

Mary Jane Wells loves [transformative stories](#).

She trained as an actor at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire, doing theatre in the UK and Europe for 12 years prior to her long term love affair with the US. She performed at The Mark Taper Forum with an adaptation of French classic, *The Red Balloon*, returning later with solo show, *Martha* which toured to the Annenberg Centre, the Kennedy Center, the New Victory on Broadway, and at an International showcase in Philadelphia where she won the Victor Award. She began regular back and forth to the US, doing touring shows with the Smithsonian and Honolulu Theatre - then moved to LA to expand her creative horizons.

She has a full time career in LA as an award-winning voice actress [here](#), but turned her focus to writing and constructing narrative after several years of work as a story coach to create Documentary [Holy Hell](#) with its director, which was chosen as a **Sundance Select documentary** in 2016 (EP Jared Leto). It was nominated for Grand Jury prize and the Critics' Choice Documentary Award, picked up for **a special with CNN (viewing figures here)** and sold to Netflix and [other platforms](#).

She wrote and performed her first solo show, **Heroine**, in 2017 at **Capital Theatres, Edinburgh**. This true story about a living survivor of Military sexual trauma became an unlikely hit, and it's heavily anonymised subject "Danna Davis" was often secretly in the audience. After winning a **Made in Scotland Award**, *Heroine* was booked for a month at **Assembly at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2018**, shortlisted for the Situp Award, Longlisted for the Amnesty Award, won the Scottish Arts Trust Award and sold the stage rights to 5 territories. Mary Jane was invited to debut *Heroine* in the US at **The Kennedy Center in 2020** after a Scottish tour to **the Traverse theatre** and [Perth Rep theatre](#) - to standing ovations every night. Congresswoman Jackie Speier who spoke on *Heroine's* aftershow panel went on to champion overdue but groundbreaking change for MST survivors 12 months later in [the Senate](#). The resulting US tour beginning at Joint Base Lewis McChord was aborted due to covid: Mary Jane then wrote and performed the audiobook, winning an [Earphone Award](#) in 2021 and **An Audie Award for Best Original Work in 2022**. (Other winners were Lin Manuel Miranda and Barack Obama: *Heroine* was selected over Penguin Random House and Audible Originals in its shortlist of four.)

As creator-producer Mary Jane was an invited speaker-performer of to open the [UN CONFERENCE ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT, LONDON](#) with Angelina Jolie and William Hague in 2015, at **TRUMP'S INAUGURATION** as a secret protester sponsored by The Guardian in 2016, to open the [SHAMELESS FESTIVAL at BLOOMSBURY THEATRE, LONDON](#) in 2022 and for the [2023 Open Door / ASCN International Webinar and Working Roundtable Program on Military, Veterans and Family Wellbeing](#) in Australia, and is Keynote speaker at the 2024 Symposium for Transforming Military Cultures (TMC) in association with Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in September 2024.

Her next new solo show, *The Good Girl*, is a recent recipient of sponsorship. She partners with Author's Republic and The Kennedy Center from the very beginning - for what she hopes will be an irreverently hilarious new show for those who care, after her experience looking after her Dad for three years. Her joy is to create authentic stories that uplift and hopefully transform: she treads carefully to ensure they never exploit, only amplify with integrity.

It is her wildest dream to serve with storytelling and create appropriate social impact where possible.

maryjanewells.org heroinetheplay.com www.holyhellthedocumentary.com