

STORYHOUSE

Shoot/
Get
Treasure/
Repeat

BY MARK RAVENHILL

Directed by Jen Tan

Performed by Storyhouse Young Company (SYC)

Introduction

The content of *Shoot/Get treasure/Repeat* may be challenging for some audience members. This document contains information about the performance in order to give you an idea of what to expect when attending and support with your visit to Storyhouse.

Please note that by discussing the content of the show, the below information will contain key plot points and descriptions of what happens in the performance.

All of the information in this document was correct at the time of publishing.

This guide includes:

- Content and production warnings
- Synopsis
- Running time and timings
- Venue information
- Helplines and support

Content warnings

Shoot/Get Treasure/Repeat is an epic cycle of 16 short plays written by Mark Ravenhill, examining the personal and political effect of war on modern life. Each of the plays is named after an existing classical work. The plays are lightly connected, but can be performed in any combination or order.

In this production, SYC will be performing 4 of the plays: *War of the Worlds*, *Twilight of the Gods*, *The Mother* and *The Odyssey*.

Content Warnings

The play contains scenes of a violent nature, themes of war, the discussion of grief, offensive language, sex, death and references to cancer, sexual harassment and suicide.

For more information about when these moments occur during the performance, please read the synopsis and timings.

Production Warnings

The play contains haze, smoking and simulated vomiting, choking, fighting, blood and urination.

War of the Worlds

Synopsis

The play begins with a chorus (multiple performers) expressing their dismay after a city has been bombed.

Several chorus members describe the difficulty of finding ways to express their grief. They gather to take a group photo, whilst a video of a bomb exploding plays behind them. They lay black flowers in front of the video screen, and find ways to share their grief.

The chorus hold hands whilst a montage of real-life images of scenes of war and the casualties of war plays, accompanied by music.

The chorus members then try to move on with their lives, but find it hard to forget about the war and bombing. They discuss the significance of right and wrong, good and evil, and the core values of freedom and democracy.

The chorus begins to laugh hysterically, and use offensive and explicit language to describe the victims of the attack, before apologising for the outburst. One of the chorus members requests that the videos are played again, so that they can go back to feeling sad.

The chorus members decide by consensus to retaliate to the attacks by going to war. One of the chorus members uses explicit language to express their anger, before they collectively express their relief that they were not the ones to be bombed. The chorus describe how they get on with their lives, despite the ongoing war.

A man enters drenched in blood. He holds up a knife and asks one of the Chorus members to manually resuscitate his heart, but they do not. He dies.

The play ends with a chorus member trying their best to forget about everything going on, and focus on having a "lovely day".

Twilight of the Gods

Synopsis

The names of the characters in this play are Jane and Susan.

Susan is very hungry and repeatedly asks Jane when she will get her breakfast. She explains that there is very little food in the area in which she is living, and Jane assures her that she will make a note of it. Susan asks Jane if she can have some of Jane's breakfast, but Jane refuses.

Jane explains that she is meeting with Susan in order to write a report. Susan continues to express her frustration at being hungry. Susan proceeds to take a bite of Jane's breakfast roll, and then begins to choke on it. Jane gives her some coffee to wash it down, and encourages Susan to chew slowly. She explains that people who haven't eaten for a long time must have food gradually reintroduced to them.

Susan asks Jane for some more coffee, and describes having dreams about coffee, as well as her life and routine before the war. They argue about privilege, and Susan continues to ask for more coffee. Eventually, Jane agrees and Susan is allowed to take a few sips of coffee.

Jane promises that if Susan helps her with the report, she will be given a supervised breakfast. Susan remembers the joy of cooking and eating food. Jane is keen to get on with the report, and threatens to withhold Susan's breakfast if she does not cooperate. Susan asks Jane what the purpose of the report is, and Jane eventually admits that it is so that the "intervening forces" can get some feedback on their work.

The Mother

Synopsis

The characters in this play are Haley, Female Soldier and Male Soldier.

Two soldiers arrive at the home of Haley, to tell her of the death of her son. She consistently interrupts them before they can finish speaking. She lights a cigarette and offers one to the Female Soldier.

Haley teases and insults the Soldiers, before offering them breakfast. She continues to interrupt them, has outbursts of anger and encourages them to fight with her. Eventually, she is restrained by the Male Soldier. She breaks free from him and moves around the room like an animal.

