The Accidental Hero

Show Synopsis

* *Patrick Dwane -*

The Accidental Hero is a true World War Two story of jaw-dropping coincidences, plot twists, and triumph. Colonel Mat Konop thinks he’s just another soldier fighting Nazi Germany. Then in the last week of the war his story turns epic when he accidentally liberates the same Czech towns where his grandparents once lived. Konop grew up speaking Czech on a farm in Wisconsin, and the Czechs were shocked to be liberated by, in their words, “one of our own.” His surname was common to the region, and some of those who carried him on their shoulders as their “liberator” were blood relatives. Yet they also liberated him, freeing him from his mixed feelings about his humble farming background. It’s the American immigration story folded back on itself, set in the triumphant end of World War Two.

Konop’s grandson wrote and performs the show. Konop rarely talked about the war when he was alive. Then twenty years after his death his long-lost autobiography was discovered, along with home movies he took during the war. The result is a first-person, multi-media one-man show that has wowed audience across the US and Europe. An annual Czech tour has earned awards, accolades, and a new generation of fans for a magical true story about freedom, family and the ultimate question – who am I, anyway?



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