

THE MARSH TRACKS PUBLIC DEFENDER'S RISE FROM JUVENILE DELINQUENT TO  
ADVOCATE IN FOUR-PART MONTHLY SERIES OF MARK MCGOLDRICK'S

# COUNTERCOUP

AS PART OF THE MARSHSTREAM SOLO PERFORMER SPOTLIGHT SERIES

**May 1 – August 8, 2021**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (15 March 2021) – The rise from turbulent teen years of drug use and delinquency, through a life-changing accident that left him paralyzed, to his current role as a veteran Public Defender helping others, are chronicled over multiple episodes in Mark McGoldrick's *Countercoup*, presented as The Marsh's first broadcast series. In four monthly installments actor/Assistant Public Defender McGoldrick, who has amassed a dedicated following through his past performances at The Marsh, will offer up the story of his harrowing journey from juvenile delinquency to Harvard Law School, and on to representing people, mostly of color, charged with the same offenses of his earlier days. The series kicks off with **Riding for a Fall** (May 1-2), in which audiences meet the barely-in-control teenager determined to push away caring loved ones and do what he wants, regardless of the consequences. McGoldrick's reckless decisions catch up to him in **Close to the Edge** (June 5-6), fighting for his life after a near-fatal accident that left him with a fractured skull and broken neck. McGoldrick describes months of intensive inpatient rehabilitation in **Now, The Hard Part** (July 3-4), as he struggles to regain independence and learns to navigate the world using a wheelchair. The series concludes with **The Journey with Jim** (August 7-8), as McGoldrick bonds with a rehab buddy, and then sees how each man follows a drastically different path. After each performance McGoldrick will be joined by The Marsh Founder/Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman for an exclusive Q&A. Part of the Solo Performer Spotlight series, *Countercoup* will be presented the first weekend of each month, **May 1 – August 8, 2021** with a new installment performed each weekend at 7:30pm (PDT), Saturdays and 5:00pm (PDT), Sundays. For more information, please visit [www.themarsh.org/marshstream](http://www.themarsh.org/marshstream).

Playwright/performer **Mark McGoldrick** has served as Assistant Public Defender for Alameda

County for over 25 years. His stage stories draw from his daily world, exploring people on the fringes. McGoldrick started his performance career with *A Public Defense*, a collection of short spoken-word pieces about the people who inhabit the world of indigent criminal defense. His first full length show was the acclaimed *The Golden Hammer*, which was performed at The Marsh San Francisco in 2005 and reprised at The Marsh Berkeley in 2016. This work brought to vivid life the ongoing battle over how often and badly the legal system fails, with the tale of a juvenile, a predatory adult, and an Oakland Public Defender fighting caprice in criminal courts. McGoldrick mounted an earlier version of *Countercoup* in 2007, tackling the elusive subject of why some succeed while others struggle, and how a former angry young man finds himself defending other angry young men in court. This revised production will mark The Marsh's first developmental series.

### **ABOUT MARSHSTREAM**

MarshStream launched in April 2020 and has received overwhelmingly enthusiastic response, garnering over 80,000 viewers over the past 11 months. Notable MarshStream moments thus far include the debut of MarshStream International Solo Fest, The Marsh's first-ever digital festival, and the U.S. premiere of *The Invisible Line*, a new documentary about one of the world's most famous social experiments gone wrong.

MarshStream programming varies daily, with Monday Night MarshStream (short performances by a variety of artists), Wild Card Tuesdays (everything from book/writer discussions, sing-a-longs, Tell It On Tuesday, to Sound Healing and Restorative Yoga), Wednesday Solo Arts Heal (offering stories of health, advocacy, and inspiration), Stephanie's MarshStream on Thursday nights (interview and performance excerpts, moderated by The Marsh Founder/Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman), BINGO! hosted by Josh Kornbluth, and weekend Solo Performance Spotlight featuring live full-length performances. MarshStream also offers performance development classes, a noon series that includes CJ's FitnesSing weekly singing lesson/fitness class, and a Zoomba Room. Content is typically offered at 7:30pm nightly, and mid-day throughout the week via Zoom and YouTube LIVE. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic MarshStream has hosted over 500 LIVE streams, providing some 200 performers a platform to continue developing and producing art.

MarshStream viewers are asked to contribute whatever they can afford. Donations can be made by joining The Marsh's membership program and via a virtual "tip jar" on the website, with funds going to support The Marsh and its artists. For more information, the public may visit [www.themarsh.org/marshstream](http://www.themarsh.org/marshstream). NOTE: Most performance streams from earlier MarshStream dates are also available on the website for viewing.

In addition to nightly program offerings on MarshStream, The Marsh has also launched **Marsh Youth Theater (MYT) MarshStream**, classes offered daily and taught by MYT instructors. From Creative Dramatics to Storytelling, Dancing, and more, class types, instructors, and age

levels vary for each class. For weekly class schedules and additional information, please visit [themarsh.org/mytmarshstream](http://themarsh.org/mytmarshstream).

### **ABOUT THE MARSH**

**The Marsh** is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” It was launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, and pre-COVID hosted more than 600 performances of 175 shows across the company’s two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh’s specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest.” The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of Bay Area’s best intimate theaters, calling it “one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible.”

### **For Calendar Editors**

**WHAT:** The rise from turbulent teen years of drug use and delinquency, through a life-changing accident that left him paralyzed, to his current role as a veteran Public Defender helping others, are chronicled over multiple episodes in Mark McGoldrick’s *Countercoup*, presented as The Marsh’s first broadcast series. In four monthly installments actor/Assistant Public Defender McGoldrick, who has amassed a dedicated following through his past performances at The Marsh, will offer up the story of his harrowing journey from juvenile delinquency to Harvard Law School, and on to representing people, mostly of color, charged with the same offenses of his earlier days.

**DATES:** **7:30pm (PDT), Saturdays and 5:00pm (PDT), Sundays**  
May 1-2, June 5-6, July 3-4, and August 7-8

**WHERE:** Available to view via MarshStream: [www.themarsh.org/marshstream](http://www.themarsh.org/marshstream)

**TICKETS:** MarshStream viewers are asked to contribute whatever they can afford. Donations can be made by joining The Marsh’s membership program and via a virtual “tip jar” on the website, with funds going to support The Marsh and its artists.

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**PRESS:** Contact Sydney Albin, Carla Befera & Co.  
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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<http://cbpr.co/press/marshstream>

