

HOME is delighted to announce a new season of stories for Theatre 2 – from Manchester and beyond



- Theatre 2's exciting new season will run from 1 May to 24 Jun 2023
- A season of stories from Manchester and beyond including Talking Head style monologues from the Deaf, Disabled & Neurodiverse, uplifting stories of life inside care homes, stand-up comedy from some of the UK's leading comedians, multimedia autobiographies and hopeful cabarets.
- Featuring: Hot Coals Productions, Schalk Bezuidenhout, Rinkoo Barpaga, Tiff Stevenson, Alasdair Beckett-King, Action Hero, The Hero Next Door, YesYesNoNo, Jo Fong & George Orange, Jenni Jackson

[Images can be downloaded here.](#) Additional images are available on request.

HOME has today announced its exciting new season for Theatre 2. Sharing stories and experiences from Manchester and beyond, this is a season that reflects, questions and humors the world we live in today. The programme includes returning artists, those new to the stages of HOME and Manchester, and those fresh from the bright lights of the Edinburgh Fringe.

TALKING BODIES present two of their short films ([WE CARE](#) and [INDEFINITELY](#)), which tell the surprising, shocking, sad and funny stories of the Deaf, Disabled and Neurodiverse through a series of seven Talking Heads style monologues.

Ad Infinitum presents [If You Fall](#) – sharing intergenerational stories of life in care homes, for residents, relatives and those that work there, this beautiful, tender production features a-cappella choral singing and physical/visual storytelling.

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Fresh from his Netflix Stand Up Special, Schalk Bezuidenhout returns to Manchester, as he embarks on his debut UK Tour with love in his heart and jokes in his pocket – a comedy event that is not to be missed.

After a successful run at last year's Edinburgh Fringe, Rinkoo Barpaga (Winner of Mervyn Stutter's Spirit of the Fringe Awards 2022, The Deaf Excellence Award and The Neurodiverse Review Award) presents Made in INDIA-Britain, a 'confident and charismatic' (The Stage) coming of age story that delves deep into past experiences asking the question, "where do I belong?"

Critically acclaimed stand up writer and actor Tiff Stevenson (*Mock the Week*, *People Just Do Nothing*, *The Office*) invites you to spend an hour with a woman and her self-diagnosed 'Sexy Brain' – a study in trying to see all sides of every argument and driving yourself slowly mad in the process.

By popular demand, we have added an extra date for stand-up favourite Alasdair Beckett-King's tour of dimension-hopping comedy, multimedia and wizardry.

Action Hero & Deborah Pearson present The Talent a new show about the voice and human presence in the 21st Century that asks questions about the legacy of the human voice in a non-human future.

Acclaimed inclusive theatre company Face Front bring their latest family show The Hero Next Door to HOME this May half-term. This multi-layered production uses film, animation, music and physical theatre in a celebration of difference and working together to do the right thing.

YESYESNONO return to HOME following previous shows such as *Five Encounters on a Site Called Craigslist* and *The Accident Did Not Take Place*, with latest show hit show we were promised honey! This solo storytelling show about living towards an inevitable end, received five-star reviews and critical acclaim at its Edinburgh Fringe premiere in 2022.

Jo Fong and George Orange take to the stages of HOME for the first time, presenting The Rest of Our Lives - a joyful cabaret of life and near death. A cheerful mix of clowning and dance, this outlandish performance negotiates middle-aged life together with humor and tenderness.

Manchester based artist and renowned movement director Jenni Jackson brings her HOME commissioned show Endurance back to Theatre 2. Originally produced as part of PUSH Festival, this show is a blend of dance, theatre, and an attempt at a sports spectacle, exploring how and why we endure. Jenni will be touring *Endurance* following its run in Manchester.

Dave Moutrey, Director and CEO of HOME, said: *I am delighted to be announcing this exciting new programme of theatre, dance and comedy. This season platforms a variety of stories and voices, echoing HOME's ambition to create a place for audiences to experience theatre and performance that reflects the world around us. Theatre 2 is a playful space that allows us to work with talented artists and partners across the North West*

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and beyond to share challenging and entertaining new work on our stage. I look forward to sharing this season with you.

