
Veterans Repertory Theater Announces Its Latest Savage WonderGround Immersive Show - GHOST STORY

For immediate release



Boston, MA – On Tuesday, October 31st, 2023, at 7:00 PM, [Veterans Repertory Theater](#) (VetRep) will present its latest [Savage WonderGround](#) immersive art show titled GHOST STORY - an extraordinary journey into the world of spoken word, music, and visual art. The venue, a private location, is located just half a block from Boston Commons. For exact location details, an RSVP is required.

GHOST STORY is an intimate and immersive Halloween-themed party that winds its way through three floors of shocking, tender, and riveting spoken word, musical, and visual art performances from professional, New England-based veteran artists.

Following the performance, sponsor, [Second Mission Foundation](#) will launch Ayman Kafel's book, [THE RESOLUTE PATH](#). There will be an open bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Dress code:

- **Gentlemen:** Jacket or Costume
- **Ladies:** Business Attire or Costume

About the Show: This unique, one-night-only show, directed and curated by VetRep's Artistic Director Christopher Paul Meyer, weaves together the popular period horror writing of Army veteran [Nicholas Efstathiou](#) with poets Amy Sexauer, David Campisano, Ayman Kafel, and Benjamin Fortier - as well as Fortier's musical riffs and Dex's live painting - to transform a series of shocking ghost stories into thrilling, touching, and idiosyncratic explorations of horror, viewed through the eyes of artists with first-hand perspectives on mankind's darkest moments. Audiences should expect to follow a narrative told in music, spoken word, poetry, and visual art as they journey together through three floors of hauntingly appropriate private space.

About the show, Meyer stated, "We've wanted to travel to Boston for a while, given the number of talented veteran artists in the local area. To be able to build a show with so much rich material is a dream. Nick Efstathiou's writing is jarring and shocking, but when the audience hears it juxtaposed with such stunning poems about motherhood, loneliness, violence of action, or innocence lost, it transcends what people expect from the horror genre and becomes a thrilling, unexpected journey with a truly idiosyncratic perspective. And throwing in Ben Fortier's evocative metal riffs and Dex's live painting, the audience is going to have a three-dimensional view of horror that lives up to their

expectations. Whether it's an unforgettable date night or a spine-tingling adventure, you're not going to be disappointed."

Tickets are Limited and Free, but RSVP is Required. Interested attendees can secure reservations via a Google Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OJlugnnfRo69d2x21BhX1PtfFSCYUeuOXf7rCbaEYSg/edit>

PERFORMERS:



Amy Sexauer (poet) is the author of **POPPIES** published by Dead Reckoning Collective. She is a West Point graduate who spent nine years on active duty in Military Police and Psychological Operations units. She is currently in the Army Reserves.



Nicholas Efstathiou (storyteller) is a husband, father, teacher and writer living in New Hampshire. He previously served in the United States Army between 1994 and 1995. He has been published in a wide range of periodicals and journals, and he is a prolific ghostwriter. His own material tends to center around the paranormal and supernatural in the fictional town of Cross, Massachusetts. His fiction helps him cope with some of his PTSD. He is currently working with Dead Reckoning Collective to release a short novel centered on veterans and their experiences in combat.



Dave Campisano (storyteller, poet) joined the Army in 2001 and served in various light infantry units until his separation in 2016. In 2009, he passed Ranger School and was deployed with the Golden Dragons 2/14In, 10th Mountain Division to Iraq. After his honorable discharge in 2016, he attended Suffolk University in Boston where he majored in Finance. He is the founder of 22 Mohawks and lives in Millis, Ma.



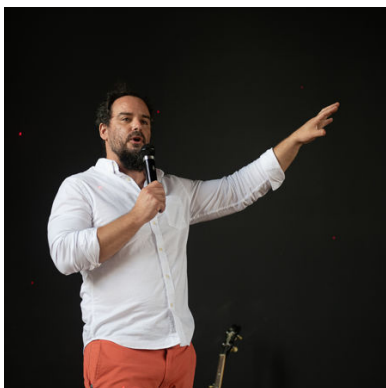
Ayman Kafel (poet) survived civil wars in Africa and Lebanon before immigrating to the United States in 1988. After witnessing the horrors of September 11, 2001, Ayman enlisted in the Army National Guard and deployed to Iraq in 2005. While there, he conducted over 30,000 miles of combat patrols and military missions. He coordinated and worked with various units in the Army due to his ability to speak Arabic. After returning from war and being medically discharged from the military, Ayman decided to continue serving his country and community by becoming a police officer, and he has been on the job for over 15 years. He went from uniformed patrol to the newly formed Problem-Oriented Policing Unit to Metro SWAT. He is a regular contributor to The Havok Journal, highlighting his unique experiences as an immigrant, a husband and parent, a war veteran, a police officer. His debut book is THE RESOLUTE PATH published by Second Mission Foundation.



