. Williams



If you'd like to talk to us about booking *Between the Lines* please call on 07958 673543 or email us on [btl@newcompany.org.uk](mailto:btl@newcompany.org.uk)

"A rich, moving performance, deeply impressive in its variety." – T. Osborn

"Your central character vividly evokes life in the trenches and you tell his story with humour and horror. I was gripped." – Rachel, Hackney

"Came in exhausted after a day's work, went out renewed with vigour and passion. Reminded of Peter Brooks "The Empty Space", returned to what theatre really is – you only need the actor. How did he do that? The magic of acting. There was magic in this performance and you could see the first world war cemetery and the half dozen characters



who had a role in the story. Gripped from the very beginning by this original conception which uses the poetry of the day to paint the social context." C. Denning

"I thought that Simon de Deney's solo show was a tour de force. Cleverly interweaving WW1 and modern characters, poetry and moving reminiscences, this little gem packed a powerful emotional punch for me. I still can't quite come to terms with the fact that he was responsible for all of it. Everything." J. Clinch

"I just want to say it was an honour to have watched your show. I was made to laugh, cry, reminisce. The play was a real roller coaster of emotion which came through the poetry. I feel you took everyone with you on the very believable journey through Joe's life and left us all wanting more." P. Pearce

"I'm amazed by the sheer courage to get up and do something like that, but double congratulations for writing something so moving and beautiful and thought provoking." P. Kingstone

### **About New Company**

New Company aims to produce innovative work, involving new writers, designers and directors. The creative team on each project is mentored by well established professionals. Mentors include playwrights and directors, Alan Ayckbourn, Peter Gill, West End producers Peter Wilson and Thelma Holt, stage designers Bob Crowley and Michael



Vale and lighting designers Paule Constable and Simon Corder.

### **Reviews for New Company's previous productions**

PONIES & SCOTCH AND WATER: Time Out (Critic's Choice) "Simon de Deney's beautifully paced production... A bracingly irreverent, emotionally gripping evening." Independent (Top 5 plays) "...this sharp double bill... comes across with a disconcerting immediacy in Simon de Deney's atmospheric, well-acted productions."

BROKEN VOICES: Guardian (★★★★) "an astonishingly bold idea from a young, unsubsidised company"

LATE FRAGMENT: Daily Telegraph "Simon de Deney's staging grips like a malign hallucination. Unexpectedly well worth a look."

If you'd like to talk to us about booking Between the Lines please call on 07958 673543 or email us on [btl@newcompany.org.uk](mailto:btl@newcompany.org.uk)