Priority ticket booking will be available for HOME Friends from Mon 30 Jan, and HOME Members from Tue 31 Jan with tickets on sale to the general public from Wed 1 Feb.

Full details of the season can be found online here:

<https://homemcr.org/event/home-theatre-2-s...mmer-2023-season/>

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For interviews and additional information, please contact Julia White, Head of Communications at HOME, on 0161 212 3463 or email julia.white@homemcr.org

Season event listings:

Hot Coals Productions

TALKING BODIES

Available on Homescreen

Mon1 May until Mon17 July

TALKING BODIES takes the form of a collection of seven short films. Inspired by Alan Bennett's classic Talking Heads series, we want to bring the series up to date, making it relevant to today's rich and diverse society by shining a spotlight on those who are often side-lined.

This project will tell the surprising, shocking, sad and funny stories of the Deaf, Disabled & Neurodiverse through a series of seven Talking Heads style monologues.

Now, you will be able to see the first two instalments of these films - 'We Care' & 'Indefinitely' To stay up to date with this project and the development of future films, please visit www.hotcoalsproductions.co.uk.

WE CARE

Annie is surprised to find that her new carer happens to be a man, a manly man, a very manly man. This beautiful and funny piece takes a dark turn with devastating consequences when Annie is let down by the system that is meant to take care of her.

Trigger warning: Reference to sexual abuse

INDEFINITELY

What happens when the Disability Living Allowance you were awarded indefinitely is stopped? A period of form filling and assessment interviews that seems to go on...well...indefinitely. A scathing and painful look at the benefit system for the disabled in the UK and its horrific consequences. *Trigger warning: Reference to suicide*

About Hot Coals Productions

Hot Coals return to HOME's digital channel following 'My Dear Christopher' which featured as part of HOME's Homemakers project during the 2020 lockdown. Their mission as filmmakers,

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similar to that as their role as theatre-makers, is to create beautifully crafted films, which are accessible to deaf and hearing audiences and push the boundaries of traditional filmmaking.

Ad Infinitum

If You Fall

3-13 May

In Ancient Greece, older people were highly respected. In Egypt, old age was a marker of wisdom. Today, in the UK, care for older family members is often outsourced. But the care system is breaking at the seams.

If You Fall tells the deeply human stories of older people, their families and carers struggling to approach end of life care with dignity.

Margaret is a nationally revered academic. Norson is a brilliant cook. He loves cricket and fishing. She loves singing and her lavender plants. They're both surrounded by loving families. Their lives are full... So what happens when you lose your independence, your voice, your mind – the essence of what makes you, you?

Multi-award-winning Ad Infinitum brings you a moving, humorous and sensitive story based on real-life personal testimonies. Filled with a capella singing and their signature style of physical theatre, this intergenerational ensemble cast explore older people's care in all its complexities.

About Ad Infinitum

Ad Infinitum is a multi-award-winning, internationally acclaimed theatre company. They return to HOME following their sold out run of 'Extraordinary Wall of Silence' in 2020 as well as 'A Small Gathering' a digital film made during lockdown as part of HOME's Homemakers programme. Comprised of an international ensemble of theatre-maker, Ad Infinitum are the award-winning creators of *Light*, *Ballad of the Burning Star* and *Translunar Paradise* amongst many others.

Mick Perrin Worldwide

Schalk Bezuidenhout

7 May

Schalk Bezuidenhout is fresh from his Netflix Stand Up Special, and although it's not his first time to Manchester, he now embarks on his debut UK Tour with love in his heart and jokes in his pocket.

Many say that this brand-new show is... funny. I mean, what else can we say? It's a comedy show. You will laugh. It's as easy as that.

Rinkoo Barpaga

MADE IN INDIA BRITAIN

23-25 May

Winner of Mervyn Stutter's Spirit of the Fringe Awards 2022

Winner of The Deaf Excellence Award, The Neurodiverse Review Awards

Roo is a deaf Punjabi boy from Birmingham, living in a world that wasn't made for him. Through pain and laughter, Roo narrates the impact of ableism and racism throughout his childhood

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and adult life, leading him to confront one key question: "Where do I belong?"