The Male Soldier finally begins to inform her about the death of her son, and she bites him on the nose. The Male Soldier is very angry about this and insults Haley. After a while, she calms down and apologises. She instructs the Female Soldier to bring her some sanitising equipment, and uses this to wash the Male Soldier's wounds. Eventually, the Male Soldier informs Haley of the death of her son.

Haley begins to interrogate the Female Soldier about whether or not she plans to have children, and they have an argument about motherhood and bringing children into the world. Haley spends a lot of time looking for the television remote control, and begins to watch breakfast television. She talks about why she enjoys breakfast television. The Soldiers leave and Haley continues to watch the television.

The Odyssey

Synopsis

In this play, a chorus of soldiers prepare to return home. The convoys are ready to leave and the Soldiers start daydreaming of everyday life at home. They optimistically look to the future and hope they will make an impact on the country they are leaving.

The troops introduce their “last gift” for the oppressed people: the Dictator. He is brought on stage and makes a statement in which he apologises for all the pain he has caused and prays for punishment.

He kneels down and the chorus begins to kick him to death, as he thanks them. Male members of the chorus urinate on the dictator’s body as he lays unconscious, while women from the chorus apply make-up to his face. He is dead.

As the troops carelessly turn to fantasising about going back to civilization, a soldier makes the announcement that the battle is not over yet: the army can’t go back home because they need to invade yet another country in order to free it from oppression and spread freedom and democracy further across the world.

While the troops loudly protest, a young boy enters the stage. He explains that he is learning the core values and calls for more action and more battles to “bring good to the world,” encouraging the soldiers to continue fighting.

All the characters leave, while the dead dictator lies on the floor.

Timings

Running Time

75 minutes without an interval (approx.)

Timings of Content/Production Warnings

Please note the timings below are all approximate.

War of the Worlds

Throughout: offensive and explicit language

1 minute: sound of a bomb blast, explicit description of an injured man covered in blood, and a doctor attempting to manually resuscitate their heart

2 minutes: reference to cancer, reference to sex, discussion of grief

3 minutes: reference to photos of dead people, bombing, images of explosions

4 minutes: a montage of images of war and the casualties of war

5 minutes: discussions and descriptions of death

7 minutes: repeated montage of images of war and the casualties of war, reference to cancer

9 minutes: description of a dead child, with a serious head injury. Simulated blood. Depiction of death.

Twilight of the Gods

Throughout: offensive and explicit language

3 minutes: simulated choking, references to death and suicide

7 minutes: reference to sexual harassment and simulation of choking and suffocation.

8 minutes: simulation of vomiting/ death.

The Mother

Throughout: offensive and very explicit language

1 minute: references to mental illness and cancer

4-5 minutes: simulated fighting

6 minutes: blood

7 minutes: reference to death

9 minutes: reference to sex

The Odyssey

2 minutes: offensive (anti-Semitic) language

4 minutes: offensive language and simulated fighting, urination, blood and death.

5 minutes: description of a headless soldier

7 minutes: reference to torture

8 minutes: reference to suicide

Help and Support

If you are affected by the content of *Shoot/ Get Treasure/Repeat* and would like to talk to someone after watching, here are a list of charities who can support you.

PAW (People Affected by War) – Helps people who have had their lives torn by war.

pawcharity.org.uk 07886 951269

Help For Heroes supports veterans and their families with life-changing support, no matter when or where they served.

helpforheroes.org.uk 0300 303 9888

Samaritans - provides emotional support to anyone in emotional distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide.

samaritans.org 08457 90 90 90

Bereavement Help Point at Storyhouse – a volunteer led support group for anyone who is bereaved or supporting someone who is bereaved.

storyhouse.com/whats-on/bereavement-help-point/

Child Bereavement UK supports those grieving for a child of any age, offering resources, support and guidance.

childbereavementuk.org/grieving-for-a-child-of-any-age
0800 0288 840

Macmillan Cancer Support offers free confidential support to people living with cancer and their loved ones.

macmillan.org.uk 0808 808 0000

Chester Sexual Abuse Support Service is a friendly team of people working with sexual abuse survivors to help them feel supported and safe.

csass.org.uk 0808 2840 484

Venue Information

Storyhouse is located in the centre of Chester – just next door to New Chester Market and Chester Cathedral – within easy reach from local transport hubs and just a short walk away from all city centre locations.

Our building is open for all, 7 days a week – and we pride ourselves on creating an accessible and welcoming hub for our local community to work, study, socialise and collaborate.

The performance will be located in the Garret Theatre on the fourth floor of the building.

For a visual guide of Storyhouse, please click [here](#).

