



Our Souls presents the World Premiere of

# THE TIES THAT BIND

*A brutally dark comedy*

created & performed by  
**JAMES INCE**

*“Do you understand?  
Does anyone understand?”*

**THE TIES THAT BIND** is creator-performer **James Ince**'s semi-autobiographical solo show about the facts and fictions society tells itself regarding mental illness happening **November 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>** at the **Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace**. Eight years of love, humiliation, growth and painful existence have gone into the creation of this brutally dark comedy about living life as less-than-“normal”. Tickets are available online at [www.artsboxoffice.ca](http://www.artsboxoffice.ca), or by phone at **416-504-7529**.

Sam Ward has spent most of his life trying to deal with the fact that he is not normal, which *is* normal to him. Plagued by peers, bosses, and parents who cannot understand how he is feeling — but condemn him for it — Sam finds himself alone and broken. With humour and humanity to guide him, Sam tells a true story of surviving mental illness, rather than the stigma of suffering from it.

Mental illness still carries a negative connotation in today's society despite affecting 1 in 4 Canadians. With that stigma, comes shame; and out of that shame comes lack of treatment, support and understanding for those who need it. *“We must all learn and relearn how to have compassion. “With that compassion, we can help create a better world, in which to live better, to live gently and well. And to be well,”* says **Ince** — whose first play, *Fragile*, premiered at the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2001. **THE TIES THAT BIND** continues an ongoing conversation in the public forum that can help create compassion, awareness, understanding and support.

**Jame Ince** (*The Winged Man*, SummerWorks; *The Penis Project*, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre) plays Sam Ward — as well as everyone else — directed by **Istvan Dugalin** (as playwright: *The Atomic Tradition*, Sterling Theatre Company; as film director: *The Modern Things*) in this premiere production and by **Tony Matthews** (as writer/actor: *Robbie Jensen: The 12 Steps of Christmas*, The NoHo Arts Center; *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, The Palm Canyon Theatre — Desert Theatre League Nominee) during development. Lighting design by **Christopher Ross** (red light district Theatre Company; Monkeyman Productions). Sound Design by Dora-nominated **Paul Humphrey** (*Glenn, True West*, Soulpepper; Theatre Rusticle; solo CD: *“A Rumour of Angels”*). Stage & Production managed by **Heather Bellingham** (*Panamania 2015*, Summerworks, *The Toronto Fringe Festival*, *Hamilton Fringe Festival*).

## Performance information for **THE TIES THAT BIND**

**Venue:** Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace (16 Ryerson Ave, Toronto)  
**Dates:** **November 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>** (Preview November 4<sup>th</sup> , **Opening Night Nov 5<sup>th</sup>**)  
Wednesday – Saturday @ **7:30pm** \*please note early curtain time  
Saturday matinee @ 2:00pm \*\$20 advance or PWYC at the door  
**Tickets:** **\$20 - \$30**  
Via [www.artsboxoffice.ca](http://www.artsboxoffice.ca), [passemuraille.ca](http://passemuraille.ca) or **416-504-7529**