A coming-of-age story about discovering your community and the journey that follows. Come and be immersed in Roo's world as he navigates across borders and grapples with his sense of identity.

All performances will be in BSL, Spoken English and Closed Captions.

Director of Original Production Daniel Bailey, Director Tyrone Huggins

About Rinkoo Barpaga

Rinkoo Barpaga is a multi-talented creative, equally at home on stages throughout the UK as behind a camera. Adept at street photography, capturing portraits of hidden people on the street, Rinkoo also made an award-winning documentary 'Double Discrimination' where he interviewed young people; using urban sign language to describe race discrimination.

Mick Perrin Worldwide

TIFF STEVENSON – Sexy Brain

26 May

Critically acclaimed stand up, writer and actor Tiff Stevenson (Mock the Week, People Just Do Nothing, The Office, Game Face, ABC's The Weekly) invites you to spend an hour with a woman and her self diagnosed 'Sexy Brain'... a study in trying to see all sides of every argument and driving yourself slowly mad in the process.

'Sexy Brain' was one of Edinburgh Festival Fringe's Best Reviewed shows of 2022.

Tiff's previous 5* rated shows (Bombshell, Mad Man, Mother) have all been listed in 'British Comedy Guide' Edinburgh Fringe Top 20 best shows.

Mick Perrin Worldwide

ALASDAIR BECKETT-KING

27 May (SOLD OUT) & Sun 4 Jun (Extra date added due to popular demand)

Join the award-winning comedian Alasdair Beckett-King on a ramshackle jaunt through a multiverse of wonders.

Learn to make the best of a bad timeline with ABK's dimension hopping stand-up, multimedia wizardry & normal wizardry.

As seen on Mock the Week and the internet.

Action Hero

The Talent

31 May and 1 June

A woman in a sound booth is talking. She is talking to herself. She is talking to you. She is talking to everyone. She is gifted, professional, mercurial; it seems as if she can summon almost any kind of voice and create any kind of world.

She is selling you something
She is telling you a story
She sounds like a cereal ad
She sounds like a cartoon

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She sounds like a meditation tape
She sounds like a shapeshifter
She sounds like the ocean

You would listen to her say anything. Her voice is all around. Her voice is all there is. Her voice is all that's left. She conjures her own ghost in real time.

The Talent is a new show by Action Hero and Deborah Pearson about the legacy of the human voice in a non-human future.

About Action Hero

Action Hero return to HOME following their double-bill of productions 'Slap Talk' and 'Extraordinary Rendition' in 2018. Action Hero is the collaboration between artists Gemma Paintin and James Stenhouse. Together they create artworks that expand across multiple creative practices: performance, installation, sound, digital practice and work for public space. Their ongoing interests lie in the iconography of popular culture and its use; both as a weapon and as a shared cultural memory and the languages/texts that are used to talk about these shared spaces. They've toured productions to over 40 countries across 5 continents.

Face Front

The Hero Next Door

3 June (Half-Term)

From the award winning author of *The Boy At The Back Of The Class*, Onjali Q. Raúf MBE (Sunday Times Bestseller, winner of the 2019 Blue Peter Book Award for Best Story, winner of the 2019 Waterstones Children's Book Prize); *The Hero Next Door* is a ground-breaking new production created especially for 7 – 10 year olds celebrating difference, friendship and working together to do the right thing.

Meet Musa, who happens to be a refugee; Haley, an autistic girl who adores frogs; and a would-be bully by the name of Melody. This unlikely bunch come together to save an elderly neighbour from a con-woman posing as a carer, with thrilling and hilarious results.

The Hero Next Door uses film, animation, music and physical theatre to be accessible to all. As a leading inclusive theatre company, Face Front has been proud to assemble a diverse collective of cast and creatives, including disabled, non-disabled and culturally diverse actors.

