

MEDIA ADVISORY

MODERN WARRIOR LIVE, A THEATRICAL PRESENTATION OF A COMBAT SOLDIER'S JOURNEY, ANNOUNCES NOVEMBER 8th AND 9th DEBUT PERFORMANCES IN CLEVELAND

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“This project is an ideal vehicle for educating the public about life in the military in an engaging way and shines a light on the hurdles facing veterans upon returning from service and transitioning to civilian life.”

Dan McSweeney, President, United War Veterans Council

“Modern Warrior reminds veterans they are not victims and can use their experiences to grow and make significant contributions to society.”

Anthony Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs (2001 - 2005)

CLEVELAND, OHIO, October 18, 2017 - *Modern Warrior Live*, a theatrical music experience co-created by Clevelanders United States Army Veteran **Jaymes Poling** and musician **Dominick Farinacci**, will be performed for the first time for the general public on November 8th and 9th at the Simon And Rose Mandel Theatre (Tri-C Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Road, Highland Hills, OH 44122) at 7:30 pm both nights. The show explores the psychological weights of war, the challenges of reintegration as a civilian, and the potential for positive personal and communal growth. Legendary News Anchor (WEWS News 5 in Cleveland, OH) & Vietnam Veteran Leon Bibb will introduce the program.

Poling, a former infantry Staff Sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division who spent three years in Afghanistan, narrates the autobiographical production detailing his time in the military and his subsequent transition to civilian life back home. It's complemented by dynamic musical performances by Farinacci (Mack Avenue recording artist and former Global Ambassador, Jazz at Lincoln Center) leading an esteemed band featuring Christian Tamburr (piano & vibraphone), Jamey Haddad (percussion), Chris George (guitar), Jeremiah Napier (bass), Jonathan Winfree (drums), and vocalists Geoffrey Golden (November 8th only), Shenel Johns, Will Blaze, and Orlando Watson.

The ***Modern Warrior*** initiative builds bridges between veteran and civilian communities through live performances, collaborative workshops, and informative panel discussions. By focusing on stories of post-traumatic growth, the team aims to help destigmatize our veterans' experiences through a deeper understanding from the community and by providing inspirational hope for all.

“By focusing on the relatable human experiences, we are able to build and strengthen commonalities between the civilian and veteran communities. This gives us a common starting point as we work to combat social implications of the PTS stigma, encourage communication between veterans and their loved ones and explore pathways to Post-Traumatic Growth,” stated co-creator Poling.

Concerning the integration of his composed score and the accompanying arrangements, Farinacci adds, “Music is an expression of the human condition and has always been that common ground between communities. Bringing together a powerful story through the lens of music, we want to help develop a better informed and empathetic community, nurturing a deeper culture of support.”

The United War Veterans Council, an organization dedicated to honoring, supporting, and serving America's veterans, and producer of the New York Veterans Day Parade, is also a presenting sponsor. UWVC President Dan McSweeney noted, “We are honored to partner with *Modern Warrior* to help bring awareness to PTS while at the same time, recognizing the potential for growth in adversity. This project is an ideal vehicle for educating the public about life in the military in an engaging way and shines a light on the hurdles facing veterans upon returning from service and transitioning to civilian life.”

This debut follows months of preparation capped by a recent September private workshop preview at Playhouse Square in Cleveland for family, friends, and supporters. Additional performances to kick off a global tour are scheduled in Chicago (11/11), Easton MD (11/18), and Dallas (12/15), and NYC (January 2018).

A preview video can be viewed at https://youtu.be/D_hM0Y_Q1pU with tickets and additional information available at www.modernwarriorlive.com

DATE: WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AND 9TH

TIME: 7:30 PM

**PLACE: SIMON AND ROSE MANDEL THEATRE, Tri-C Eastern Campus,
4250 Richmond Road, Highland Hills, OH 44122**

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