



TOM LAWLOR

## **THEATER** **ONLY ONE SOLDIER** **MARCHES ONSTAGE**

LAURA COLLINS-  
HUGHES

▶ Tommo Peaceful is 15 and frightened when a sergeant major and some soldiers march through his British town, looking for recruits. The Great War has begun, and the trenches are hungry for reinforcements — minimum age 19. “They don’t want boys,” his older brother Charlie tells him, but when Charlie volunteers, Tommo joins, pretending they’re twins. And so the Peaceful brothers march off to France.

Shane O'Regan  
in the solo play  
“Private Peaceful.”

“Private Peaceful,” a solo play adapted by Simon Reade from the children’s novel by Michael Morpurgo (“War Horse”), is the story of the brothers’ lives, as remembered by Tommo over one long night. In previews for an opening on Thursday at the TBG Mainstage Theater, Mr. Reade directs Shane O'Regan in the role.

The show will travel to Easton, Pa. (Oct. 10); Philadelphia (Oct. 11-13); Chicago (Oct. 17-Nov. 11); and Austin, Tex. (Nov. 15-16). One caution, though: A rave review in Ireland’s Sunday Independent noted that the performance may be too scary for children.