



Written by **Rob Gee**. Directed by **Ryan Gladstone**.

Performed by **Rob Gee** and **Jon Paterson**.

Sound design: **Rob Gee** and **Jon Paterson**. Lighting design: **Jon Paterson**

Warnings: adult language, drug references. **Audience classification:** Parental Guidance 14+

Two old men escape from a care home and go to a metal festival...

Cyril doesn't like old people, which is a shame because he is one. When he learns his estranged granddaughter, Lily, has her big break with her thrash metal band, Abscess, he and his friend Neville are determined to show up and support her. Neither of them will ever be the same again.

Running through AWOL is the theme that we can still have plenty to offer many years after retirement. It's a celebration of taking risks and the joy of unexpected surprises.

Leicester-based comic, poet and former mental health nurse **Rob Gee** wrote the show after reading a news item from Germany: "It turned out not to be true, but it inspired me to write a buddy movie-style adventure caper with a positive message about ageing. It's also a love letter to metalheads!"

Rob has performed over a hundred fringe festivals across the world and won over twenty awards for his solo shows. Fringe hits include *SmartArse* ("Be prepared to be blown away" Canadian Broadcasting Corporation ★★★★★) and *Forget Me Not: The Alzheimer's Whodunnit* ("Hilarious and heartbreaking" Victoria Times ★★★★★).

Stuart Tavendale trained at The School of the Arts Northampton. He most recently appeared in New Old Friends production *A Christmas Getaway*, a national tour of *Sense and Sensibility* as Edward Ferrars and as George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*. Past credits include *The 39 Steps*, Netflix's *Luther* and the BBC'S *Years and Years*.

Rob said, "Working on this show with Stuart has been a delight and we've had so much fun developing the characters. If we'd been at school, they'd never have allowed us to sit together."

Ryan Gladstone is artistic director of Monster Theatre and creator of numerous fringe hits, including *Til Death* and *Juliet: A Revenge Comedy*. ("A natural comedian" Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.) He lives in Vancouver.

AWOL debuted at Winnipeg and Edmonton Fringe Festivals in Canada this summer, selling out all ten shows at a 140 seat venue in Winnipeg and the last five shows in a 310 seat venue in Edmonton. It proved particularly popular with older people and metalheads alike!

"Comedy gold... a pleasure to watch from start to finish." Edmonton Journal, Alberta ★★★★★

- ends -

For more information please contact Rob Gee, rob@robgee.co.uk, robgee.co.uk, (+44) 7980 996258. For social media: @robgeepoetry. For downloadable images click [here](#).