

# THE ART OF WAR

## THE ART OF WAR

By **Yvette Nolan**

Directed by **Keith Barker**

## GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 7+

## CONTENT ADVISORY

This performance contains scenes of violence and war including startling sounds and prop firearms. There is some minimal coarse language.

[Please see the show page for a detailed audience advisory.](#)

## SYNOPSIS

Nick is a young Canadian artist sent to the front lines of the Second World War to capture in paint the experiences of the young nation's soldiers. Though he wears the uniform of the Canadian army, Nick is set apart from the other men by his unique role as chronicler and eyewitness to the carnage. What Nick observes—what he documents through paint—will transform not only himself, but Canada's idea of itself in the emerging postwar world.

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

### GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Global Competencies: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Innovation and Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Global Citizenship and Sustainability

### GRADES 7-8

- The Arts
- Language
- Social Studies, History, and Geography

### GRADES 9-12

- The Arts
- Canadian and World Studies
- English
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies
- Health and Physical Education

### GRADES 11-12

- Social Sciences and Humanities

### POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Drama and Theatre, English, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, Global Studies, History, Human Rights, Indigenous Studies, Peace Studies, Social Justice, Teacher Education

## THEMES

- Art as Essential to Humanity
- Bearing Witness
- The Cost of War
- Duty and Obligation
- Friendship and Solidarity
- Grief, Trauma and Survival
- Indigenous Worldviews
- Interconnection and Cycles of History
- The Nature of and our Relationship to Time
- The Role of the Artist
- Transformation and Resilience
- Truth and Fiction
- War and Peace
- World War II

## DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why might an artist choose to work as a “war artist”? What might war artists create and capture that cannot be done through reporting or journalism?
- Do you think works of fiction, such as *The Art of War*, are more compelling than non-fiction when it comes to stories of war and peace? Why or why not? Explain your position.
- The play focuses on the cost and horrors of war, and the role of artists in bearing and sharing witness. Do you think art created to document or in response to war can shift people's beliefs and actions about violence and armed conflict? Why or why not?

## STUDY GUIDES

[View](#) all 2025 Shorts and Study Guides for selected 2025 plays along with those from previous seasons free of charge.



[Stratford Public Library's 2025 Season Reading Lists](#)

## BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS AND CHATS

### STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 3
- Thursday, September 18
- Tuesday, September 23
- Thursday, September 25
- Friday, September 26

### WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing [educate@stratfordfestival.ca](mailto:educate@stratfordfestival.ca)

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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