

Courage, Connaught Studio, Union Place, Worthing, Thursday, September 10



Ross Muir in Courage

[Barrie Jerram](#) / Friday 11 September 2015 / [The Critic](#)

Following on from his highly successful Oscar Wilde show, Ross Muir returns to deliver another mesmerising tour de force solo performance.

This time he pays homage to another great literary figure – Sir J M Barrie.

Adapted from an address that he gave to the students of St Andrews University and supplemented from his writings, Barrie's life, perhaps lesser known than that of Wilde, unfolds. And what a fascinating revelation it is.

One of ten siblings he stood for a long time in the shadow of his elder brother David who died young.

Eventually he coaxed his mother out of her grief and it was she who encouraged him to write.

Like Peter Pan he never grew up and it was no surprise that his marriage was not a success – "I am still a boy and boys cannot love".

It was the child in him that bonded him with the Llewelyn Davies boys – the inspiration for his play, Peter Pan.

Muir's characterisation is incredible as he captures the spirit of the man. It's all there – the shyness and self-deprecation; the love for his mother, the strong affection for Sylvia Llewelyn Davies and her children for whom he became a surrogate father.