About Face Front Inclusive Theatre

Face Front has been creating inclusive theatre since 1999. Developing original, ground-breaking work with a company of disabled and non-disabled artists, they use the transformational power of theatre in order to challenge inequality and improve emotional wellbeing. They specialise and are highly regarded for their theatre for young people.

YesYesNoNo

we were promised honey!

7-10 June

"The show that we're about to do is a story of the future. The story we're going to tell is the story of us. I'm going to tell you this now: it doesn't have a happy end."

A lone performer tells the story of the future of the audience; what's going to happen to them in the decades, centuries, millenia after the end of this show. It's the story of a baby born in a

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lighthouse, of someone on fire in the middle of the desert, of two lovers reunited in a flooded city, of a spaceship on the edge of a black hole. Everything has already been decided. This is the story of the end.

From the makers of *Five Encounters on a Site Called Craigslist* and *the accident did not take place* comes an act of communal storytelling.

A hopeful, hopeless prophecy for earth and humankind. A story of us, our future, of paradise and how we get there in the end.

Total Theatre Award Winner 2017

Total Theatre Award Nominee 2019

About YESYESNONO

Winners of the Total Theatre Award for Emerging Artist 2017, YESYESNONO is concerned with exploring the potential of theatre as a democratic space and exploring what that space might look like. They have been to HOME many times with productions '*Five Encounters on a Site Called Craigslist*', '*(Insert Slogan Here)*' and '*The Accident Did Not Take Place*'.

Lead artist Sam Ward was previously Resident Assistant Director at HOME.

Jo Fong/George Orange

The Rest of Our Lives

13 & 14 June

Hopefully hopeful, *The Rest of Our Lives* is a joyful dose of dance, theatre, circus and games. A cabaret of life and near death. Two middle-aged lives in an eclectic, spontaneous, predictable and random decline.

Jo is an old dancer, George an old clown. International artists with 100 years of life experience between them, armed with a soundtrack of floor-fillers, a book of raffle tickets and a sprinkling of eco-friendly optimism. Joyful, celebratory and hilarious.

The struggle is real.

It's the beginning of the end.

But we're still here.

About Jo Fong

Jo's creative work reflects the need in these times for people to come together. Her artistic practice is an evolving, collaborative approach which puts ideas around belonging or forming community in the forefront. She has been commissioned and performed work in festivals and venues all over the world.

About George Orange

George Orange is a performance artist, circus performer, outdoor theatre maker, former mascot, ex drag performer, creator of Mary Bijou Cabaret, circus director, and physical theatre teacher. But most of all, and without a doubt, he is a clown.

Jenni Jackson

Endurance

22-24 June

Jenni is not an athlete. Jenni has not done enough training. Jenni wants to perform a feat of endurance, live and in real time. She really wants to be able to run up hills and mountains.

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Since her mum is Bolivian, she's banking on her DNA containing Inca genes, which she hopes will mean that she will be shit hot at running up mountains. Naturally.

Exploring colonial legacies through the prism of the Bolivian/Aymaran warrior Bartolina Sisa and modern day women who are out-performing men at ultra marathon running, Jenni wants to know how we carry on when things get really hard?

In a blend of dance, theatre, and an attempt at a sports spectacle, *Endurance* looks at how we endure, why we endure, and how women can make their innate propensity for endurance work in their favour to tip the balance of power.

Jenni is a performer, theatremaker, and movement director based in Manchester. Her work examines what women and girls are allowed to do with their bodies, her relationship to the UK, and the duality of living between cultures and races.

Endurance was commissioned by HOME as part of PUSH 2021 (7 - 9 October 2021)

About HOME

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in May 2015, HOME has welcomed over three million visitors to its two theatres, five cinemas, art gallery, book shop and restaurants. HOME works with international and UK artists to produce extraordinary theatrical experiences, producing an exciting mix of thought-provoking drama, dance and festivals, with a strong focus on international work, new commissions and talent development.

HOME's ambition is to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, have fun, take risks and share great new art with the widest possible audience. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay CBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE. www.homemcr.org | @HOME_mcr | Facebook HOMEmcr

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