



MARK GLENTWORTH's
true story musical

SEVEN
AND A HALF
YEARS

SEVEN and a half YEARS

*Success. Despair.
A new beginning.*

Mark Glentworth was at the height of a successful music career and then he lost it all. Suffering a breakdown, he spent SEVEN and a half YEARS in isolation, firstly inside a psychiatric unit and then inside his own home, existing on just a single sandwich every day from his corner shop. But eventually, he made it back to his family, to the world, and to music.

Witness an extraordinary true story as Mark shares his moving, darkly humorous, and uplifting journey through music and storytelling in this award-winning, OffFest-nominated solo show.

With SEVEN and a half YEARS, Mark's aim is to promote engagement and debate about contemporary social issues by sharing his life-affirming story with audiences in an entertaining and informative way. As he says,

"This isn't a show about being sick, it's about healing yourself."





At the age of 16, MARK GLENTWORTH was one of the youngest students to study percussion at the Royal Northern College of Music. It was during his time as a student that he composed his world-renowned vibraphone solo Blues for Gilbert which has gone on to become the most performed, recorded and studied solo tuned percussion piece of all time. Mark has also worked with Sir John Gielgud, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies on his Fires of London, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta, and the Hallé Orchestra.

Mark has travelled the world with his long-term collaborator, the celebrated actor/writer Steven Berkoff, performing his musical scores to many of his acclaimed theatre productions. This has included several tours to Japan, also Australia, many countries in Europe and Scandinavia. During his collaboration with Steven Berkoff, Mark was part of Kafka's Metamorphosis with Tim Roth and Sink The Belgrano! at the Mermaid Theatre, Coriolanus at the Edinburgh Festival, Kafka's The Trial at the National Theatre, and Greek and On The Waterfront in the West End.

MARK GLENTWORTH
composer/musician



SEVEN and a half YEARS began its life at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2021, where from its short premiere run there was awarded BEST MUSICAL Runner-Up by Musical Theatre Review in their Edinburgh Festival Fringe Awards.

Then in spring 2022, Mark wanted to bring the show to his local venue in southeast London, the Jack Studio Theatre, and through her role as Artistic and Literary Associate there, Mark met director JULIA STUBBS. They began collaborating before the show's run at the Jack Studio and found that working on the piece together produced an extremely creative partnership.

Having developed their version of the show in London, it then headed to the first Chelmsford Fringe Festival in July and the 75th Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August. Now, having created a new expanded version of the show for 2023, the musical is touring to venues and festivals across the UK.

The show's development and creative team

Press Reviews

★★★★★

“Glentworth is clearly an outstanding musician, and the music in the show – which switches seamlessly from prerecorded tracks to live piano and back again – is testament to his talent.... this is a really good piece of storytelling”

North West End UK

“It’s not very often you can say you saw something that really was that bit different... ‘Seven And A Half Years’ is not just unusual but an intensely personal piece that is both real and relevant... Mark Glentworth used music to progress the story but through fully crafted songs which were sophisticated and worthy of being performed by themselves... ‘Seven And A Half Years’ was a wonderfully creative piece that never slacked in pace using a variety of genres as a showcase for the multi-talents of the solo performer. It was something more however; a story that the performer felt he needed to tell and one that certainly deserved to be told.”

Reviewer Number 9

“Glentworth is a superb musician, and the score is complex and demanding.”

British Theatre Guide

“the script is well structured and tightly paced... Julia Stubbs, as director, has helped Glentworth to shape a fine acting performance... the raw material is strong and sophisticated, and work exploring the complicated human mind and what we are capable of overcoming is always a welcome addition to the theatrical canon.”

All That Dazzles



Press Reviews & Awards

OFFFEST NOMINATION

OffWestEnd nominee for shows at the Greater Manchester Fringe 2023

★★★★★

“polished performance... Since the short run of this show last year, a part of my memory was still wrapped up in this story... Welcome back to Edinburgh!”

Musical Theatre Review (2022)

“Glentworth is a talented composer and this shines through... It’s a beautiful tale of hope and mental health struggles.”

