

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**This Evil Thing, a critically-acclaimed play about conscientious objectors,
to be performed at 15th Street Quaker meetinghouse**

*Free performance will be followed by a panel discussion
with leaders from conscientious objectors movement*

[February 28, 2018; New York, NY] New York City-area Quakers are hosting a free performance of **This Evil Thing**, a one-man play by Michael Mears, at **7pm on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at the 15th Street Meetinghouse at 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY**. A panel discussion will follow, featuring Mears, Bill Galvin from the Center on Conscience and War, and Dan Seeger, the US conscientious objector whose case before the Supreme Court expanded the number of American citizens qualified for classification as conscientious objectors to military service.

Michael Mears says that his play "explores the courage it took to be a pacifist in the First World War, one hundred years ago, following two men in particular: Bert Brocklesby, a young schoolteacher, and preacher at his local Methodist church; and Bertrand Russell, one of the greatest philosophers of his time. With military conscription still in force in many countries today, and prisoners of conscience still languishing in jails, the questions posed by **This Evil Thing** are as relevant and urgent as they were one hundred years ago."

The play had its world premiere at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where Mears received a Fringe-First Award. Newspapers gave it four-star reviews with comments like "A moving and dynamic retelling of a hidden story" (*The List*) and "An inspirational and disturbing work" - (*Festmag*). (*links with full attribution and further reviews available at michaelmears.org/what-the-papers-say/*)

About New York Yearly Meeting and 15th Street Meeting

New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is the denominational organization comprising the Quaker meetings (congregations) in New York State, northern New Jersey, and southwestern Connecticut. Established in 1695, New York Yearly Meeting has approximately 3,400 members. 15th Street Meeting is a Quaker congregation housed in a historic meetinghouse in Manhattan. For more about the Yearly Meeting, visit www.nyym.org or call 212-673-5750. For more on 15th Street Meeting, visit fifteenth.quaker.org.

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