# Riveting Performance in 'Moffie': Exploring the Torment of a Gay Soldier



At Riverside Studios, London, Kai Luke Brümmer delivers a riveting performance in "Moffie," a one-man show adapted by Philip Rademeyer from André Carl van der Merwe’s 2006 novel. The production, running until June 30, 2024, explores the harrowing experiences of Nicholas van der Swart, a 17-year-old conscript in the South African Defence Force (SADF) during the late 1970s.

Set against the backdrop of a brutal border war and intense institutionalized homophobia, Nicholas grapples with concealing his sexuality to avoid brutal punishments. Alone on stage, Brümmer masterfully shifts between portraying Nicholas and various other characters, including fellow soldiers and drill sergeants, creating the sense of his tormentors being interconnected.

Previously starring as Nicholas in the 2019 film adaptation by Oliver Hermanus, Brümmer’s performance in this stage rendition is noted for its depth and complexity. The lighting by Niall Griffin and sound design by Charl-Johan Lingenfelder enhance the shifts in mood and period, contrasting Nicholas’s fantasies with harsh realities.

Under the direction of Greg Karvellas, the show powerfully conveys the psychological and emotional turmoil of its protagonist, providing both poignant and occasionally humorous moments amidst the distress.

*At Riverside Studios, London, until 30 June 2024.*