Benjamin Fortier (poet, musician) was raised in rural Rhode Island and quickly found power in literature, music, and art. Recognized by his writing mentors for his exceptional authorship, he was bestowed with the honor of Class Poet from his graduating High School class. His third poetry collection, PHANTOMS has been published through Dead Reckoning Collective. The poems recount his time in the Marine Corps where he was deployed to Fallujah, Iraq with "New England's Own", 1st Battalion, 25th Marines. His work combines imagination, philosophy, and mysticism to confront the more difficult aspects of our shared human existence; suffering, loss, grief, and tragedy. Ben is also an accomplished musician.



Dex (live artist) is a poet, artist, and former USMC Military Police Officer. She also happens to be the Managing Producer at VetRep.



Christopher Paul Meyer (director) comes from three generations of theater performers. He is a graduate of Improv Olympic and the PIT and was “all but

dissertation” at Second City and then later at Upright Citizens Brigade when life interrupted each graduation. He performed as an actor at The Public Theater, La MaMa, Princeton Rep, Shakespeare on the Sound, Primary Stages, and the Chekov Theater Ensemble. If you remember him from *Guiding Light*, you seriously watch too much soap opera and should cut down a lot. As a stand-up comic, he was a regular at the Comic Strip, Standup NY, and the Original NY Improv. He also directed plays, had screenplays optioned, and lived out of his car for extended periods of time. He has spent significant parts of his life as a nightclub bouncer, firefighter, corporate security trainer, and prison chaplain. His time in the military was spent as a highly trained combat typist, which somehow ended up with him receiving a Bronze Star in Afghanistan. He has written one book, edited another, and is working on a third.

About Veterans Repertory Theater (VetRep): Veterans Repertory Theater is a tax-exempt, non-profit 501c3 organization which provides a platform for talented veterans to create compelling live theater and events. Coming from three generations of theater performers, Army veteran and Bronze Star recipient Christopher Paul Meyer founded VetRep following his separation from the military in February 2021. Through an ongoing series of playwrighting competitions, VetRep assesses, develops, and mentors talented writers who must be current or former military, law enforcement, fire/EMS, foreign service, intelligence service, DoD contractors/employees, or an immediate family member. VetRep’s programming includes weekly staged readings at VetRep’s Parlor in Cornwall, NY, **Savage WonderGround immersive art performances** at unique venues along the East Coast, **the Savage Wonder Festival of Veterans in the Arts**, and readings/workshops of veteran-authored world premiere plays, in advance of future productions. VetRep also holds acting and writing workshops in order to develop more veteran artists in each media. VetRep’s popular **Savage Wonder literary blog** and **Savage Wonder podcast** are both year-round productions. The literary blog focuses on veteran writers and poets, while the podcast features long-form, one-on-one conversations with veterans in a wide variety of artistic media. Veterans Repertory Theater prides itself on hiring veterans or immediate family members for all staff and leadership positions.

About Second Mission Foundation:

The Second Mission Foundation (SMF) is a non-profit organization that exists to educate, elevate, and advocate for members of America’s Service Community in order to help them find their “second mission” after government service. The Second Mission Foundation assists veterans of America’s Service Community in the search for their “second mission” by providing the opportunity for them to tell their stories, reach their goals, and make their voices heard through educational outreach, entrepreneurship support, and community involvement. SMF was started by Charles Faint. Published in a number of blogs and professional journals, Charles’ most significant publication is co-authorship of the book *Violence of Action: The Untold Stories of the 75th Ranger Regiment in the War on Terror*. He was also the editor-in-chief of West Point’s *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, is the owner of the military-themed blog The Havok Journal. Charles currently serves as the Chair for the Study of Special Operations and an assistant professor in the Defense and Strategic Studies program at the Modern War

Institute at West Point. A retired military intelligence officer, Charles served in a variety of units, including the 2nd Infantry Division, the 5th Special Forces Group, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and the Joint Special Operations Command.

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Veterans Repertory Theater Presents

Savage Wonderground
Ghost Story

AN IMMERSIVE PERFORMANCE FEATURING
SPOKEN WORD, LIVE ART, AND MUSIC

