



Justin Schafer plays intrepid photographer Sam Lockhart in *Sam's Spiel*, a one-person play that takes place on a heritage trolley. CONTRIBUTED/DANNY SCHUR

Heritage trolley takes 1919 strike play on the road

Sam's Spiel. One-person play carries audience to locations where iconic photos were taken



BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

Historical images from the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike are hitting the road inside a heritage trolley and with an intrepid photographer of the era as guide.

This is the latest production offered by Winnipeg playwright Danny Schur.

"My brain is chock full of general-strike history," said Schur, who produced *Strike the Musical*. "I've seen every single picture of the strike, except last year while researching for my documentary, I

came across a new one that I'd never seen before and wondered who took it.

"I think it was Sam Lockhart but I'm not sure."

What Schur was sure about was that he had enough material to create *Sam's Spiel*, a one-person play featuring Lockhart.

Lockhart acts as guide on what became known as Bloody Saturday to the audience on the Winnipeg Trolley Company's orange-and-cream-coloured streetcar, which stops at important locations where photographs were taken and where Lockhart shares the history.

Schur said many photographers of the time knew that by getting a great picture on the wire, they'd receive a nice payout. If not, they ended up working for nothing.

"They were the first paparazzi," said Schur. "The bet-

ter the picture they took, the more it was published and the more money they received."

The play, added Schur, is at its heart about the importance of a free press in a democratic society.

"Unbeknownst to them, they became citizen watchdogs," he said. "In the end, what they became is recorders of events that the government of the day didn't want recorded."

Justin Schafer, 23, who plays Lockhart, said he researched for his role by looking into the history of the strike, the era, and even previous historical events that provide a surprise for the audience.

"It's great, it's really interesting and it's got a neat twist," said Schafer, adding as a hint that Lockhart is not "quite who he seems to be."

Schafer, who recently

Wanna get on board?

- The shows take place on Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, July 15 at 1 p.m.
- Tickets, which are going fast as the capacity is only 32, are available by calling 226-TOUR (8687).

graduated from the theatre and film program at the University of Winnipeg, said the biggest challenge for him as an actor in this role will be the trolley itself.

"I've rehearsed on the trolley a bit but it hasn't been moving, so that will be interesting to try it when it's moving," Schafer said with a chuckle.

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