LOST IN TheatreIreland

★★★★★

“Glentworth rises to the challenge of the role magnificently... Directed by Julia Stubbs the result is a moving piece of theatre.”

ReviewsGate

★★★★★

“This is a biographical work like nothing else I have ever seen... Mark Glentworth was a successful musician, working as an associate of Steven Berkoff for many years, creating the scores for some of his most celebrated work such as Metamorphosis and Coriolanus. A master craftsman of a truly high pedigree, fulfilling his potential... this show tells his survivor’s story in an expression of hope... His sincerity and musicianship are luminous. There are several very well-crafted songs in the show: songs not only from the heart but touching the heart of the listeners.”

Musical Theatre Review (2021)

BEST MUSICAL Runner-Up

“a highly unusual biographical piece of musical theatre that is genuinely touching”

Musical Theatre Review Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2021 Awards



OFF
FEST
NOMINATION

Audience Reviews

“In *Seven and a Half Years* Mark Glentworth takes the audience on a journey to the depths of human adversity and back to a life-affirming conclusion. He presents his own story with powerful acting and singing while deftly accompanying himself on the piano. I left the theatre with hope that the most difficult problem can be overcome. This show is a tour de force, a must-see.”

“Absolutely brilliant and tear-jerking piece of musical theatre that deserves way more plaudits. Mark tells the story of his life in a unique, spell-binding and emotional way with perfect vocals and piano playing. Couldn't recommend it enough!”

“Wonderfully evocative, thoughtfully constructed and well presented on the night. This story of a man's struggle with his inner demons should teach us all something about the human condition. We felt the power of this personal story and were moved by it.”

“This was an amazing show with such a personal and beautiful story. The music was perfect for telling the story and you could feel the raw emotion in Mark's singing. Touches on some topics such as mental health that are too frequently dismissed in today's society. 10/10.”

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE, 2022



Show Information

- Genre: solo show, musical, drama, true story
- Availability: Touring from 2023
- Running time: 1 hour
- Post-Show Discussion: 15-20 minutes available
- Suitable for: Adults, 14+
- Content Information: Occasional strong language
- Insurance: Full public liability cover
- Target Audience: Socially conscious; Those interested in dramatic musicals or plays which use music to tell their story; Those interested in shows which explore a person's mental health and wellbeing; Those interested in shows that depict true stories; Those interested in solo shows performed by the writer
- Marketing angles for the show: The successful musical career of its writer/performer; Telling a true story by the writer/performer; Original live music and songs; Exploration of mental health and personal wellbeing; Depiction of personal value and self-esteem; Exploration of how someone can reclaim their voice/personal authority; Study of how a person can rediscover their self-worth
- Marketing materials: Press releases, A3 and A4 posters
- Show marketing on social media: @7andahalfyears on Twitter and /7andahalfyears on Facebook



Technical Information

- Minimum performance area: 3m x 3m
- Layout: Black box theatre/studio space, ideally end-on performance; can work in semi-thrust
- Set: 1 x small folding manual treadmill (Centre Stage Right); 1 x wooden folding chair (Upstage Centre); 1 x electric stage piano and folding piano stool (Centre Stage Left); 1 x tiny foldable wooden table (Downstage Centre); various props
- Lighting: Venue-dependent but ideally a rig which includes a selection of general states from which we can light the four specific areas of the set with the addition of a spotlight for the piano; we do require technical assistance to rig/focus and program the lighting in a venue which the company then operates for the show
- Sound: A PA sound system and the ability to connect to a computer running QLab to play the background music tracks and soundscape used in the show; we also have a mini mixer which controls the sound levels of the performer's mic and QLab
- Blackout needed: Yes
- Get-in & set up: 3 hours
- Get-out: 45 minutes
- Company: 1 x performer and 1 x stage manager/show operator
- Hospitality: If available, for 2 people





To discuss booking the show for your venue
please contact **MARK GLENTWORTH**

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MMGMUSIC
PRODUCTIONS