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FringeReview OUTSTANDING SHOW

ENGLAND, NOVEMBER, 2026

NEW BOOK: **'ROGUE SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS - LESSON III - COMPASSION'**

"Smith's greatest achievement is to surpass Lope De Vega" - **Times Literary Supplement**

Shattering all previous records by an unfathomable margin, the critically acclaimed, multiple award-winning, and internationally renowned poet and verse playwright, Ryan J-W Smith, is slowly releasing a remarkable demonstration of a poet's absolute mastery of his craft via his epic series, Rogue Shakespeare's Sonnets - Truth in Verse**,** which contains 2,702 of Smith's original personal/spiritual/political/philosophical/educational sonnets. Written as the spiritual verse diary of his alter ego, 'Rogue Shakespeare', from November 2007 through to September 11, 2024, Smith's unique historical account spans life in England, Florida, Australia, New York, California, Denmark, France and Spain. The latest book in Smith's acclaimed poetic series, Rogue Shakespeare's Sonnets - Lesson III - Compassion, containing sonnets 1,001-1,500 will be released on December 1st, 2026.

"Much like the historic diaries of Samuel Pepys, Smith's work captures a detailed picture of the contemporary world. However, this masterpiece goes beyond a standard historical record. Written in strict rhyming iambic pentameter, the collection is intensely political, unflinchingly personal, and eerily prophetic, challenging the modern global order while exposing the artist's inner soul."
The Table Read Magazine

Bathing himself in the traditions of the Hellenic Empire, in particular the Stoic pursuit of happiness through virtue, Smith committed himself to an almost daily ritual of recording, with quasi-religious zeal, his thoughts, emotions, desires, fears, philosophy, politics, actions, relationships - everything - into his sonnets, with exquisite eloquence, even when describing the mundanity of the quotidian. And the entire enterprise, by his own words, was to force himself to become a better man by entreating the universe to school him in the ancient virtues of the Greeks and their peers. Thus, instead of 'chapters', we find Smith has divided his poems reflectively into 'lessons'. In Part One (released July 2026) he received lessons in the virtues of 'Courage' (sonnets 1-500) and 'Humility' (sonnets 501-1000). His journey continues thus with lessons in the virtues of Compassion (sonnets 1001-1500), Love (sonnets 1500-2000), Death/Rebirth (sonnets 2001-2200), and Fortitude (sonnets 2201-2700).

★★★★★

"What makes the project compelling is how Smith uses a centuries-old form to process modern anxieties. Politics, spirituality, relationships, ambition, mortality — it's all here, filtered through the rhythm and discipline of the Shakespearean sonnet. The clash between tradition and contemporary life gives the work its spark. The Bard would be proud."
Voice Magazine

With every major and minor step of his life recorded in his unique verse, Smith demonstrates exactly how to negotiate and travel the immense and unpredictable path of discipline and virtue, to the ultimate spiritual goal: self-mastery and enlightenment. Deep down, this is the sacred journey we all wish to take in our lives. Follow Rogue's rhyming path to truth - and in time, readers will surely make it their own. *Nosce te ipsum.*

Rogue Shakespeare's Sonnets - Truth in Verse - Lesson III - Compassion
Direct from publisher: HERE / Waterstones: HERE / Foyles: HERE / Amazon: HERE
Author info: www.rogueshakespeare.com / PRESS PAGE: https://www.rogueshakespeare.com/press

FFI, a review copy of the book, or to arrange an interview with Ryan, contact: agents@thetalentscout.org

FURTHER PRESS FOR

Rogue Shakespeare's Sonnets - Truth in Verse - Part I:
The Path to Enlightenment in the Brave New World

"Rogue Shakespeare's Sonnets – Truth in Verse – is a masterclass in poetry… a 17 year secret diary which is both political and personal as Smith challenges the norm with his artistic genius."
– Our Man on the Ground Magazine

"Smith has become the most prolific sonneteer in history. Over the course of nearly two decades, he has created around 3,400 sonnets – considerably more than the Bard's 154, Wordsworth's 600, and even more than the prolific Golden Age Spanish poet, Lope de Vega (Smith's closest rival), who wrote around 3,000 sonnets."
– The Yorkshire Post

"Smith has penned more than 3,400 Shakespearean-style sonnets – more than 20 times the number written by Shakespeare – and hopes to help spark a revival of the centuries-old poetic form"
– London Daily News

"Smith's poetic masterpiece –
Like Samuel Pepys before him, Smith has written himself into history as the premier diarist of his time."
– The Fan Carpet

"Candid, spiritual, philosophical and sometimes boldly political… a landmark in literature"
– Watkins Magazine

"splendidly contemporary… a tour de force"
– Herald Scotland

"Masters of the verse – Smith pays homage to the Bard with the must-read collection of his own modern verse"
– London Planner

"this collection shows a tremendous talent and deserves to sit alongside your Poes, Plaths, and T.S. Elliots"
– Mass Movement Magazine

"an honest process of learning, healing and repentance…
a collection of inspirational, honest and didactic poetry"
– Mouth London

"impressively well-constructed… often startlingly expressive and insightful…
a fascinating and richly detailed picture of the author"
– Neon Literary Magazine

"Incredibly well written… a poetic achievement. A great gift for any poetry lover in your life. Stunning stuff!"
– Book A Poet

"a diary in verse form from a man seeking to understand his own conflicted nature in this highly-praised new book of self-discovery from award-winning author, Ryan J-W Smith"
– Frost Magazine

"a uniquely dedicated, internationally acclaimed, award-winning poet and the world's most prolific sonneteer"
– Authority Magazine

"a new literary milestone… over 3k sonnets – an extraordinary number by any standard"
– Blazing Minds

"The scale of the project has since become extraordinary.
The ability is impressive precisely because the process is so public."
– Cene Magazine