

# Adelaide Fringe review

**Damian Callinan in 'The Lost WW1 Diary' – Katie Spain – The Advertiser**

**Comedy \*\*\*\*\***

**Bakehouse Theatre, until March 15**

Some performances move you with such force they're in your thoughts well after the theatre lights dim and you've left the venue. This is one of them.

Comedian Damian Callinan delivers a laugh-packed show about a very serious topic — war. Based on the discovery of a diary in a Warrnambool op-shop, it is the story of Paddy, a young Australian who sets off to serve in World War One.

His journey broaches rocky waters, the blood-soaked shore of Gallipoli, loss, love and the endearing larrikin nature of young lads far from home.

Callinan moves between soldiers with convincing characterisation, deft use of black humour and an impressive collection of vintage headgear.

His self-confessed obsession with war, deep respect for the Anzacs and extensive research make this a respectful tribute to history and those lost. Audience interaction is faultless.

We laughed, we gasped and wiped tears from our eyes. Memorable, moving, brilliant.

**Katie Spain**